



Sudan Human Rights Monitor Update

January – February 2013

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Monitoring Report Update: January – February 2013

Freedom of Expression

- On 5 December 2012 the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) prevented the Confederation of Civil Society from holding a press conference to be hosted at the Sudan Monitor for Human Rights’ offices. The press conference was intended to launch the Confederation and encourage other civil society organisations to join.
- On 27 December the NISS in Khartoum prevented *Algrar* newspaper from distributing printed copies of the newspaper.
- Throughout January, the NISS in Khartoum contacted all the newspapers in Khartoum by telephone and ordered them not to publish any articles on any reported rape cases. No written orders were given.
- On 5 January the NISS prevented the Sudanese Writers’ Union from conducting a public forum in their offices in Khartoum. The public forum had been organised to host a dialogue on democracy and social justice, and was to be presided over by Abdalla Hassan, (m), a Sudanese intellectual residing in France.

- On 9 January the NISS in North Kordofan prevented the Sudanese Congress Party from holding a public forum.
- At 10am on an unknown date in January, NISS agents arrested five individuals in Port Sudan, eastern Sudan. Their names are below.
 - Omer Mohamed Hamid, (m), university student.
 - Hashim Tahir Sharif, (m), university student.
 - Osama Khalid Omer, (m), university student.
 - Mohamed Jaffer, (m), sound technician.
 - Mursal Adam Abdalla, (m), driver.

The group was arrested while demonstrating on the anniversary of a massacre which took place in Port Sudan on 29 January 2005, when police killed 21 civilians from the Beja ethnic group who were taking part in a peaceful demonstration.

This year Port Sudan authorities refused to give the victims' families permission to acknowledge the anniversary. The authorities also denied a request to hold a memorial ceremony on 31 January.

The group of five were taken to the southern police station in Port Sudan, where they were charged under Articles 69 (disturbance of public peace) and 77 (public nuisance). The case no. is 403/2013, with the charges brought by Ahmed Abdurrahman, a NISS agent.

The group was released on bail at 6pm. A court session was originally scheduled for 19 March 2013 but was postponed to 3 April 2013 after Mr. Abdurrahman failed to attend the court session.

- On 20 January the NISS entered the home of Dr. Ali Al-Kenien, (m), a member of the Sudanese Communist Party, and confiscated several documents, computers and cell phones. They then ordered him and his guest, the Secretary General of the Sudanese Communist Party, Mohamed Mukhtar, to report the next day to NISS offices in Khartoum. No further information is available.
- On 22 January the NISS confiscated 14,000 printed copies of *Al Sudani* newspaper from their printing house.

Arbitrary Arrest

- At 11pm on 13 December 2012, the NISS of Khartoum arrested Farouq Abu Issa, (m), head of the National Consensus Forces, after he participated in a public forum held at the Umma Party House in Omdurman. The forum was held to discuss the recent deaths of four Darfuri students at Al Jazeera University, who were found dead on 6 and 7 December following the violent suppression of student demonstrations by joint Central Reserve Police forces and the NISS. He was released the following morning. Mr. Issa was not charged with any crime.
- On 25 December 2012 the NISS in Khartoum arrested two Eritrean journalists living in Khartoum and working for the Eritrean Media Centre Service. The Centre is closely affiliated with the Eritrean opposition in Khartoum, and most of their leaders are Eritrean Muslims. They were released after seventeen days in NISS custody. Throughout their detention they were not allowed visits from their families or lawyers. Neither journalist was charged with any crime.

- At 8:30pm on 15 January, Zaki Mansour Adam, (m), 59 years of age, a lawyer, and a resident of Kosti town, White Nile state, was arrested by the NISS. Zaki is a member of the Sudanese Communist Party.

Two NISS agents arrived at Zaki's home. When he opened the door, they informed him that they were NISS agents and ordered him to come with them to their offices. They allowed him to inform his family before moving together to NISS offices near the Immigration office in Kosti.

He was taken to a mosque inside the building, where he remained until the next morning, when he was told to fill out a form containing his personal details as well as political affiliation. Zaki answered that he was a member of the Sudanese Communist Party.

In the afternoon he was interrogated by two NISS agents in their offices. He was questioned about a recent statement issued by the Sudanese Communist Party. Zaki told the NISS agents that he had not seen the statement. The NISS agents accused him of writing it. Zaki denied writing it, but replied that the Communist party is registered legally and has the right to open a case and take them to court.

The NISS agents asked Zaki what his opinion of the 'New Dawn' document was. Zaki replied that he had not read it, and his only information on it came from newspapers and the Communist Party's statement on it.

Zaki was then taken back to the mosque. He remained detained for over a month in the mosque until 25 February. During his detention, he was not subjected to any torture, and was provided with meals. On the second day of his arrest, they allowed his wife and other individuals to visit him.

- On 18 January the NISS in Wad Alhelio area, Kassala state, eastern Sudan summoned the following individuals for investigation:
 - Haroun Eissa, (m), 50 years of age. Haroun Eissa is the Imam of Wad Alhelio mosque.
 - Mahmoud Mohamed Ibrahim, (m), 32 years of age, university graduate.
 - Alzaki Alnour Mahmoud, (m), 25 years of age, businessman.
 - Mahmoud Yousef Ismail, (m), 25 years of age, businessman.

The group was interrogated about statements they had made to *Al Sahafa* newspaper in which they criticised the construction of the Setiet Dam in Kassala. The NISS ordered them not to make any further statements, and they were released the same day, and did not report any ill-treatment.

- On 19 January 2013 Najm Ediden Ahmed Adam, (m), was arrested by the NISS of Nyala, South Darfur. He was released the following day without charge. During his time in NISS detention, he was interrogated about statements he had printed and distributed concerning the rise of prices in the town. He had printed the statements at a computer service in Nyala where he is employed. He did not report any ill-treatment whilst in NISS custody.
- At 8pm on 25 January the NISS of the Media Department in Khartoum summoned Faisal Mohamed Salih, journalist, academic, and human rights defender, to their offices in central Khartoum, area 2. At 11:45pm he was ordered to fill out a form containing his personal

information. He was released in the evening without having been questioned and ordered to report back the following day.

Faisal believes that he was summoned to NISS headquarters because of comments he made regarding restrictions on freedom of expression in Sudan, on Blue Nile TV.

- On 26 February the NISS arrested six individuals from a demonstration outside Khartoum Emergency Hospital. The demonstration was organised by the Sudanese Doctors' Union to protest a ministerial decree by the Khartoum Minister of Health ordering the closure of several public hospitals and the sale of their equipment. The group had signs and cameras. The names of those arrested are below.
 - Dr. Ahmed Abdala Elsheikh, (m).
 - Dr. Sahar Abdulrhman, (f).
 - Dr. Abdalkhalig Alfatih, (m).
 - Ms. Maryam Awad, (f), activist.
 - Ismail, (m), activist.
 - Ibrahim Alsafi, (m), activist.

No further details about their case are known.

Freedom of Religion

- On 21 January *Algrar* newspaper published an article reporting that the NISS had arrested members of an international network attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity. The network is allegedly run by a Canadian woman with the assistance of foreigners of various nationalities.
- On 3 February the Undersecretary of a Minister from *Alawgaf*, the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, sent a letter to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Sudan threatening to arrest them if they began any Missionary activity.
- A number of Christian Christmas celebrations were blocked by the GoS and NISS in December 2012.
 - On 22 December 2012 the NISS stopped a Sudanese Christian Youth group travelling from Khartoum to Um Rawaba and El Obeid towns in North Kordofan state to meet with other Christians over Christmas. The NISS stopped their truck in Kosti town, White Nile State, found it loaded with copies of the Bibles and Christmas gifts and confiscated the truck and its contents for two weeks until the Christmas celebrations were over.
 - On 31 December 2012, Sudanese authorities announced the 'privatization' of certain Christmas festivities or acts of celebration, stating that they are not to be carried out in public.

Worryingly similar to the 2011 attacks on freedom of expression and closures of South Sudanese owned media companies by Sudan, the NCP is repeating the same scenario of attacks and closures against education institutes owned by Christians.

- On 15 January 2013 the Government of Sudan closed down the Life Institute for Learning, an Egyptian Christian owned educational institute teaching Arabic to non-Arabic speakers. The government ordered the owner to leave Sudan within 72 hours,

ordered all the non-Sudanese students to leave within 48 hours and expropriated all the institute's assets.

- On the same day, 15 January 2013, the Karido Institute for English Languages and Computer Studies located in Khartoum was closed down. The owner was American and the majority the students were Sudanese Christians from around the country. On the same day the Christian-owned Nile Valley Academy for Primary Education and the Aslan Academy for English Language and Computer Studies were closed down and had their assets seized.

Torture

Jubara Eisa Khalifa Eltyeb, (m), 14 years of age, student, and resident of Rwdat Almukhtar village near Kosti in White Nile State.

Jubara was arrested by police at 4pm on 30 October from his family home and taken to the Central Police Station in White Nile State. He was held in a police cell overnight and in the morning was transferred to an office, where he was interrogated by a police officer about the murder of two men. The two men's bodies had been found in the place where Jubara and his friend take their sheep to graze.

Jubara told the police officer that the two men had attacked them, but they had managed to run away, and denied that he knew anything about the murders. The police officer accused Jubara of killing one of the two men, and when Jubara denied it the police officer called him a liar and beat him with a hose all over his body and feet.

The police officer then hung a stick from the wall, and tied Jubara's hands and feet around it. He was beaten on his feet for some time before being untied. Jubara stayed at the office until 8pm, when he was taken back to police custody, where he was held with other persons. At roughly 1am, the same police officer summoned him to their offices again and tortured him in the same manner, repeatedly ordering him to confess to killing one of the two men found dead.

Jubara was then taken back to the police cell, where he remained for three months. Jubara was unable to walk initially, and was prevented from seeing his family. During his detention, his family delivered meals which were then given to him. However, he was not permitted to see them until January 2013, when he was transferred to a separate juvenile detention facility. He was released at an unknown date sometime after.

Public Order cases

- On 30 January the Public Order Court in Kosti, White Nile state, sentenced AAA, (f), 19 years of age, and AB, (m), age unknown, to 70 lashes under Article 145 (adultery) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. Both AAA and AB are from Adwim town in White Nile state.

AAA had been visiting Rabak town. A resident of the town, AB, had agreed to give her a ride in his private car to her home, which was in the same direction. He informed her that he would have to stop by Kosti, across the bridge from Rabak, before taking her home.

When they reached Rabak, AAA asked to use the toilet while AB collected his things. When she came out of the private home they had entered, they were met by Public Order police. The two were arrested and taken to the police station, where they were referred to a doctor, who examined AAA and found that no sexual activity had taken place. Despite this, they were both charged and found guilty by the Public Order Court. The sentence of 70 lashes was implemented on the same day.

- On 27 February the Public Order court of Kosti, White Nile, sentenced two students from *Bakht Al Rida University*, Amina ((f), not her real name)), and Ahmed, ((m), not his real name), to forty lashes.

Public Order police arrested the two when they raided Ahmed's family home in Kosti. They were taken to the police station and then referred to the Hospital. The doctor who examined Amina found no signs of sexual activity. Despite this, they were referred to the Public Order Court, which gave the two a summary trial, only allowing the policeman who arrested them to testify. They were found guilty under Article 154 (practising prostitution) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code and sentenced to forty lashes each. The sentence was implemented on the same day.

Updates and Political Developments in Sudan's Conflict Areas

South Kordofan

- On 6 November 2012, local Popular Defense Forces led by Abdulkareim Algdal, (m), Ahmed Ibrahim, (m), Ismail Nasir, (m), and Ahmed Ismail (m), launched an attack targeting the Almurib area of western South Kordofan. Several farms belonging to members of the Nuba ethnic group were burnt to the ground.

Blue Nile

- On 22 December 2012 the NISS arrested the following two youth members of the NCP. They were released on 5 January 2013. Their names are below:
 - Yasir Mohamed Amer, (m), lecturer at Blue Nile University.
 - Badralein Aljazoli, (m), coordinator with the Compulsory Military Service of Blue Nile.

The arrests came following a dispute between the Governor of Blue Nile, Alhadi Bushra, and Blue Nile NCP members led by Abdulrahman Abu Median, the head of the Blue Nile State Assembly. Blue Nile NCP members had accused Alhadi Bushra of exerting too much control over the political affairs of the state without consulting local NCP members.

Bushra Alhadi had also previously isolated Blue Nile NCP members, including prominent university lecturers, by not allowing them to take part in consultations.

- On 17 February the SPLM-N attacked the SAF base in Al Kurmuk, killing several SAF soldiers, including the high ranking Lieutenant Colonel Mutaz Abdalla Yousef. The SAF began to run out of ammunition and was forced to retreat. SAF survivors of the attack blamed their commanders for not providing enough support.

Abyei

The voluntary return of Dinka residents of Abyei continued in January 2013, with about 1500 families returning from Wau, South Sudan. The returns followed a mobilisation campaign by Dinka community leaders. ACJPS observed an improved security environment in Abyei, with increased patrols around the area and at night by the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

However, the humanitarian situation in the region remains tenuous, with a general lack of humanitarian aid to those displaced to the northern side of Abyei in Meril Ashak, Romamir, Taj Alilie, and other areas. Communities have also been negatively impacted by the closure of the border between Sudan and South Sudan and subsequent increase in prices. Returnees to Abyei informed ACJPS that they hoped that humanitarian organisations in the area would contribute to rehabilitation efforts such as the reconstruction of schools following the destruction of Abyei in May 2011.

The security situation deteriorated in February 2013 when pro-Government militias entered Abyei and looted 300 cattle. The incident took place close to the UNISFA base. According to ACJPS' sources, the raid was aimed at preventing the voluntary return of Dinka to the area.

West Darfur

- On 15 December severe clashes took place in Mastrei, West Darfur between nomadic militias and the police. The clashes occurred when animals belonging to Arab tribes entered the farmlands of Masaalit farmers and ate their crops before they had been harvested. The Masaalit farmers called the police, who came and took the animals to the police station. Nomadic militias soon came and attacked the police station, killing three police officers. Their names are below.
 - Lieutenant Hassan Adam, (m).
 - Sergeant Adam Mohamed, (m).
 - Ishag Ahmed, (m).

The chief prosecutor of West Darfur has since visited Mastrei to investigate the incident.

- On 16 February the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) conducted a four day training workshop on age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming for a group of international and national NGOs in El Geneina, West Darfur. The first two days of training were theoretically oriented, while the second two days were practical and implemented in Ardamta IDP camp within El Geneina. The participants in the workshop were assigned to different segments of the camp population, including children, women, and elders, and completed an assessment to determine the greatest problems the camp. IDPs largely cited insecurity, insufficient water, and lack of healthcare as the greatest problems they faced.

At an unknown date after the completion of the training, the UNCHR and directors of participating organisations received a letter from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) requesting a meeting. When the UNCHR and directors of participating organisations arrived,

the HAC ordered them to report to NISS offices. The organisations and bodies that were ordered to report to NISS offices are listed below.

- UNHCR
- War Child
- HelpAge
- Save the Children
- TDH
- Road Sudan
- CDF. CDF withdrew from the workshop on the first day.
- FCI. FCI withdrew from the workshop on the first day.
- OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

OCHA was later permitted to leave the NISS offices and told that they did not have to participate in the investigation.

At 10am on 20 February 2013, the NISS arrested a number of staff members of the national and international organisations that had participated in the training. They were taken to the main NISS offices in El Geneina, near the offices of the state governor. They were detained for thirteen hours before being released. Their names are below.

- Omar Abakar, (m), HelpAge, Sudanese national
- Abdulmahmoud Hussein, (m), TDH, Sudanese national
- Awad Alkarim Suleiman, (m), War Child, Sudanese national
- Hawa Amin Gouni, (f), Road Sudan, Sudanese national
- Khalid Muhmadeen, (m), UNHCR, Sudanese national
- Kayta Young, (f), UNHCR, Japanese national
- Muhammed Mahmoud, (m), Save the Children, Sudanese national
- Sada Ali Sidig, (f), Save the Children, Sudanese national
- Maha Mohamed, (f), TDH, Sudanese national
- Nasir Eldeen Hamid, (m), TDH, Sudanese national
- Mohamed Alam Eldeen Ishag, (m), Save the Children, Sudanese national

The detainees were interrogated individually and collectively. The Sudanese nationals were detained in separate cells and the Japanese national was held in the main NISS offices. The Sudanese nationals were told that there was a conspiracy of UN agencies operational in Sudan to damage their reputation before the international community.

The NISS subsequently ordered the UNCHR to issue an official apology for entering the camp and meeting with the IDPs without official permission. They also ordered the international organisations to do the same in a joint statement and commit themselves to not conducting future assessments, as well as handing over the minutes and files of the assessment to the NISS. They also requested that the national staff of international NGOs report to NISS offices daily. The NISS informed the group that the final decision will be taken by the NISS at Khartoum level.

One of the Sudanese nationals detained reported that the investigation appeared to be aimed at disrupting the work of humanitarian organisations in the camp. They also reported that

Sudanese staff of international organisations operating in the camp have since received verbal threats from the NISS.

South Darfur

- On 4 February pro-government militias wearing SAF uniforms and driving military cars looted the monthly salaries of employees of the Ministry of Animal Reserves in South Darfur.
- On 12 February Abubakar Adam Abdulazia, an administrative government officer, was killed by two unknown military men in Dwmaia area, a few kilometres away from Nyala town, South Darfur. The men looted his car and drove away.