

Annex A

Major protest in Sudan's Darfur: Witness

AFP, Tuesday 31 Jul 2012

Protests have been held in Darfur against rising prices and chants from the Arab Spring have been replicated, witnesses say



Protesters in Sudan's troubled Darfur region stoned government offices Tuesday during a major protest over rising prices, a witness said, in the country's latest Arab Spring-style demonstration.

Police fired tear gas at the demonstrators scattered in groups around the main market of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state, he said, adding they threw stones at a state-run radio station and another government building, and erected crude roadblocks.

"I saw tyres burning in the street," he said.

Like other demonstrators in Sudan, they repeated a call made by crowds at Arab Spring protests around the region: "The people want the fall of the regime."

Demonstrations in Sudan started on June 16 when University of Khartoum students voiced their opposition to high food prices, starting the longest-running public challenge to the 23-year regime of President Omar al-Bashir.

After Bashir announced austerity measures, including tax hikes and an end to cheap fuel, scattered protests spread to include a cross-section of people, often in groups of 100 or 200, around the capital Khartoum and in other parts of Sudan.

Protests have dwindled during the holy month of Ramadan which began on July 20.

But a strike by public transport drivers upset over high fuel prices has added to the burden of Nyala