

URGENT ACTION

CHILDREN DETAINED, TORTURED, AFTER PROTEST

Three children and three adults have been detained incommunicado in a prison in Sudan's North Darfur state since a peaceful demonstration on 28 April. They have reportedly been tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

The six were arrested by police and the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), shortly after peaceful demonstrations in Al Salaam and Abu Shouk camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Darfur. They were demonstrating against proposed new modalities of food distribution in IDP camps. They were taken to the NISS offices in North Darfur's state capital, El Fasher.

Three others who had been arrested with them were released after interrogation by the NISS. The six were later transferred to Shalla prison, in El Fasher, where they were charged under the 1991 Sudanese Criminal Code with offences including "rioting" and "disturbance of public order."

The three children are secondary-school students **Osman Adam Yagoub**, aged 17 and **Abdul Razig Issa Adam Idriss**, aged 14; and 16-year-old **Izz Eldin Mohamed Bokra**. The adults are **Farah Eldin Adam Ishag**, aged 24, and **Abeid Tibin Diya Elnour**, aged 35. **Ilhamm Yousuf Mohamed Abdul Majid**, aged 18, was transferred to Shalla Women's Prison in El Fasher.

At least four individuals, including the three children, were reportedly tortured or otherwise ill-treated by the NISS. They are at risk of further torture or other ill-treatment. The authorities have refused contact with their families or lawyers.

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

- Calling on the authorities to ensure immediately that the six people (naming them) have access to their families, lawyers and any medical treatment they may require and ensure the children are moved to a facility segregated from adults which can provide them with treatment appropriate to their age and legal status;
- Urging them to ensure that the six people are released immediately and unconditionally;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that the six people are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated and investigate the reports of torture and prosecute those responsible;
- Calling on the authorities to put an immediate stop to the harassment and intimidation of activists in Sudan and to respect their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JUNE 2011 TO:

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

Minister of Interior

Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies 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

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated since February 2010, during the second round of preparations for the peace negotiations in Doha, Qatar. Fighting further intensified in December 2010, after the Sudanese government severed ties with the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi faction (SLA/MM), who signed the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006. Attacks were carried out by government forces in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps and in towns including Dar el Salam, Shangil Tobaya and Khor Abeche.

According to UN estimates, around 300,000 people have been killed and more than 2.7 million displaced since 2003 as a result of the Darfur conflict. The conflict has been marked by large-scale violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The practice of arbitrary arrest and detention of Darfuris by law enforcement agencies such as the National Intelligence and Security Service has been rife in Darfur. Amnesty International has documented cases of prolonged detention without trial of Darfuris. Detainees have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and unfair trials.

On 20 April, around 100 people were arrested following student-led demonstrations at Nyala University, in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur. Students and activists were demonstrating against poor living conditions and insecurity in Darfur, as well as accountability for human rights violations committed in Darfur. Five students remain in detention and have reportedly been subjected to torture or other forms of ill-treatment.

The NISS maintain broad powers of arrest and detention under the 2010 National Security Act. National security officials often use their powers to arbitrarily arrest and detain individuals, and to subject them to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of torture or other ill-treatment by the NISS.

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