

## **Government Campaign to Silence Activists and Quash Demonstrations in Sudan October 2011**

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In October 2011 the Sudanese National Security and Intelligence Service (NISS) launched a campaign aimed at silencing activists and anyone participating in public demonstrations throughout Sudan, using arrests and intimidation tactics. NISS officials have begun illegally entering the homes of activists, spreading terror and fear among their family members. These activities are reminiscent of the tactics used to intimidate Sudanese during the first years of the reign of the National Islamic Front, the predecessor to the National Congress Party (NCP). These actions are intended to crush the recent social mobilization in Sudan, and are particularly targeted at youth organizers of the demonstrations. The NCP is deeply threatened by the protests, which have been driven largely by poor economic conditions resulting from the loss of South Sudan. The timing of the demonstrations, taking place alongside the wars in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, counteract the government's attempts to mobilize northern Sudanese to support the wars and indicate wider popular discontent with the governance practices of the ruling regime.

The protests began in late September and gained momentum throughout the month. Unlike the demonstrations that took place in Sudan in January, the recent demonstrations became more frequent throughout the month and quickly spread outside of Khartoum to Gezira, Eastern Sudan, Northern state, River Nile and White Nile. In January the NISS took steps to prevent demonstrations by occupying the central locations and squares in the town centers. In response to this strategy, the organizers of the recent demonstrations launched them in the neighborhoods at night.

Some of the momentum of the protests is attributable to the symbolism of the month of October to Sudanese, as it marks the anniversary of the events of 1964 when the Sudanese people took to the streets to overthrow General Abboud and his regime, ending the first period of military rule in Sudan. Due to the fact that many of the demonstrations were made visible to wider audiences via online media and mobile phone camera functions, the demonstrations have generated wider discussions within and outside Sudan about potential regime change, and

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may have contributed to the decisions by the Umma and Democratic Unionist parties to withdraw from negotiations to join the NCP cabinet. The demonstrations have certainly helped increase the internal pressure on the NCP, pushing it to seek a multi-party cabinet.

Below the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies documents the recent arrests of activists and demonstrators in Sudan and related violations of freedom of expression and assembly.

### **Arrests of Activists and Demonstrators in September-October 2011**

- On 29 September 2011, persons gathered in the Buri area of Khartoum to protest against rising prices and difficult economic conditions in Khartoum. At 2 pm, the NISS demanded that certain residents of Buri, who they suspected participated in the demonstrations, present themselves to the NISS office in Khartoum for questioning. Ms Sallawa Abozid Ahmed presented herself at the security office of Khartoum (Alamarat area) for questioning. She is the 54-year-old mother of Mr. Munir Alsadge, a 27-year-old employee at FM 104 sports radio. Ms. Ahmed was released after being interrogated about her alleged participation in the protest. Munir, who was at the office waiting to take his mother home, was then called in for questioning himself. Munir was ordered to return for questioning every day for a week.

On 3 October 2011 at 11 PM, Mr. Munir was taken from the same security office in a car with two security men to the National Security office of Khartoum state. He was interrogated again, had his photo taken and was prevented from sleeping but for 3 hours. He was forced to spend the rest of his time in detention standing facing the wall. Mounir was released at 10.30pm on 4 October.

- On 3 October 2011 the NISS arrested three members of Youth for Change for participating in the aforementioned peaceful protest in the Buri area of Khartoum. The men were released after 3 days of questioning, torture and humiliation. The following persons were those arrested.
  - Mohamed Ahmed
  - Mujahid Alrashid
  - Wail Mamon
- On 3 October 2011, approximately 100 people gathered in Althura area in Omdurman to protest rising food prices. Joint forces of police and security dispersed the demonstrators using force.
- Later that evening a joint force of security and police illegally entered the home of Mr. Mahir Mohamed Abdalla in sector 8 (Alhura area) looking for some of the protestors and arrested three of his sons named below.
  - Khalid Mahir Mohamed (27yrs)
  - Ahmed Mahir Mohamed (24 yrs)
  - Alsadig Mahir Mohamed (22 yr)

The security officials arresting the three men then started beating them to force them to give information about the participants in the demonstration. When members of the family tried to intervene to stop the beatings, one of the police officers pulled his gun out and pointed it at their faces. The detainees were then taken to the Omdurman prosecutor's office where criminal charges were brought against them under Article 67 of the Sudanese Criminal Act of 1991. They were then sent to police custody in sector 4 and were eventually released on bail on 4 October.

- On 4 October 2011, the NISS arrested Mr. Alsharif Hussein Mohamud, a member of the Democratic Unionist Party and an activist who has worked on organizing people in opposition to the Merowe Dam in northern Sudan. He was arrested in the Bahri area of Khartoum. He was subsequently released.
- On 7 October 2011, the NISS arrested five members of the Independent Student Congress in Khartoum. The names of three of those arrested are below. ACJPS was unable to get the names of the other two arrested. They have all been released.
  - Mr. Yassin Salah
  - Mr. Muhamed Mustafa Abdin
  - Mr. Hafiz
- On 8 October 2011, the NISS in Muglad, South Kordfan arrested Mr. Hussein Alhaj Baker and five others in Muglad on allegations that they were distributing pamphlets calling for protest against the government over rising prices.
- On 9 October 2011, the NISS in Aldaba town in Northern state arrested a number of people that were preparing to apply for permission to stage a peaceful protest against the rising costs of electricity. The group was preparing to submit an official complaint to the local Governor, but the NISS did not give them time to submit the complaint before arresting them. The following persons were arrested and subsequently released.
  - Mr. Sidag Maki Abdlgadir - Dabat Alfugara area
  - Fath Alalim Badri - Algabria area
  - Eltigani Sabr Ibrahim - Dabt Alfugara area
  - Isam Mohamed - Jara-area
  - Mohamed Jafar - Jara area
  - Taha Almossad Nemi - Algaba area
  - Abdalgadir Maki Bakri - Dabat Alfogara
- On 11 October 2011, the NISS arrested Mr. Majdi Akasha the Speaker of Youth for Change in Khartoum. There is no news about his location or the conditions of his detention.

- On 12 October 2011, the NISS arrested Mr. Majid Akashas and his wife Ms. Sara Mohamed Alhassen. Ms. Alhassen was released on 13 October and ordered to report to the NISS office every day for questioning. She has been repeatedly interrogated about her relationship to Youth for Change. Mr. Akashas remains in detention.
- On 13 October 2011, the NISS arrested a lawyer and political activist, Mr. Faroug Abo Eisa. Eisa is the head of the National Consensus Alliance of opposition parties. Mr. Abu Eisa was arrested at his home in Khartoum after security forces illegally entered his home. Mr. Eisa was released after a few hours without being interrogated or given any explanation for his arrest.
- On 16 October 2011 at 12pm, the NISS in Nyala, South Darfur arrested Mr. Amjad Ali Adam - 32 years - from his home in Hai Wade area. No one in his family is aware of the reason for his arrest.
- On 16 October 2011, the NISS in South Darfur arrested Mr. Mohamed Hamid Hamuda – a 33-year old resident of Aljeer area in Nyala. Hamuda was arrested while attending the Nyala University graduation celebration. Hamuda was blindfolded, beaten and tortured, which caused serious injuries to his ear. Hamuda was treated for his injuries at Nyala Hospital. Hamuda and some students serving as witnesses went to the Nyala police station and filed charges against the NISS officials that tortured him. The names of the perpetrators as identified by Hamuda are below.
  - Hussain Tirab
  - Ahmed Sidig
  - Alsadig
  - Muzfar

On 21 October 2011, a group of NISS officials entered Hamuda’s home when he was not there and threatened his family. They forced members of his family to sign a pledge to bring Hamuda to the security office within 48 hours. His father then took him to the security office where he is still being held. The NISS has not given the family any information about Hamuda’s detention conditions nor have they allowed his family to visit him.

- On 17 October 2011, the NISS in Khartoum arrested Mr. Mustafa Adam Ahmed, the Darfuri head of Zarga Alyamama, an organization that provides humanitarian assistance and support to IDPs in Khartoum.
- On 17 October 2011, the NISS in Gedarif state in Eastern Sudan arrested Mr. Jafar Alkhdar, a member of the Alsharog Cultural Forum – an organization that organizes and hosts public intellectual dialogues. Alkhdar was arrested alongside some media representatives and students, all of whom were arrested at the Adan conference Hall in Gedarif. The group was preparing to hold a press conference to discuss the dismissal of some students from Algabari University for political reasons. Those arrested were

subjected to torture and degrading treatment before they released later that day. Mr. Alkhidir was ridiculed by the NISS for being physically disabled.

- On 18 October 2011, the NISS in Khartoum arrested Mr. Adas Alamad Algater, a trade union activist. He was interrogated about his trade union activity. Mr Alwawot is around age 70 and is a leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North.
- On 20 October 2011, the NISS of Aldain town in South Darfur arrested Mr. Bashir Eisa Algatar, a trade union activist and member of Sudanese Communist Party. Mr Eisa was arrested from his office at Aldain hospital.
- On 20 October 2011, the NISS arrested some youth members of the Democratic Unionist Party from the Mosque Mr. Alsid Ali Almarigahi in the Bahri area of Khartoum during the anniversary celebration of Alsid Ali. The group was arrested after making speeches calling for the fall of the ruling regime. Those arrested are named below.
  - Walid Sifaldeem
  - Ibrahim Ali
  - Mohamed Abolgasim
  - Awad Alla Khialla
- Also on 20 October 2011, the NISS arrested other members of the Democratic Unionist Party in River Nile State. Those arrested are named below.
  - Mohned Almonzir - Atbara town
  - Mubark Alhadi - Atbara town
  - Ashraf Aosik - Aldamar town
  - Mohamed Aoshik - Aldamar town
- On 20 October 2011, a group of students at Kassala University in Eastern Sudan protested against rising prices and the political situation. A police car ran over a group of eight protesting students leaving them with very serious injuries. Four of those injured are named below.
  - Abdelgdir Mohamed Adam has been referred to Khartoum due to the seriousness of his condition and his need for medication.
  - Idris Mohamed Ali. His condition is very serious and he may not survive a trip to Khartoum by road in order to receive better treatment.
  - Abdslam Osman Nasib. He is suffering from multiple injuries.
  - Ahmed Humid Gardia. He is suffering from multiple injuries.

Abdelgdir and Idris remain in the hospital.

- On 21 October 2011, Mr. Faris Abdhai was arrested by the police in Port Sudan while distributing a statement issued by the Communist Party about the anniversary of the 1964 October revolution. Mr. Abdhai was taken to the police station where criminal charges were filed against him under Article 77 of the Sudanese Criminal Act of 1991.

The police prevented him from seeing his lawyer or family until he was released on bail on 23 October. Shortly after he was released, he was re-arrested by NISS near the main gate of the police station. He remains in detention.

- On 21 October the NISS arrested a number of people in the Alkalkla Alguba area in Khartoum after a raid on Mr. Mutukil Mohmoud's shop. The shop is a place where people of the area gather to chat and socialize. The following persons were arrested as a result of the raid.
  - Mr. Isam Abdulhag
  - Mr. Mutukil Mohmoud
  - Mr. Riad Hamza
  - Mr. Ahmed Almutasir and more two young men who happened to be in front of the shop at the time of the raid
  
- Also on 21 October 2011, in the same area of Alklakla Alguba, the NISS went over the fence at the home of Mr. Dafalla Musa and arrested a group of people inside the home. The persons arrested are named below.
  - Mr. Mushid Dawod
  - Mr. Mustafa Alnoman
  - Mr. Mohamed Ahmed
  - Mr. Omar Dafalli Musa
  - Mr. Mohamed Dafalli Musa
  - Mr. Hamid Alzin
  - Mr. Alamin Belal i Mukhtar

After four hours of detention, Mr. Abdulhag, Mr. Mahumoud, Mr. Hamza and Mr. Almutasir were released.

### **Violations of Freedom of Expression and Association in October 2011**

- On 4 October 2011, the government of withdrew 17 books titles from the Khartoum International Books exhibition. Among the 17 titles were two works written by Sudanese writers. The first book is *Reviews Among Islamist - Gain of the Life and Loss of Everlasting Life* by intellectual Dr. Haidar Ibahim Ali, the Chairman of Sudanese Studies Center. The other is *Republican Thought* written by philosopher Mr. Mhamoud Mohamed Taha who was executed in 1985 in following an unfair trial.

Mr. Ibrahim's book reviewed and compared the practices of Sudanese Islam after the current regime took power with Sudanese Islam as it was practiced before. The book criticized the governance practices of regime and its influence on Sudanese Islam. A number of Shia publications were also withdrawn from the exhibit.

- On 8 October 2011 at 12am the NISS in Kosti, White Nile prevented the Jurist's Association from conducting a public forum. Three security officials went to the forum location and asked the organizers to see written permission from the government, which they did not have because the NISS made sure that they could not get this authorization. The NISS informed the organizers that the authorities would not allow the forum to take place and they ordered the participants to leave.
- On 23 October 2011, the NISS in Kosti, White Nile denied permission to a jurists' organization's request to conduct a public forum on popular participating in the drafting of the constitution. No justification was given for the denial of permission.
- On 25 October 2011, the NISS in Gedarif in Eastern Sudan prevented Alshrog Cultural Forum from conducting a public dialogue titled "Arab Revolution and the Winds of Change." The forum was supposed to be held at the Democratic Unionist Party headquarters in Alhindi. Mr. Taha Mohamed Alhasan said in his oral statement about the incident that this is not the first time that the NISS prevented them from having an event. The NISS prevented the Forum from holding two other events entitled, "The Economic Impact of the Separation of South Sudan" and "The Culture in Gedarif and Imbalance." Mr. Mohamed said that he had been informed officially by the Democratic Unionist Party that NISS asked the party not to host the event at their headquarters so as not to provide support to those who want to harm the country.

The NISS campaign to quash public debates sponsored by Alshrog Cultural Forum has been ongoing since July. On 31 July 2011 Alshrog Forum submitted an application to the Attorney General of Alghadhri requesting to file charges against the NISS of Gedarif for continuously preventing them conducting their activities as the Forum is legally registered and should have the right to run its activities. The Attorney General directed them to the prosecutor. Mr. Mutasim Mohamdien the Attorney General of Alghadhri who kept the file against the NISS his drawer desk and did not take action. The NISS prevented the Forum from conducting another forum entitled "Revolutions of Tunisia and Egypt: Reflections, Poetry, and Singing."

Mr. Ramzi Yahaya, a lawyer and board member of the Forum said that the NISS practices against the Forum are against the law. Yahaya stated that if there is any political issue with their work, it is the police who have the right intervene, or if there are any administrative issues, it is the Minister of Culture has the right to intervene, but there is no justification for the intervention of the NISS.

- On 25 October the NISS in Halfa Aljadida prevented the National Consensus Alliance from conducting a public forum marking the anniversary of October revolution.