

Annex B

This Annex contains multiple sources.

B1 Amnesty International, 'Sudan: Security forces must stop using live rounds against demonstrators' (2 August 2012)

B2 'Price protest leaves six dead in Sudan's Darfur' (31 July 2012)

Annex B1

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2 August 2012

Sudan: Security forces must stop using live rounds against demonstrators

Sudanese security forces must stop shooting protesters with live ammunition, Amnesty International said after confirming that at least eight demonstrators killed on Tuesday had bullet wounds in their chests, some inflicted at close range.

At least 10 people, many of them high school students, were killed on July 31 when Security services and paramilitary police opened fire in Nyala, South Darfur, during a demonstration against fuel prices and the cost of living. Dozens more were injured.

Medical staff at Nyala Public Hospital told Amnesty International that the wounds inflicted on the eight bodies admitted to their morgue were consistent with those caused by 5.56mm and 7.62mm automatic rifles.

"Any individual members of the security forces involved in the events that caused this bloodbath must be suspended immediately," said Paule Rigaud, Amnesty International's Africa program director.

"The Sudanese government must investigate why protesters were directly targeted by the security force personnel who opened fire on them with live bullets."

The Sudanese authorities have routinely used excessive force against mostly peaceful demonstrations which have occurred regularly in Sudan's major cities since mid-June.

According to the United Nation's Basic Principles of the Use of Force, live ammunition should not be used, either directly against demonstrators or as warning shots, unless it is absolutely necessary and only after less extreme means have proved ineffective.

The security forces also fired Dushka-type heavy machine-guns in the air, which injured residents in their homes as bullets fell down from the sky.

"The Sudanese security forces must not be allowed to police demonstrations in such a reckless manner and with flagrant disregard for human life," said Rigaud.

"Sudanese citizens must be allowed to express their opinion peacefully without experiencing systematic repression. Attacks against peaceful protesters are an unacceptable violation of their right to freedom of expression, assembly and association."

Amnesty International is also concerned that injured protesters may have been denied medical care following eye witness reports some were arrested and that plain clothes National Security Service personnel were deployed within Nyala General Hospital.

Amnesty International has documented a pattern in recent weeks of injured protesters being denied medical treatment in Khartoum.

Police forces have used batons, tear gas and rubber bullets at close range against demonstrators.

And, in response to the protest movement, the National Security Services (NSS) arrested hundreds of known political and civil society activists, regardless of their involvement in demonstrations. Many told Amnesty International they had been tortured with sticks, water hoses and fists, and made to stand under the scorching sun all day.

In some cases individuals who had been injured in demonstrations or as a result of torture and ill-treatment by security forces told Amnesty International that they preferred not to seek treatment in hospitals because they feared arrest

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and intimidation.

Dozens of activists remain in administrative detention.

Notes to Editors

• Security forces involved in the Nyala shootings include the Central Reserve Police – a combat-trained paramilitary police - and plainclothes agents of the

National Security Services (NSS).

AI Index: **PRE01/378/2012**

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Annex B2

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Price protest leaves six dead in Sudan's Darfur

Tue, Jul 31 2012

By Khalid Abdelaziz and Ulf Laessing

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - Six people were killed during a protest against rising prices in Sudan's western Darfur region on Tuesday, the worst violence since tough austerity measures were imposed last month, an official said.

Activists accused the police of firing live ammunition at the biggest anti-government protest since President Omar Hassan al-Bashir announced a cut in fuel subsidies and other austerity measures.

Sudan has been mired in an economic crisis since South Sudan seceded a year ago, taking with it most of the crude oil production that is the lifeblood of both economies.

More than 1,000 people, mostly students, hurled rocks at police and blocked roads in the market area of Nyala, Darfur's biggest town, to protest against fuel price increases, witnesses said. Several buildings were damaged.

"Police contained the protest of students against price increases...Six people were killed," said Buthina Mohamed Ahmed, a spokeswoman for the government of South Darfur, which includes Nyala.

She declined to comment on whether police had used live ammunition, saying only that authorities had launched an investigation to find out how the six people were killed.

"The situation in the city is now quiet and under control," she said. Police were not available for comment.

Protesters burned tires in several streets and chanted "No to high prices" and "People want to change the regime", the witnesses said.

One witness said he saw around 15 injured people being treated in hospital, some of them bleeding.

Sudan has avoided an "Arab spring" like Egypt or Tunisia but discontent is growing with Bashir's 23-year rule.

Until Tuesday, protests against the austerity measures had mostly petered out after a security crackdown and the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan almost two weeks ago, when most people stay indoors until sunset.

Some 2,000 people have been detained since mid-June, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said in a report this month, citing Sudanese activists.

Sudan's loss of oil revenue has left it with a large budget deficit and rising prices for food and other goods, many of which are imported.

The insurgency in Darfur began in 2003, when Darfuris complaining of neglect by the central government took up arms. The level of violence has subsided, but law and order have collapsed in many parts of the vast territory, and clashes between rebels and government forces have persisted.

(Writing by Alexander Dziadosz and Ulf Laessing; Editing by Tim Pearce)

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