

Annex C

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3 May 2012

Journalists face increasing harassment in Sudan



Journalists from the al-Tayar newspaper have protested against censorship © REUTERS/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah

A raft of new tactics are being used to silence journalists in Sudan in a crackdown by Khartoum's authorities dating from the start of uprisings in North Africa in January 2011, Amnesty International said in a new briefing released on World Press Freedom Day.

Silencing Dissent: Restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression persist in Sudan explores how the authorities now censor journalists, including by confiscating newspapers after they have been printed; preventing vendors from distributing copies; and charging journalists and editors with spurious crimes.

“

"The pattern of harassment and intimidation of critics of the government has intensified since January 2011"

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Amnesty International's Erwin van der Borgh
Thu, 03/05/2012

"Although attacks against freedom of expression are not new to Sudan, the pattern of harassment and intimidation of critics of the government has intensified since January 2011," said Erwin van der Borgh, Amnesty International's Africa Director.

"Since May 2011, the Sudanese authorities have shut down 15 newspapers, confiscated more than 40 newspaper editions, arrested eight journalists and banned two from writing, seriously curtailing freedom of expression," van der Borgh said.

In the first two months of 2012 alone, the Sudanese authorities suspended three newspapers using laws contained in the 2010 National Security Act, which allow the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) to ban any publication containing information considered a threat to national security.

In April 2012 the authorities confiscated two issues of the al-Midan after they had been printed, putting a serious financial strain on the newspaper.

In March 2011, Sudanese authorities arrested and charged journalists who had reported on allegations made by Safia Ishaag, a 26-year-old art student and activist who spoke out about being raped, tortured and kicked to the point of unconsciousness by three security agents after they arrested her in Khartoum on 13 February 2011.

Fatima Ghazali, a journalist from Aljareeda newspaper, was fined 2,000 Sudanese pounds (around US\$740) by the Press Court for writing about Safia and calling for an investigation into her ill treatment. The newspaper's editor-in-chief, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, was fined 5,000 Sudanese pounds (around US\$1,860) in relation to the article. Fatima Ghazali initially refused to pay

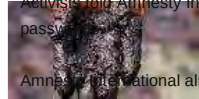
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consistently misused legislation

in the Niger Delta. Shell's claims about sabotage contributing to oil spills in the Niger Delta.

Article 19 of the 1999 Press and Publications Act states: "No restrictions may be applied to the freedom of journalistic

Six weeks after a state of emergency was declared in Myanmar's Rakhine State, targeted attacks and other

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shall not be confiscated or shut down nor shall journalists and publishers be imprisoned on issues pertaining to their practice

save under the provisions of this Act"

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This vague definition of what cannot be published gives extensive powers to Sudanese authorities to suspend newspapers and publishers "if found in violation of the terms and conditions of the practice".

The 2009 Journalists' Code of Conduct states that journalists must "defend the interest, unity, survival and integrity of the homeland". This stipulation has been used by NISS agents to criminalize freedom of expression, including restricting reporting on armed conflicts in Sudan.

Amnesty International called on the Sudanese authorities to end the crackdown against journalists and activists and investigate all abuses at the hands of the security services.

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Issue: Freedom Of Expression Country: Sudan Region: Africa

Index card

Sudan: Silencing dissent: Restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression persist in Sudan

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Index Number AFR 54/013/2012
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The Sudanese authorities are using new forms of censorship in an effort to silence freedom of expression in Sudan. Since early 2011 the government has controlled the media by confiscating newspapers after they have been printed. Vendors have been prevented from distributing copies and financial losses have caused some newspapers to close down. In a clear crackdown by the authorities on all forms of dissent, many activists have also been harassed for participating in peaceful demonstrations and speaking out against the government.

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Annex C2

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Sudan woman shackled with baby, faces death by stoning - activists

Thu, Aug 2 2012

By Ulf Laessing

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - A Sudanese woman accused of adultery has been sentenced to death by stoning and is being held shackled with her six-month-old baby in jail, activists said on Wednesday, in the second such sentence in the past few months in the country.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said last month that Sudan would adopt a "100 percent" Islamic constitution, prompting concerns the country would apply Islamic law more strictly after the secession of mostly non-Muslim South Sudan a year ago.

A court in the capital Khartoum sentenced 23-year-old Laila Ibrahim Issa Jamool on July 10 to death by stoning for adultery, said Sudanese human rights activist Fahima Hashim who has been following her and other such cases.

The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA), a women's rights group, said it had assigned lawyers who had appealed against the conviction and sentence. Jamool's husband had accused her of adultery, it said.

"The appeal is understood to take not less than one-and-a-half months before a response can be got from the court of appeal. During all this time, Mrs Jamool will still be shackled in Omdurman (near Khartoum) women's prison together with her six-month (old) child," SIHA said in a statement.

The baby is in poor health it said, without giving further details.

Officials in Sudan's justice and information ministries were not available for comment.

SECOND CASE

Amnesty International said the conviction did not meet international legal standards and also violated Sudanese criminal law.

"The stoning sentence was imposed ... after an unfair trial in which she was convicted solely on the basis of her confession and did not have access to a lawyer," Amnesty said in a statement.

In April, a Sudanese court handed out a stoning sentence for adultery against Intisar Sharif Abdalla, who activists said was in her 20s.

She was released on July 3 after her lawyers successfully appealed because she had been denied a lawyer in her trial, according to Amnesty and local activists.

Floggings are a common punishment in Sudan for crimes such as drinking alcohol and adultery. But sentences of stoning are rare.

Following a 1989 coup, Sudan introduced laws that took Islamic law, or sharia, as their main source and the country hosted Islamist militants including Osama bin Laden.

While the government has since sought to improve its image internationally by distancing itself from radical Islamists, it is still one of only a few countries to list death by stoning in its statutes.

In 2010, the case of Lubna Hussein, a Sudanese U.N. official, sparked international furore when she was sentenced to flogging for wearing trousers. She challenged the sentence in court and was instead fined.

(Additional reporting by Khalid Abdelaziz; Editing by Pravin Char)

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19 July 2011

Detained UN worker at risk of torture in Sudan

Amnesty International has urged Sudanese authorities to ensure that a UN worker being held in South Darfur is not subjected to torture and is given immediate access to his family and any needed medical care.

Idris Yousef Abdelrahman, a civil affairs officer from the UN/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) based in Nyala, was charged on 12 July with "undermining the constitutional system" and "waging war against the state". Both crimes are punishable by death under Sudanese law.

He had gone missing in late April after being called to a meeting with the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), which on 10 May confirmed his detention. NISS detainees have frequently reported being tortured and ill-treated.

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"For more than two months, the Sudanese intelligence agency has held Idris Yousef Abdelrahman without giving him access to his family or medical treatment, and there is a legitimate concern he is at risk of torture," said Erwin Van Der Borgh, Amnesty International's Africa Programme Director.

"This is unacceptable, and his arrest and charging violates the Sudanese government's agreement with the UN over the treatment of UN workers accused of committing a criminal offence."

All UNAMID staff are entitled to immunity for charges brought against them while carrying out their official duties.

The Sudanese government failed to comply with its agreement to inform UNAMID officials when Abdelrahman was detained and charged.

Abdelrahman was arrested by the NISS on three previous occasions. The last time was in 2009, shortly after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for the President of Sudan, Omar Al Bashir, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The NISS also arrested Hawa Abdallah, a UNAMID translator in Abu Shouk village in West Darfur on 6 May. She was released on 13 July without being charged, but state-run media had accused her of "Christianizing" children in the internally displaced persons camp where she works.

"This apparent targeting of UN workers by Sudan's intelligence agency must come to an end," said Erwin Van Der Borgh.

"Sudan must respect its Status of Forces Agreement with the UN and cooperate with the Joint Special Representative regarding any case where a UN staff member has been accused of committing a crime."

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[Sudanese woman detained, risks torture](#) (Urgent action, 1 June 2011)



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14 July 2011

Sudanese journalist faces prolonged imprisonment on politically motivated charges

The Sudanese authorities must immediately release a journalist who faces fresh charges despite completing a year's prison sentence.

Abuzar Al Amin, deputy editor-in-chief of Rai Al Shaab newspaper, was convicted on 14 July 2010 for undermining the Constitution and publishing false news after he published articles critical of the government.

He has alleged that he was tortured while in prison.

Abuzar Al Amin was due to be freed on 3 July 2011, but two weeks before his release two new claims were brought against him by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS).

Based on these claims, numerous charges under the 1991 Criminal Act have been made against him, including criminal conspiracy and undermining the constitution. If convicted he could face the death penalty or life imprisonment.

"Abuzar Al Amin is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for expressing his opinions and this is a blatant attempt by the authorities to prolong his detention using what appear to be politically motivated charges," said Erwin van der Borgh, Amnesty International's Director for Africa.

"The charges should be dismissed and he should be released immediately. The authorities must also conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of Abuzar Al Amin and to bring those responsible to justice."

Abuzar Al Amin is now charged with injuring an NISS agent during his initial arrest in May 2010. A second charge relates to an article he wrote but no further details have been given.

On 3 July 2011, Abuzar Al Amin was released from prison and transferred to the Office of the Prosecutor, where he awaits trial.

Abuzar Al Amin and two of his colleagues were arrested in May 2010, in relation to articles that were published in Rai Al Shaab. These included an analysis of the results of the April 2010 presidential and parliamentary elections, and an article suggesting that an Iranian weapons factory had been built in Sudan.

The day after Abuzar Al Amin was arrested NISS agents raided and closed down the office of the Rai Al Shaab newspaper. The newspaper has been suspended ever since.

In July 2010 Abuzar Al Amin was convicted and sentenced to five years. In May 2011, the Supreme Court reduced his sentence to one year, with his release date marked for 3 July.

During his initial arrest, Abuzar Al Amin was detained incommunicado and reportedly tortured or otherwise ill-treated by the NISS.

He filed a claim against the NISS for his alleged torture and other ill-treatment but has not been allowed to present his case in court.



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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

<http://www.hrw.org>**Sudan: Torture, Abuse of Demonstrators** ^[1]

Charge or Release Detained Peaceful Protesters

July 11, 2012

 73 [2]
^[3]

(Nairobi) – The Sudanese authorities should immediately stop the torture and ill-treatment of those detained following demonstrations since mid-June 2012, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today.

"Torture and other ill-treatment are absolutely prohibited under international law," said Aster van Kregten, Amnesty International's deputy director for Africa. "We call on the Sudanese authorities to ensure that every credible allegation of such abuse is subject to prompt and impartial investigations, and to ensure that the victims receive reparations."

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch also urged the immediate and unconditional release of anyone arrested for participating in peaceful protests. Sudanese groups monitoring the arrests estimate that since June the Sudanese security forces have detained 2,000 people in connection with the youth-led protests in Khartoum and other major towns across [Sudan](#) ^[4].

While the number of 2,000 detained is difficult to confirm, reports indicate that at least 100 people remain in detention in Khartoum alone. The majority are being held in National Security Services (NSS) detention centers, which are well known for the [use of ill-treatment and torture](#). ^[5]

In one of the latest crackdowns on protesters, on July 6, security forces used excessive force against a demonstration in the Sayyid Abdelrahman mosque, in the Wad Nubawi neighbourhood of Omdurman, a suburb of Khartoum.

A 26-year-old student present at the protest said he was hit with rubber bullets in both legs.

"When we got out, we saw the police outside the mosque," he told Amnesty International. "So we started chanting 'Peaceful! Peaceful' and sat on the ground to show them we didn't want confrontation, but they walked toward us and fired rubber bullets and teargas at us, and chased us inside the mosque."

In recent days, demonstrators have also reported being attacked by pro-government students wielding sticks, knives, and axes. Injured protesters are afraid to seek medical care. A security guard at the Omdurman Hospital told Amnesty International that he witnessed NSS agents arresting wounded protesters immediately after they were discharged.

Since the protests began on June 16, Sudanese security forces have repeatedly [used excessive force](#) ^[6] to disperse the demonstrations and [arrested scores of peaceful protesters](#) ^[7] including students, youth activists, and journalists.

Security officials have also separately arrested and detained activists, journalists, lawyers, doctors, and members of youth groups and opposition parties not directly connected to the protests.

Many detainees have been released after hours or days, often after signing a statement renouncing any political activities or participation in the protests. Other individuals are detained for longer periods and face lengthy interrogations in which they are accused of being traitors, communists, or spies; several have reported harsh treatment, including beatings and sleep-deprivation.

Among those still detained are Nahid Jabralla, the head of SEEMA, a women's and children's rights group, arrested on July 3; US resident Rudwan Daoud, a member of youth movement Girifna ("We're fed up") who was arrested on July 3 with his father and brother; Ussamah Mohammed, arrested on June 22, who has openly criticised the government on Al Jazeera; Khaled Bahar, an activist with the Haq movement, who has been detained since June 20; Yassir Fathi, a member of the opposition Umma party, who was arrested on June 21; and Amira Osman, a member of the Communist party, in detention since June 28. They are all at risk of torture or other forms of ill-treatment; Daoud appears to have been beaten, according to witnesses who saw him appear in court earlier this week.

"Instead of responding to the protesters' concerns, the Sudanese government appears to be targeting select individuals for their presumed political views," said [Daniel Bekele](#) ^[8], Africa director of Human Rights Watch. "Sudan should immediately release those detained for engaging in political protests, and respect their right to exercise freedom of expression and association."

Those released from security detention are often afraid to report their ordeal to organizations or journalists. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch interviewed more than 13 former detainees who reported beatings, verbal insults, food, water and sleep-deprivation, and other ill-treatment while in detention in Khartoum and its suburbs since mid-June.

A 38-year-old doctor who was arrested on June 28 and detained for a day told researchers that an officer from the NSS bashed his forehead against the wall on two occasions. Later, he was surrounded by eight NSS officials who slapped him and punched him in the face repeatedly.

Security officials also beat and verbally insulted his three sisters, who were arrested the previous week for participating in a demonstration in the al-Riyadh area of Khartoum, he said. The security officials kicked and beat the women with their feet and with sticks until two of them bled. One security official dragged one of the women on the floor, causing injury to her face. NSS agents called them "prostitutes."

Another former detainee, Darfuri student Issam al-Din Mohammed Ibrahim, said 10 plain-clothed security agents and uniformed police officers beat him repeatedly using their fists, wooden sticks, water hoses, and iron bars.

On June 18, police and plainclothes security agents arrested him while he was participating in a protest and transferred him to a building near the Jackson bus station in Khartoum where the arrest took place. He told Amnesty International: "They began to beat me, beat me, beat me severely on all parts of my body." The security forces shouted racist abuse at him, he said.

The following day, he was sentenced to a fine of 100 Sudanese pounds by the North Khartoum criminal court, on charges of public nuisance and breaching the public peace, and released. Authorities [have sentenced](#) ^[6] scores of protesters to fines and lashings for the same charges.

A 24-year-old student from Sudan University told Human Rights Watch he was also beaten while in NSS detention. He said: "They took me into a room and then the two men started to beat me with black plastic water pipes, slapping me in the face and kicking me in different parts of my body."

Magdi Akasha, a 30-year-old leader of the Youth for Change movement, was detained by the NSS from June 27 until July 2. He said he was beaten with sticks, made to sit all day under the scorching sun, and denied sleep while in detention.

Najlaa Sid Ahmad, an activist with Girifna and a video blogger was summoned to NSS offices for 12 hours every day for three days, during which she was denied food and water. On the last day, she suffered from dehydration and hypoglycaemia and had to be hospitalised.

The current protest movement broke out when a demonstration in the female dorms of Khartoum University triggered a wider movement protesting economic austerity measures and demanding regime change.

Protests have been taking place on a near-daily basis since mid-June, notably in Khartoum and the neighbouring cities of Omdurman and Khartoum North, but also in the cities of al-Obeid, Port Sudan, Atbarah, Dongola, Kassala, and Gedaref. In these provincial towns, as in the capital, security forces have been using excessive force against demonstrations and arresting large numbers of protesters and known activists.

Sudanese authorities have also routinely censored newspapers, removing articles about sensitive topics and seizing entire print runs of specific issues, and have harassed and arrested journalists who report on anti-government protests.

Source URL: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/07/11/sudan-torture-abuse-demonstrators>

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[4] <http://www.hrw.org/africa/sudan>

[5] <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR54/010/2010/en/7b11e50c-3a0b-4699-8b6f-08a27f751c6c/afr540102010en.pdf>

[6] <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/06/26/sudan-violent-crackdown-protesters>

[7] <http://www.amnesty.org/zh-hant/node/32748>

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Sudan: Activists arrested and tortured in clampdown on protests

by ADMIN on Jul 13, 2012 • 10:24 pm

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Sudanese activists protesting at the Sudanese regime's privatisation of the health service were among those who joined a solidarity demonstration in London on 30 June 2012.

Activists involved in organising the recent wave of protests which have spread across Sudan since mid-June have been arrested and tortured by the regime, sources in the Sudanese opposition told MENA Solidarity Network this week.

Demonstrations by students on 16 June against austerity measures have sparked a wider protest movement which has begun to raise slogans echoing those of the revolutions in the Arab world: "Revolution is the choice of the people" and "the people want the downfall of the regime."

The regime of Omar al-Bashir has imposed sweeping cuts and privatisation schemes in a desperate attempt to deal with the financial crisis triggered by the separation of South Sudan last year and the loss of most of the Khartoum government's oil revenues. Meanwhile up to a million refugees are trapped in the Nuba mountains and facing devastating shortages of food and medicine.

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The wave of protests across Sudan in recent weeks has sparked a brutal response from the authorities. Sudanese opposition activists told MENA Solidarity Network that up to 2,000 have been arrested and many tortured in detention. Among those detained and tortured include three members of the Sudanese Communist Party: Salah Samaret, a SCP party worker, Mohieldin Aljald, an engineer, and computer programmer Amira Osman. There is also rising concern over the fate of NGO activist Nahid Jabralla, who heads the women and children's rights group SEEMA and was arrested on 3 July. Nahid suffers from a serious health condition and cannot walk unaided.

In a [statement issued on 11 July](#) Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International condemned the Sudanese government's clampdown, and called for the immediate release of all those arrested. A student who was injured with rubber bullets when the security forces stormed a mosque in Omdurman told Amnesty:

"When we got out, we saw the police outside the mosque. So we started chanting 'Peaceful! Peaceful' and sat on the ground to show them we didn't want confrontation, but they walked toward us and fired rubber bullets and tear gas at us, and chased us inside the mosque."

What you can do:

- **Send a letter of protest to the Sudanese Embassy** demanding that the Sudanese authorities immediately end mistreatment or torture of detainees and release all those arrested for exercising their right to peaceful protest. Please mention your concerns for the safety of Nahid Jabralla, Amira Osman, Salah Samaret, Mohieldin Aljald and all other detainees at risk of torture. If you are in the UK write to: Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row, St James's, London SW1A 1DD – or send a message via the embassy website [here](#).
- **Send a message of solidarity** to the protesters via menasolidarity@gmail.com
- **Join local demonstrations and events in solidarity** with the protests in Sudan organised by the Sudanese community in your country.
- **Raise the issue of solidarity with the Sudanese protests in your union branch or student union**

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