

URGENT ACTION

MORE ARRESTS FOLLOWING PROTESTS IN SUDAN

On 2 February, 16 people including nine members of staff working at Al-Midan newspaper, were arrested by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) in Sudan. An estimated 60 people remain in detention following demonstrations in Khartoum, the capital, on 30 January and 2 February. They are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

According to witnesses, around 20 plain-clothed security agents surrounded Al-Midan newspaper's headquarters and arrested 16 people as they were exiting the building. Seven staff members, including **Kamal Karrar**, deputy editor and chief; **Ibrahim Merghani**, political desk officer; **Khaled Tawfiz**; **Samer Sala Al din**; **Mohammed Rahma**; **Muhanned Al Dardiri**; and **Muaawiya Abu Hashem** remain in detention. Two people not affiliated with the newspaper, **Abdel Azim Al Badawi** and **Ahmed Ali** were allegedly arrested at the same time, and remain in detention. Al-Midan newspaper was stopped from distributing its printed edition on the morning of 2 February by the NISS.

On 30 January and 2 February, demonstrations took place in Khartoum and Omdurman, inspired by those in Tunisia and Egypt. The protests resulted in arrests from 29 January to date. The NISS specifically targeted student movements, universities and newspapers.

Among those that remain in detention are students **Ahmed Mahmoud Ahmed**, **Mohamed Negm Eldin Hassan**, **Yousif Mubarak Elfadil Elmahdi**, **Salah Mubarak Elfadil Elmahdi**, **Mohammed Adil**, **Mohammed Kamal Ibrahim Ahmed**, **Mohmoud Kamal Ibrahim Ahmed** and **Louis Awil Weriak**. **Haten Qattan**, a member of the communist party steering committee, and **Abdelazim Mohamed Ahmed**, director of El Sharq Centre for Culture and Legal Aid, **Ali Al Naeem** and **Mohamed Ibrahim**, also remain in detention.

Many of the detainees were reportedly tortured or otherwise ill-treated in NISS detention. None of them have so far had access to their families or lawyers, and no charges have been made against them to date.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to reveal the identities and whereabouts of all those detained and grant them immediate access to their families, lawyers and to any medical treatment they might require;
- Calling on the authorities to release all those detained or charge them with recognizably criminal offences;
- Calling on the authorities to promptly and effectively investigate all allegations of torture and other serious human rights violations;
- Calling on the Sudanese government to immediately stop the harassment and intimidation of human rights activists and journalists in Sudan and to respect their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Calling for the 2010 National Security Act to be reformed to remove the excessive powers of the NISS, including powers of arrest and detention for four and a half months without judicial oversight.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 MARCH 2011 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 782 541

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Mr Mohammed Bushara Dousa
Ministry of Justice, PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 764 168

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 18/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/005/2011/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

MORE ARRESTS FOLLOWING PROTESTS IN SUDAN

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 30 January, around 2,000 people gathered in Khartoum for a peaceful demonstration. More than 70 people were arrested, including a large number of people in the streets before they reached the demonstrations. The National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and riot police reportedly began searching for demonstration organizers the night before. Armed riot police and the NISS reportedly used batons and tear gas to break up the demonstrations. Many of those arrested were injured. Reports suggest that a student demonstrator, Mohamed Abdelrahman, died in hospital on 31 January, after being injured as the police dispersed the demonstrators.

Protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa began in Tunisia several weeks ago and extended to a number of other capitals. Inspired by these protests, the demonstrators in Sudan were calling for democracy and asking for an improvement in their socio-economic conditions.

The police and the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) in Sudan often arrest and ill-treat peaceful demonstrators, particularly when they are asking for their rights to be upheld. Student movements and organizations are regularly targeted by the NISS. Journalists suffer from harassment and various restrictions to their freedom of expression. Newspapers also suffer from the occasionally renewed censorship on newspapers.

On 31 January, the NISS banned opposition newspaper Ajrass Al Hurriya from going to print, and stopped independent newspaper Al Sahafa, from distributing its daily edition. Al Midan, newspaper was also stopped from distributing its printed edition on 2 February.

Further information on UA: 18/11 Index: AFR 54/006/2011 Issue Date: 11 February 2011

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

