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COI QUERY

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The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on the 16 June 2020. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.



COI QUERY RESPONSE

Information on treatment of political activists by Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir's government between January 2018 and August 2019**1. Background**

Since Sudan's independence in 1956, political instability prevailed, and the country experienced several military coups.¹

In January 2018, demonstrations first started in protest of high bread prices and economic conditions.² By the end of the year (2018), demonstrations dilated nationwide and turned into mass protests against president Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir's rule.³ BBC reported that six people died in December 2018, during protests in Gedaref and Qadarif, before the government imposed an overnight curfew and a state of emergency.⁴ The Sudanese government temporarily closed schools, universities and internet services.⁵ In Atbara, two demonstrators died after security forces fired tear gas to dissolve a demonstration.⁶

Pro-democracy movements continued throughout 2019. In January 2019, 2 000 people gathered in Khartoum's Burri neighbourhood where a man allegedly helping to hide protestors from security forces in his house, was killed at home. Security personnel fired live ammunition at people mourning his death. Local reports indicated that the men had tried to help unarmed demonstrators by hiding them in his home from the police.⁷ The number of arrested protestors vary greatly; Sudan's 'Minister of the Interior, speaking before the parliament on 6 January 2019, stated that 816 people had been arrested within the first three weeks of protests. While, 'information from human rights groups suggested that the number of detentions might have been higher.'⁸ Protest continued, while security forces continuously applied undue use of force.⁹

Following weeks of demonstrations, a state of emergency was declared by the president on 22 February 2019, enabling the Sudanese government to issue a decree prohibiting public meetings and demonstrations without prior permission and arresting and searching protestors. Emergency courts were established to arrest and prosecute protestors.¹⁰ However, allegedly hundreds of protestors

¹ fanack.com, Governance & Politics of Sudan, 9 September 2019, [url](#)

² BBC, Sudan profile - Timeline, 10 September 2019, [url](#)

³ HRW, Sudan, n.d., [url](#)

⁴ BBC, Sudan protests turn deadly as demonstrators clash with police, 20 December 2018, [url](#)

⁵ New York Times (The), Sudanese Protests, After Days of Violence, Turn Anger Over Bread Toward Bashir, 24 December 2018, [url](#)

⁶ Al Jazeera, Several killed in Sudan as protests over rising prices continue, 21 December 2018, [url](#)

⁷ Al Jazeera, Sudan police fire live rounds outside home of slain protester, 18 January 2019, [url](#)

⁸ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

⁹ BBC, Sudan protests: People flee gunshots in deadly protest, 19 January 2019, [url](#); BBC, Sudan protests: Authorities order release of all detainees, 28 January 2019, [url](#); Reuters, Protesters in Sudan want end to Bashir's 30-year rule, 15 January 2019, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Sudan's protests: The revolt of the periphery, 28 January 2019, [url](#)

¹⁰ France24, Sudan emergency court sentences 3 protesters to jail: lawyer, 27 March 2019, [url](#); UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 11

were tried before the existence of the emergency courts, and 'civil society groups expressed serious concerns about the fairness and due process of the trials and the lack of rights to legal representation for defendants.'¹¹ Human Rights groups estimated that approximately 40 people were killed since December 2018.¹²

A climax was reached on 6 April 2019 when protestors gathered in front of the military headquarter, demanding the army to support the ousting of president Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir.¹³ During demonstrations on 6 April 2019, 'soldiers permitted the demonstrators to stay.'¹⁴ During mass protests on 8 and 9 April 2019, 21 protestors got killed and 153 injured as the government's intelligence and security officers interfered forcefully during sit-ins. After 30 years in office, president Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir was removed from office on 11 April 2019.¹⁵ Apart from demonstrations in the capital Khartoum, protestors and security personnel clashed in Darfur and Southern Kordofan.¹⁶ In North Darfur, in Kutum¹⁷, after protestors had reportedly destructed property, security forces fired 'indiscriminately into the crowds.'¹⁸ According to the United Nations (UN), during April's (2019) events, excessive use of force was applied against protestors by the Sudanese security forces.¹⁹

On 11 April 2019, General Ahmed Ibn Auf, the former Defense Minister and head of military intelligence under Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir's rule, replaced the president.²⁰ However, he is accused of supporting militias and perpetrating atrocities in Darfur. Therefore, protestors shouted, 'we do not replace a thief with a thief [and] we don't want the same guy.'²¹ While another protestor noted that members of president Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir's government [are] 'recycling the faces, and this will return us to where we have been.' Activists continued to demand democracy and civilians to take over.²²

In May 2019, violent protests continued,²³ and 'on 2 May 2019, two people were allegedly killed, and five others injured as a result of the use of live ammunition by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to disperse young people protesting.' Several protestors sustained gunshot wounds on 4 May 2019. In Khartoum, on 13 May 2019, security forces, dressed as RSF and 'used live ammunition on protesters,

¹¹ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 11

¹² East African (The), Sudan imprisons Darfur journalist for reporting unrest, 13 February 2019, [url](#); Bloomberg, Sudan's Al-Bashir Declares State of Emergency for One Year, 22 February 2019, [url](#); Financial Times (The), Sudan's president declares state of emergency, 23 February 2019, [url](#)

¹³ BBC, Sudan crisis: What you need to know, 16 August 2019, [url](#)

¹⁴ New York Times (The), Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir Is Ousted, but Not His Regime, 11 April 2019, [url](#)

¹⁵ Washington Post (The), Sudan's Omar Hassan al-Bashir is ousted after by military after 30 years in power, 11 April 2019, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Sudan protest leaders, military sign transitional government deal, 17 August 2019, [url](#)

¹⁶ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 8

¹⁷ Radio Dabanga, Demonstrators injured by live fire in North Darfur, 22 April 2019, [url](#)

¹⁸ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 8

¹⁹ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 5

²⁰ Al Jazeera, Awad Ibn Auf, the head of Sudan's new ruling council, 11 April 2019, [url](#)

²¹ New York Times (The), Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir Is Ousted, but Not His Regime, 11 April 2019, [url](#)

²² New York Times (The), Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir Is Ousted, but Not His Regime, 11 April 2019, [url](#)

²³ BBC, Sudan crisis: Clashes in Khartoum leave several dead, 14 May 2019, [url](#)

killing six people.’²⁴ On 15 May 2019, 6 people were injured and 100 people killed when demonstrators clashed with the RSF.²⁵ On 17 May 2019, the UN Independent Expert on Sudan ‘condemned the reported excessive use of force by security forces against protesters.’²⁶

In June 2019, violent clashes between protestors and government security forces occurred. More than 100 protestors died, while hundreds were injured on 3 June 2019 and the following days, during sit-ins in front of the army headquarter in Khartoum.²⁷ Other sources estimated that up to 241 people died during the crackdown on 3 June 2019.²⁸ The UN received information of hundreds of persons, allegedly protestors, that have gone missing as well as allegations of sexual violence, against men and women, in connection to the crackdown.²⁹ On 30 June 2019, mass protests were reported across cities in the Sudan. Security forces and the RSF, applied unwarranted force against protestors, leaving seven people dead and 181 wounded.³⁰

Violence endured in July 2019. In Omdurman and Atbara, seven demonstrators were killed. Later, some bodies of the activists were found; the bodies clearly indicated signs of torture.³¹ On 17 July 2019, the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), which had been coordinating protest, and the Transitional Military Council (TMC) signed an agreement, which was followed by the completion of a Constitutional Declaration on 4 August 2019.³² As envisaged by the agreement, a Sovereignty Council/ Transitional Government was established on 20 August 2019, leading to the dissolution of the TMC.³³ The Sovereignty Council, is based on a power-sharing tripartite agreement between the military, the civilians and the protest groups.³⁴ The Transitional Government will rule until November 2022, which is when Sudan’s next elections are scheduled for.³⁵

2. Treatment of opposition/activists and targeting

2.1 General

²⁴ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 8

²⁵ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 8

²⁶ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 4

²⁷ Guardian (The), Sudanese protesters demand justice following mass killing, 13 July 2019, [url](#); UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

²⁸ Al Jazeera, Sudan's June crackdown may have killed 241 people: Rights group, 6 March 2020, [url](#)

²⁹ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

³⁰ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

³¹ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

³² Constitutionnet, Sudan Constitutional Declaration August 2019, n.d., [url](#)

³³ AfricanNews, Inside Sudan's 11-member Sovereign Council: All you need to know , 21 August 2019, [url](#)

³⁴ BBC, Sudan timeline, 10 September 2019, [url](#)

³⁵ UNDP, 2020 is once in a lifetime opportunity to support Sudan, n.d., [url](#)

Economic hardship pushed Sudanese from all kind of backgrounds to protest in the streets, at the same time, 'the protesters are mostly young, reflecting the country's demographics, but people of all ages have been seen in the crowds.'³⁶ Political activists come together under the coalition FFC.³⁷ The FFC unifies Sudan's political opposition. According to France24, the opposition 'is made up of the [...] Nidaa Sudan, the National Consensus Forces and the Sudanese Professionals Association [SPA].'³⁸ The SPA is part of the FFC³⁹ and exists since 2016, combining professional groups who are seeking to improve working conditions.⁴⁰ Much of Sudan's street protest was organised by the SPA.⁴¹

The response by the Sudanese government towards protestors has been criticised internationally.⁴² Since the beginning of the uprising, 'security forces cracked down on the demonstrators, killing dozens and arresting hundreds more.'⁴³ CCN believes, that more than 3 000 people have been arrested since Sudan's 'revolution' and that most of them have been abused. Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir's government is accused of beating and other forms of torture, which is often used at detainees in so called 'ghost houses', torture houses, spread over Sudan's capital, according to CCN.⁴⁴

As stated by the UN, during Sudan's uprising

'thousands of people might have been arrested and detained in circumstances linked to protests [between 28 September 2018 and 30 June 2019] [...] many individuals were arrested multiple times [...] those arrested and detained included opposition leaders, political activists, civil society activists, journalists, university professors and students, and professionals such as doctors, lawyers and engineers. Reports also included allegations of instances of torture, ill-treatment and other human rights abuse in detention by Sudanese authorities [between 28 September 2018 and 30 June 2019] [...] at least 100 women were among those detained between December [2018] and 11 April [2019].'⁴⁵

A great number of protesters was arbitrarily arrested, including opposition leaders, political activists, journalists, lawyers, members of civil society, doctors and medical personnel, university professors, engineers, students and high school pupils. At the same time, Human Rights Watch indicates the calculated use of force by the Sudanese government, while responding to protests, noting that security forces intentionally targeted protestors, shooting at demonstrators and directing guns at protestors; shouting 'kill them, kill them.'⁴⁶

³⁶ BBC, Sudan crisis: What you need to know, 19 August 2019, [url](#)

³⁷ BBC, Sudan crisis: What you need to know, 19 August 2019, [url](#)

³⁸ France 24, Sudan's disparate opposition comes together post Bashir, 16 April 2019, [url](#)

³⁹ Reuters, Sudan security forces raid opposition group office ahead of protest, 29 June 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁰ SPA, About Us, n.d., [url](#)

⁴¹ BBC, Sudan protests: Deadly unrest as masses oppose the military, 30 June 2019, [url](#)

⁴² CCN, Sudan opposition rejects calls for talks as crisis worsens following deadly crackdown, 6 June 2019, [url](#)

⁴³ Al Jazeera, Sudan's female protesters leading the pro-democracy movement, 23 April 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁴ CNN, Sudanese troops move to protect anti-government protesters in Khartoum, 9 April 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁵ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 10

⁴⁶ HRW, They Were Shouting 'Kill Them', 17 November 2019, [url](#)

The UN Independent expert on Sudan 'received allegations of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against both women and men during the crackdown, and information alleging that possibly hundreds of protesters were missing as of the end of June 2019.'⁴⁷

2.2 Women

During the entire uprising, women have played a major part in Sudan's protest.⁴⁸ According to the New York Times, up to two-thirds of the protestors might have been women.⁴⁹ They were requesting more freedom for the country, for themselves and active participation in politics.⁵⁰

In general, women were required to dress according to cultural standards during Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir's rule. In Sudan's capital women were occasionally brought before a judge if they dressed inadequate and arrested by the police.⁵¹ According to the UN, 'of particular concern is the treatment of female activists during these arrests.'⁵² Sexual assaults during protests was also reported by different sources.⁵³

Human Rights Watch writes, that it could not confirm the 'extent of sexual violence' during the crackdown, but reports from protestors, specialised civil society organisations and survivors indicated that⁵⁴

'security forces raped, gang raped, attempted to rape, and sexually assaulted female and male protestors, including medical workers. Most of those who reported their experience to civil society groups said they were raped or assaulted in the area around the mosque and university clinic and dormitory [...] several healthcare workers or staff of organizations aiding victims [...] provided information about rapes, which took place during the attack on June 3 [2019].'⁵⁵

An activist interviewed during the UK Home Office's fact-finding mission, said that 'women who were arrested were sent to a prison in Omdurman; while the men were sent to NISS [the National Intelligence and Security Service] facilities ... Ordinary people were released, but those believed to be leaders / activists / politicians were kept.'⁵⁶

With regards to the Ombudsman Women's Prison, Radio Dabanga noted that on 12 March 2019, the

⁴⁷ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

⁴⁸ Guardian (The), Sudan: the women leading the calls for revolution, 10 April 2019, available at: [url](#); Al Jazeera, Sudan's female protesters leading the pro-democracy movement, 23 April 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁹ New York Times (The), In Sudan, Women Showed the World How It's Done, 15 October 2019, [url](#)

⁵⁰ BBC, Sudan crisis: Women praise end of strict public order law, 29 November 2019, [url](#)

⁵¹ USDOS, 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Sudan, February 2020, [url](#), p. 36

⁵² UN Security Council, General Assembly, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/39/71], 13 August 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 5

⁵³ Reuters, Sudan urged to ensure justice for raped women protesters, [url](#); Guardian (The), Sudan paramilitaries raped and assaulted protesters and medics, 4 June 2019, [url](#); cmi, Sexual violence does not stop Sudan's women from speaking up, 2019, [url](#)

⁵⁴ ARC, Sudan: Query Response, The situation in Khartoum and Omdurman – An update (3rd version), February 2020, available at: [url](#), p. 34

⁵⁵ HRW, They Were Shouting 'Kill Them', 17 November 2019, [url](#)

⁵⁶ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan, November 2018, [url](#), p. 48

‘prison [...] released a large number of young women who were held during demonstrations over the past weeks [...] the Court of Appeal in Khartoum overturned the verdicts of El Intifada Emergency Court against nine young women. They were sentenced to one-month imprisonment and 20 lashes after being detained while they were demonstrating against the government.’⁵⁷

Furthermore, Al Jazeera also reports on the rape of women connected to the 3 June 2019 crackdown, writing that

‘many women and girls were gang-raped on the spot, while others were kidnapped and continuously raped for days elsewhere. In the worst cases of rape, victims were eventually killed and their bodies were thrown into the river. These crimes took place at the gates of the Sudanese Army's headquarters. Some protesters ran towards the building to seek protection, but the military chose to close the gates and ignore the screams of civilians [...] there were also videos showing women being fondled and women's underwear being waved in the air holstered on army canes.’⁵⁸

The New Humanitarian interviewed a UN official wishing to stay anonymous, who believes that ‘in the 72 hours following the RSF crackdown [on 3 June 2019] there were likely thousands of women and girls who have been subjected to forms of violent harassment.’⁵⁹ Other sources confirm that sexual violence took place during protests; the US Department of State in its 2019 report also mentions incidents of rape by security forces and the RSF.⁶⁰ In the opinion of the US Department of State, ‘there were continuing reports that government security forces, progovernment and antigovernment militias, and other armed persons raped women and children throughout the year [2019].’⁶¹

Alaa Salah, a female activist and an architectural engineering student, stated that ‘women [...] were teargassed, threatened, assaulted and thrown in jail without any charge or due process.’⁶²

2.3 Lawyers

Sudanese lawyers actively participated in protests and were targeted.⁶³ According to a political activist quoted by the Economist, ‘at least 1,000 [people were] arrested that day [on 31 December 2018]. Many were beaten; others had their hair shaved off. Lawyers and doctors were singled out for insults.’⁶⁴ Furthermore, UN reports also indicate that lawyers were targeted in connection to the nationwide protests.

Reportedly, on 9 January 2019,

⁵⁷ Radio Dabanga, Sudan: women detainees released, flogging verdicts quashed, 13 March 2019, [url](#)

⁵⁸ Al Jazeera, Sudan's youth showed us how to counter sexual violence, 5 September 2019, [url](#)

⁵⁹ New Humanitarian (The), Sudan briefing: Civilians face increasing fragility under military rule, 14 June 2019, [url](#)

⁶⁰ USDOS, 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Sudan, February 2020, [url](#), p. 35

⁶¹ USDOS, 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Sudan, February 2020, [url](#), p. 16

⁶² Times, The Iconic Photo of Her Helped Fuel Sudan's Revolution. Now, She and Other Women Are Being Sidelined, 30 October 2019, [url](#)

⁶³ National (The), Sudan's professionals lead calls for Omar Al Bashir to step down, 11 January 2019, [url](#); Economist (The), We are all Darfur, 12 January 2019, [url](#)

⁶⁴ Economist (The), Sudan's genocidal regime is under siege, 12 January 2019, [url](#)

‘four lawyers had been arrested by the National Intelligence and Security services in Nyala [...] as they were on their way to the office of the Governor of South Darfur to reportedly submit a petition against the Government alleging excessive responses to protests. Additionally, about 40 lawyers [...] were arrested in Nyala on 12 January [2019], allegedly for their participation in a sit-in.’⁶⁵

UN sources further report that on 1 February 2018,

‘Salih Mahmoud, a prominent lawyer and Vice-Chair of the Darfur Bar Association, was arrested at his office and detained incommunicado for several weeks. [...] Miass Safi was arrested together with three other activists at her home on 20 February [2018]. The members of the group were released on 24 and 25 February [2018], despite the fact that, according to their lawyers, the prosecutor had earlier refused to sign the documents needed to secure their release on bail.’⁶⁶

2.4 Journalists and media

In the opinion of The Financial Times, during Sudan’s uprising, journalists were specifically targeted.⁶⁷ Other sources confirm this. According to CCN, journalists reporting on Sudan’s uprising could risk imprisonment and death penalty.⁶⁸

UN reports outline the government’s response to national and international media, noting that it ‘imposed severe restrictions on national and international media, banning several local newspapers, raiding the office of the Al-Jazeera television network in Khartoum on 7 April [2019] and closing the Al-Arabiya television network on 9 April [2019].’⁶⁹ While, Radio Dabanga reports on 5 March 2019 that security and intelligence forces had confiscated the local newspaper El Baath which was covering the protest.⁷⁰ Apart from restrictions on journalists’ work, arrests also took place. According to Radio Dabanga:

‘the Sudanese Journalists Network reported the arrest of 90 journalists during the protests, an increase from the 79 journalists who were detained on February 19 [2019]. In addition, journalists have been banned from writing and NISS officers obstructed reporters of news agencies and satellite channels during their work covering the protests and strikes.’⁷¹

UN sources also confirm that the government arrested media representatives and journalists during the uprising,

⁶⁵ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 11

⁶⁶ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/39/71], 13 August 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 5

⁶⁷ Financial Times (The), Sudan’s president declares state of emergency, 23 February 2019, [url](#)

⁶⁸ CNN, Sudanese troops move to protect anti-government protesters in Khartoum, 9 April 2019, [url](#)

⁶⁹ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 5

⁷⁰ Radio Dabanga, NISS confiscated Sudanese newspaper for protest coverage, 5 March 2019, [url](#)

⁷¹ Radio Dabanga, NISS confiscated Sudanese newspaper for protest coverage, 5 March 2019, [url](#)

‘members of the security services arrested dozens of journalists, while several national newspapers were banned and the journalism licences of Sudanese journalists and work permits of foreign journalists were withdrawn [...] social media platforms [were blocked], and a complete shutdown of the Internet in June [2019] [was enforced].’⁷²

The UN further believes that journalists also experienced intimidation while reporting on demonstrations in Sudan’s capital, some of them were ‘allegedly violently beaten’, while an international journalist was asked to leave Sudan with 24 hours, and some journalists had their licenses withdrawn or not renewed. Between December 2018 and 17 March 2019 some newspapers were banned by the government. An editor-in-chief was dismissed from his job after he had criticized the RSF and ‘the Sudanese Journalists Network pointed to “mass dismissal processes” at official media institutions, in particular the Sudan TV network, where the director had been dismissed and television producers had been barred from entering the newsrooms.’⁷³

2.5 Students and Darfuris

Some of the protestors killed during Sudan’s uprising were minors, aged 15 to 17 years.⁷⁴ In October 2018, several students were injured and detained during protests.⁷⁵ Radio Dabanga published an article indicating that ‘members of the security apparatus beat and arrested a number of Darfuri students who participated in a gathering of students at El Nilein University in Khartoum on Thursday [24 October 2018].’ Students participating in the gathering allegedly wanted to show solidarity for students being held from El Gezira University.⁷⁶

Furthermore, Radio Dabanga notes that:

‘nine of the Darfuri students who were detained at the campus of El Nilein University in Khartoum last week [in October 2018] have been charged with public nuisance and violation of the public safety [...] a team of security agents and student supporters of the ruling National Congress Party stormed the campus and dispersed the students by force.’⁷⁷

Radio Dabanga estimates that ‘dozens of students have reportedly been detained and their number has not been counted yet.’⁷⁸

On 30 July 2019, the New York Times writes that students ‘took to the streets [...] and cities across the country [...] four teenage demonstrators and an adult were killed in one of the deadliest episodes in months of unrest [...] protest leaders blamed a paramilitary group [...] for opening fire on protesting high school students in El-Obeid.’⁷⁹

⁷² UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 12

⁷³ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), pp. 12-13

⁷⁴ New York Times (The), Killing of Student Protesters in Sudan Sets Off New Unrest, and Worry, 30 July 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁵ Radio Dabanga, Khartoum students arrested at solidarity speech, 16 October 2018, [url](#)

⁷⁶ Radio Dabanga, More students beaten, arrested at solidarity speech, 26 October 2018, [url](#)

⁷⁷ Radio Dabanga, Darfuri students charged with public nuisance in Sudan capital, 28 October 2018, [url](#)

⁷⁸ Radio Dabanga, More students beaten, arrested at solidarity speech, 26 October 2018, [url](#)

⁷⁹ New York Times (The), Killing of Student Protesters in Sudan Sets Off New Unrest, and Worry, 30 July 2019, [url](#)

On 2 August 2019, Radio Dabanga reports on another incident; security forces assaulted a student, who was a member of the Arab Socialist Baath Party. The article states that ‘after he was severely beaten on all parts of his body, his head was shaved, and his cell phone was smashed, he was dumped on the street.’⁸⁰ Similar incidents have occurred.⁸¹ Radio Dabanga further reports that, the body of a political science student, ‘who was shot dead by NISS officers during a raid’ was found and identified a week later.⁸²

With regards to the special treatment of ethnic groups, according to Siddig Yousef a member of the central committee of the Communist Party and head of Sudanese Solidarity Committee who was interviewed during the UK Home Office’s fact-finding mission, ‘if arrested, Darfuris are treated worse than other Sudanese prisoners, their hands are chained and they are blindfolded [...] the treatment faced by Darfuris is worse [than other groups]. Some are tortured or racially abused, and women face sexual assault.’⁸³

A medical doctor who is also a political activist working with Darfuri youth groups, and who was interviewed during the UK Home Offices’ fact-finding mission, stated that:

‘Darfuri youth (students) face cruel and brutal targeting by the state and National Congress Party (NCP) - affiliated students, particularly the Jihadist Units and Jihadist battalions (formed by NCP students), who attend universities and cause problems for Darfuri students which can lead to physical harm, dismissal or stopping their studies.’⁸⁴

This information is complemented by information gathered during the UK Home Office’s fact-finding mission, when a political activist was interviewed stating that:

‘when asked if Darfuris were targeted based on ethnicity or due to their perceived support of the opposition, the organisation [a civil and human rights organisation dealing with issues relating to peace and human rights] said that some student organisations are tribe affiliated, but there is a lot of stereotyping and Darfuris are accused of supporting the rebels.’⁸⁵

Additionally, the UK Home Office notes with regards to non-Arab Darfuris in Sudan’s capital:

‘there is a strong presence of Darfuri students in Khartoum and they are labelled as trouble due to their perceived rebel support. There is a lot of violence, including people being shot dead, on campus at the Universities. The targets are mainly the Darfuri and the Nuba. [...] The Nuba people and Darfuris are often associated with the SPLM-N [the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement - North], SLM-AW [the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid El Nur] and JEM [the Justice and Equality Movement] - they are seen as rebels.’⁸⁶

2.6 Medical personnel and hospitals

⁸⁰ Radio Dabanga, Baath Party student leader beaten-up in Sudanese capital, 2 August 2019, [url](#)

⁸¹ Radio Dabanga, Baath Party student leader beaten-up in Sudanese capital, 2 August 2019, [url](#)

⁸² Radio Dabanga, Darfuri student killed in dorm identified after one week, 11 January 2019, [url](#)

⁸³ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan, November 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 46

⁸⁴ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, November 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 102

⁸⁵ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, November 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 55

⁸⁶ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, November 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 148



Hospitals and medical personnel have come under attack by members of the Sudanese security forces during several occasions.⁸⁷ On 9 January 2019, a hospital's emergency unit was raided by the security forces, allegedly firing live ammunition and tear gas inside the hospital. According to the same source, four days later, on 13 January, a shooting took place inside two other clinics. While on 17 January 2019, 'a doctor [...] was reportedly shot dead by security forces in Khartoum while providing emergency care for wounded protesters.'⁸⁸ Furthermore, medical staff treating injured people were assaulted when a hospital was raided during the crackdown on 3 June 2019.⁸⁹

Any other relevant information

A member of the Communist Party and head of the Sudanese Solidarity Committee interviewed during the UK Home Office's fact-finding mission noted that 'sometimes if the authorities are interested in an individual but cannot find them they will arrest a family member.'⁹⁰

In contrary, the same fact-finding mission report quotes a human rights activist saying that:

'in general, families of people who are wanted by NISS would not be at risk unless there are personal issues between NISS [...] and the family concerned. It is very rare that families would be targeted [...] this applies to all ethnic groups.'⁹¹

⁸⁷ BBC, 'Why Sudan is shooting medics', 18 January 2019, [url](#); New York Times (The), 'The Revolutionary Force Behind Sudan's Protest Movement? Doctors', 20 April 2019, [url](#)

⁸⁸ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 8

⁸⁹ UN Security Council, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, [A/HRC/42/63], 26 July 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 9

⁹⁰ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan, November 2018, [url](#), p. 16

⁹¹ UK Home Office (The), Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan, November 2018, [url](#), p. 164



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