Feature Article

Five months on: No accountability for protest killings

Mass demonstrations took place in cities throughout Sudan from 22 September to early October, when they dissipated due to the severity of the Government of Sudan’s (GoS) response. The demonstrations, initially held in reaction to an announcement by President Omar al Bashir that fuel subsidies would be cut, quickly transformed into calls for the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to abdicate power.

Unlike demonstrations in June-August 2012 that were coordinated by Sudan’s youth movements, demonstrations broke out spontaneously in Wad Medani immediately after the 22 September announcement. Demonstrations spread across the country on 23 June to
Khartoum, Omdurman, Port Sudan, Atbara, Gadarif, Kosti, Sinnar, and Nyala. In Nyala, demonstrations also focused on the deteriorating security situation in Darfur. The GoS response was particularly brutal in Wad Medani, Khartoum, and Omdurman. Over 800 individuals were arrested and at least 170 individuals killed, including 15 children. The Chairman of the Sudanese Doctors’ Union was detained briefly on 5 October after he reported that the union had recorded at least 210 deaths.¹

The lifting of fuel subsidies was part of an IMF-backed strategy for the economic stabilisation of the country; Sudan’s economy was left reeling from the loss of three-quarters of its oil revenues following the 2011 secession of South Sudan, and the costs of the wars in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.² The lifting of the subsidies doubled the price of fuel and other basic goods overnight, heavily impacting the urban poor.

The demonstrations were met by Sudanese authorities with excessive use of force. GoS security forces, including the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and Central Reserve Forces (CRF), fired live ammunition at protestors. Although some of the demonstrations did turn violent as protestors vandalised and set fire to gas and police stations and threw stones at police and security forces, the response of the authorities was disproportionate. The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) has confirmed that at least 170 people died from gunshot wounds between the outbreak of the demonstrations and their cessation in early October 2013. At least fifteen of these fatalities were children. The majority of fatalities resulted from gunshot wounds to the head or chest, suggesting that the NISS and CRF, deployed by the GoS to quell the demonstrations, had shoot to kill orders.

The number of deaths during the demonstrations has been a point of contention. The GoS has taken no responsibility for the deaths, with Sudan’s Interior Minister, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, stating that “armed groups and individuals” were responsible for the killings.³ The GoS stated that over 70 people had been killed in the demonstrations, and blamed the rebel coalition, the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, for their deaths.

The GoS also deployed military vehicles and joint forces of the NISS and CRF to residential neighbourhoods after demonstrations had been dispersed in an apparent attempt to intimidate residents from joining future demonstrations. In Khartoum, most of the killings took place in the Ombada, Aldoroshab, Mayo, and Al Haj Yousif neighbourhoods. In one case documented by ACJPS on 25 September, Ayman Salah Ibrahim, (m), 14 years of age, was shot at a demonstration in Khartoum Bahri. When demonstrators rushed to help him, police reportedly prevented them from providing aid or approaching him until he was dead.⁴ A pharmacist killed on 26 September, Salah Sanhouri, quickly became a galvanising symbol for the demonstrations. Mr. Sanhouri came from a well-off family and had worked with Nafeer, a youth movement established to assist in reconstruction following heavy floods in Sudan.⁵

⁴ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, ”Over 170 dead, including 15 children, and 800 detained as demonstrations spread throughout Sudan”, 4 October 2013.
Tear gas was fired at Mr. Sanhouri’s funeral when mourners began chanting “the people want the downfall of Bashir”.  

There were also several other reports of the NISS and CRF blocking access to Khartoum hospitals, or arresting injured demonstrators and their family or friends on their way to the hospital, deterring people from accessing medical treatment or verifying reported injuries and deaths, and harassing doctors who had treated injured demonstrators.

The GoS also conducted a campaign of arbitrary arrest and detention in an attempt to deter individuals from attending the demonstrations. Several political activists and human rights defenders were arrested from their homes in an apparent attempt to stop them from documenting violations and to curb future mobilisation efforts. At least 800 individuals were arrested and detained in connection with the demonstrations, with the GoS announcing on 30 September that 700 had been arrested. The actual number of individuals that are believed to have been detained is much higher. According to provisions of the 2010 National Security Act, detainees in NISS custody can be detained for up to four and a half months without charge or judicial review. The National Security Act also permits incommunicado detention without prompt access to a lawyer, and grants immunity for officials in contravention of international law and standards, providing an enabling environment for the perpetration, without accountability, of human rights violations by the NISS.

At least 50 people who participated in the protests were arrested and charged with public order offences and subject to summary trials that did not meet international law standards and fail to guarantee procedural rights. In the few cases in which charges have been levied against individuals, they do not appear to be consistent with international law standards and fail to guarantee procedural rights. In one case on 24 September, the Omdurman Central Criminal Court sentenced eight demonstrators without legal representation under articles 67 (disturbance of public peace) and 77 (public nuisance) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. The group was sentenced to twenty lashes and a fine of 200 Sudanese pounds. The sentence was carried out immediately. The group was arrested from demonstrations in the Al Abassia area of Omdurman the evening before. Two minors were also referred to a juvenile court.

The authorities also increased restrictions on freedom of expression in what effectively resulted in a media blackout that also affected traditionally pro-government newspapers. Editors of several newspapers were summoned by the NISS on 25 September and ordered not to publish any articles related to the demonstrations or the rise in fuel prices unless their sources came from the police or the NISS. Three newspapers, Al Ayaam, Al Garar, and Al Gerida, stopped publishing for three days from 25 – 27 September in protest of the censorship. The NISS confiscated printed copies of Al Sudani on 26 September and Al Mijhur and Al Watan on 27 September. Three Al Sahafa journalists resigned after the NISS ordered the newspaper not to publish anything on the demonstrations. On 28 September the NISS suspended the pro-government Al Intibaha newspaper indefinitely without providing a reason. There was also a brief internet blackout on 25 September.

The demonstrations also deepened an already tense relationship within the NCP between party loyalists and the party’s more Islamist factions (see political developments section). Thirty-one senior NCP members, including former presidential advisor Dr. Gazi Salah Al-

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6 Al Jazeera, “Police fire on funeral in Sudan amid unrest”, 28 September 2013.
Deen Al-Attabani, signed a memo to President Bashir in late September that criticised him for cutting the subsidies. The subsidies had reportedly been opposed by members of the NCP, and viable alternatives proposed by NCP members and other political parties had been rejected. The memo stated that the decision had not been sent to parliament for approval. The memo further decried the lack of opportunity for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to peacefully demonstrate, and the use of live ammunition against demonstrators.  

In mid-March, five months on, just one prosecution case has been opened against a member of the Sudanese armed forces in connection with the excessive use of force leading to the deaths and injuries sustained by protestors. The GoS has reportedly established three separate committees to investigate the events surrounding the demonstrations under the direction of the NISS, the Khartoum governor, and the Ministry of Justice, respectively. Their composition and mandates are not publicly known. These committees are thought to have been established to identify criminal liability for the destruction of property and looting associated with the demonstrations, rather than to investigate and establish liability for the deaths and injuries sustained by demonstrators. International responses have been strikingly lacking. The only public condemnation urging restraint by Sudanese security forces was made by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 2013.  

The African Union (AU) and African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) have failed to publicly comment on the demonstrations despite calls to do so. A letter signed by the chairperson of the opposition National Consensus Forces, Farouq Abu Eissa, called on the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, to launch a Commission of Inquiry, and several civil society organisations have called on the AU and ACHPR to launch an independent investigation.

**Political Developments**

**Continued Inter-Communal Conflict in Darfur**

A re-emerging dimension to the conflict in Darfur has been inter-communal fighting, predominantly between different Arab groups. Continued conflict in Darfur has led to the destruction of property, and diverted resources and attention away from recovery, reconstruction, and development. Ongoing disputes over access to land and other natural resources have also been compounded by the lack of clear conflict resolution mechanisms.

While the GoS has stated that it does not have the capacity to quell inter-communal fighting, there have been reports of the involvement of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary forces in the fighting. Forces such as the Border Guards and Central Reserve Forces (CRF) have reportedly participated directly in the inter-communal fighting using

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8 Sudan Tribune, “Dismissal of key NCP figure ‘imminent’ over memo to Sudanese president”, 29 September 2013.
9 UN News Centre, “UN Human rights office urges restraint as death toll in Sudan fuel protests rises”, 27 September 2013.
government issued arms and vehicles, killing hundreds and prompting the forced displacement of thousands.

Clashes occurred on 18 September 2013 in Bakhit, eastern Darfur, between the Reizegat and Ma’alia. The attacks reportedly left 21 dead and 53 wounded. In late September, members of the Misseriya and Salamat clashed in central Darfur, with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reporting that 45 were killed. The clashes were reportedly over water resources.

Fighting between the rebel SRF and the GoS also continued in Darfur. On 11 September, the SRF attacked a SAF checkpoint in Um Hashaba, North Darfur, killing one Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) soldier and wounding seven others.

In two separate incidents in October, four UNAMID peacekeepers were killed. The security situation also exacerbates the context under which any political negotiations regarding Darfur will take place. The renewal of inter-communal conflict has been cited as one of the major indicators that the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), signed by the GoS and the former rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) is not working. The DDPD has been widely criticized for failing to take into account comprehensively the views of all of Darfur’s populations, and of being the result of non-inclusive process. Efforts to reinvigorate the DDPD continue – UNAMID hosted a 5-day meeting in Addis Ababa that included the Bashar faction of the JEM that signed the DDPD in May 2013. The meeting provided a platform for participants to exchange views on key provisions of the DDPD, with a special focus on the modalities of final security arrangements with regard to disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration.

The head of UNAMID, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, called for a consultation meeting with Darfuri rebel groups that had not signed the DDPD in Addis Ababa on 9-11 December. Representatives of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Movement/Army Minni Minnawi (SLA/MM) attended the meeting but the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) did not, reportedly stating that the Addis meeting was a continuation of similar talks held in Arusha in August 2013 that the movement believes were aimed at commencing rebel negotiations with the GoS. Abdul-Wahid reportedly stated that the movement would refuse to negotiate with the GoS until government-aligned militias were disarmed and the issue of reparations and compensation for internally displaced persons and victims of the conflict had been settled.

**Internal Rift within the National Congress Party deepens**

At an official press conference on 4 December, Dr. Gazi Salah Aldeen Attabani and a number of senior National Congress Party (NCP) members announced their departure from the ruling NCP and the formation of a new party, “Reform Now”. Dr. Gazi was formerly Secretary General of the NCP from 1996 – 1998 and Presidential Advisor in the Doha negotiations on Darfur that culminated in the adoption of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). Dr. Gazi was removed from his position as the NCP’s Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs in April 2013 shortly after stating that according to term limits set out in the Interim National Constitution, President Omar al-Bashir cannot contest for the Presidency in 2015. In July 2013 he released a memo outlining a reformist vision for Sudan.
The formation of “Reform Now” reflects a growing rift within the NCP between party loyalists and the so-called Islamist reformers, calling for the party to take a more Islamist stance. The reformists believe that corruption and other issues have left the government Islamic in name only. Dr. Gazi has faced frequent criticism in the past from the Islamist reformists within the NCP and its ideological arm, the Islamist Movement, for failing to publicly criticise the NCP. In 2012 Dr. Gazi withdrew his bid contesting for the Secretary General position of the Islamic Movement after the Islamic Movement Convention failed to meet any of the demands of the Islamic reformists in the NCP.

Disillusionment with the future of the party was exacerbated by the GoS’s reaction to the September demonstrations, particularly the use of live ammunition against demonstrators. On 28 September, thirty-one NCP officials, including ten members of the National Assembly and three from the leadership office of the party, sent a memo to Bashir criticising the decision to lift fuel subsidies saying it “harshly” impacted the Sudanese citizens, adding that the decision was not passed through parliament for approval.

In the past, Dr. Gazi has also criticised the constitutional review process in Sudan stating the NCP has little intention to launch an inclusive process with the support of other political parties.

On 25 September the NCP launched an official Commission of Inquiry to query the signatories to the memo and recommended the dismissal of Dr. Gazi and two other signatories, Hassan Rizig and Abdallah Ahmed Abdallah. Several of the signatories refused to appear before the panel, questioning its legitimacy and stating its formation showed a lack of NCP tolerance for different views.

In November the top leadership of the Islamic Movement, the Shura Council, issued an ultimatum to the other signatories, giving them 10 days to retract their public criticisms of the party. The group refused, and on 21 November Dr. Gazi announced the formation of Reform Now.

Dr. Gazi and several other top opposition figures, including the leaders of the National Umma Party, Sadiq al-Mahdi, and Hassan al-Turabi of the Popular Congress Party, attended a highly anticipated speech on 27 January in which Bashir was expected to make several concessions, including the installation of a transitional government and the launch of a more inclusive constitutional review process. The speech was aired live and called for dialogue between the political parties for national reconciliation, but did not give concrete measures for reform.

**Conflict in South Sudan**

On 15 December 2013, clashes broke out in Juba when uniformed personnel opened fire at a meeting of the ruling Sudanese Peoples’ Liberation Movement (SPLM). The President of South Sudan and leading SPLM figure Salva Kiir reported that a group of soldiers supporting the recently dismissed Vice President, Riek Machar, had attempted to launch a coup. Machar fled Juba, and fighting broke out across the country as SPLM factions loyal to Machar defected.
Fighting has claimed thousands of lives since mid-December and displaced at least 705,800 civilians.  

Machar denied the coup attempt, but has since called on Kiir to abdicate power. Twenty thousand people initially took refuge in the UN mission’s base in Juba, and several hundred more in Jonglei. Machar has accused Kiir of using him as a “scapegoat” in order to purge the ruling SPLM of rivals and avoid reform ahead of the 2015 elections.

In the days after the alleged coup attempt, ten opposition figures, including a number of prominent SPLM members and former Ministers, were arrested. Those arrested included the former finance minister Kosti Manibe, former Justice Minister John Luk Jok and former Interior Minister Gier Chuang Aluong. Many of those arrested were part of the cabinet that had been sacked in its entirety in June when Kiir issued a presidential decree absolving the positions of all deputy ministers of the Government of South Sudan. The cabinet dissolution included the sacking of Vice President Riek Machar. Despite the dramatic move, Juba remained calm and no major security incidents were reported. At the time, the dissolution was seen as a power struggle within the SPLM, particularly between Kiir and Machar. After his dismissal, Machar announced his decision to run for the presidency in 2015.

At the start of 2014, soldiers loyal to Machar attacked Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, amidst calls for a ceasefire and the beginning of peace talks in Ethiopia. Regional leaders had pushed for a ceasefire and talks to begin by 31 December. Machar agreed to send a delegation to Addis, but reportedly stated that he will not order his troops to stop fighting. The attack on Bor strengthens Machar’s negotiating capacity.

A ceasefire agreement was signed on 23 January 2014 in Addis Ababa; however, fighting was reported in late February in Malakal. On 5 March heavy fighting broke out in Juba at the Geida military barracks. The fighting reportedly began after an attempt to arrest the commander of a commando unit, which resulted in resistance from his forces.

A particularly troubling dimension of the conflict is its potential to spiral into civil war and mobilise citizens on the basis of ethnicity in order to consolidate power. Many opposition figures have accused the SPLM of being dominated by the Dinka ethnic group. Machar is a member of the Nuer ethnic group from the oil producing Unity state, and previously led a splinter faction of the SPLM that sided with Khartoum during the civil war. The UN has reportedly stated that there is mounting evidence that people have been targeted on the basis of their ethnicity; however, the conflict is still mostly political.

On 7 March 2014 the African Union established a five person Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights violations that occurred in South Sudan in December 2013. The Commission’s chairperson is Olusegun Obasanjo. The Commission will make recommendations on appropriate mechanisms to prevent a recurrence of the conflict, mechanisms to promote national healing and cohesiveness, modalities for nation building, and accountability mechanisms for gross violations of human rights.

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Monitoring Report

Arbitrary Arrest

- On 8 June the NISS in Kassala state arrested a group of four refugees resident in the Wad Sharifi refugee camp. The refugee camp is about 15km from Kassala, and close to the Eritrean border. Their names are below:
  - Abdo Mohamed Nour, (m).
  - Ahmed Salih, (m).
  - Mohamed Ahmed Edris, (m).
  - Edris Ahmed Edris, (m).

A fifth refugee, Ibrahim Haj Mohamed, (m), was arrested later in the day.

Three Eritrean refugees were arrested by the NISS from Hai Al Hanganga district in Kassala. Their names are below:
  - Abdulgadir Mohamed Afa, (m), head of the military wing of the Eritrean Islamic Opposition.
  - Mohamed Saeed Hakim, (m).
  - Omer Hamaad Osman, (m).

Edris Ahmed Edris, Ibrahim Haj Mohamed, and Mohamed Ahmed Edris were released after a few days. The rest of the group was released on 21 June. They were denied access to their families whilst in detention.

The group were all reportedly members of the Eritrean Islamic Opposition, an Eritrean rebel group that had been previously been welcomed by the Government of Sudan (GoS).

- On an unknown date in July 2013 the SAF’s Military Intelligence in Blue Nile arrested the following individuals from the Abu Groun neighbourhood of Al-Damazein. Their names are below:
  - Seham Etnien Osman, (f.), 17 years of age, housewife.
  - Suad Etnien Osman, (f.), 20 years of age, housewife.
  - Bahira Hamad, (f.), 25 years of age, housewife.
  - Hazira Hamad Al-Mak, (f.), 35 years of age, housewife.
  - Hassan Osman, (m.), 40 years of age.
  - Entnien Abuja, (m.), 50 years of age.

The group was arrested after the body of a Popular Defence Force member, Wad Falah Bali, was found at the home of one of the women arrested. The group is charged under articles 51 ("waging war against the state"), 76 ("breach of legal obligation towards a helpless person"), and 130/26 ("murder") of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code and article 26 of the Sudanese Weapons and Ammunition Act. The police referred them to Al-Rosairis prison to await trial on 13 July 2013.

- On 31 July the NISS of Al Rosairis, Blue Nile state arrested Mr. Abdulla Medani Al-Khalifa, (m), 50 years of age. Mr. Al-Khalifa was arrested from his home in Al-Rosairis. Mr. Al-Khalifa is affiliated with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). His arrest came shortly after he participated in a demonstration calling on local authorities to provide relief services to the citizens of Al-Hai Al-Junabi district of Al-Rosairis following the flooding of the Nile. The floods destroyed 150 homes. The demonstrations grew large enough that the road between Al-Damazein and Al-Rosairis had to be closed.
It is believed that the flooding was caused by the construction of the extension of Al-Rosairis dam. On 27 July the extension flooded, mixing water from the Nile with the dam’s subtank.

On 20 August Ahmed Karamino, a minister within the Ministry of Labour and originally from Blue Nile state, visited the area in support of a relief campaign for the people affected by the flooding in Al-Rosairis and Al-Damazein.

- Throughout September a number of NCP members were arrested in Blue Nile state as the rift within the NCP continued to deepen. A new governor was appointed in 2013 after the dismissal of Farah Agaar. Mr. Agaar was dismissed from the NCP after he attempted to broker a ceasefire between the NCP and SPLM-N by installing a transitional period in which the two groups would share power in the state. The new governor, Hussein Yassin Abu, appointed a cabinet that was met with disapproval by many NCP members, as the cabinet is mainly made up of members of Mr. Abu’s ethnic group.

After Mr. Agaar’s arrest, a number of his supporters were arrested by the NISS of Blue Nile. Their names are below:
  - Al-Badri Gamar Eldien Kamin Eisa, (m), 53 years of age. Mr. Eisa was arrested for three days in the first week of September 2013 by the NISS in Al-Damazein.
  - Sami Al-Rashid Ahmed Yousef, (m). Mr. Yousef was arrested on an unknown day in the first week of September 2013.

In October Governor Hussein Yassin Abu retaliated against calls for his resignation by accusing other NCP members of corruption. Particularly, Governor Hussein Yassin Abu accused the Minister of Engineering, Mr. Judabi, of corruption. Mr. Judabi reportedly forged a transaction between the state government and the residents of Al-Ganis that was meant to be compensation for land that had been seized by the government in 2005 for constructing the extension of Al-Rosairis dam. The forged transaction took place while Ahmed Karamino was the then Minister of Engineering. After Mr. Judabi was implicated in the corruption scandal, others began to accuse Mr. Karamino due to his role in the state government at the time.

- At 10am on 24 September Abu Bakar Mustafa Suliman, (m), 38 years of age, resident of Hai Al-Garbi in Al-Rosairis, was arrested by the NISS. Mr. Suliman is a former candidate of the Sudanese Communist Party for the Blue Nile Assembly. He was arrested after a photo was posted widely on facebook with the logo of the Sudanese Communist Party. He was detained for 24 hours before being released. He was not provided with food during the duration of his detention. Mr. Suliman was ordered not to post anything in relation to the September 2013 demonstrations.

- On 29 October Sudanese security forces detained nine human rights defenders in an armed raid on a private home in Khartoum’s twin city of Omdurman. Those arrested were all known academics and members of the Sudanese University Professors’ Union. Armed officers from Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) raided the home of Professor Mahdi Amin El-Tome at 7pm on 28 October in the Wad Nabawi area of Omdurman. Nine academics were detained during the raid:
  1. Sulaima Sharif, (f), Assistant Professor at the Trauma Centre of Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum.
  2. Hisham Omer El Nour, (m), Professor at El Nilein University in Khartoum.
  3. Balgis Badri, (f), Professor, Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum, Director at the Regional Centre for Gender, Human Rights and Justice.
4. Mahdi Amin El Toum, (m) Professor, ex-Teaching Staff at the University of Khartoum.
5. Abdel Mitaal Girshab, (m), Professor, ex-Dean of Students at the Al Jazeera University in Wad Medani town.
6. Hadia Hasaballa, (f), Assistant Professor, Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum.
7. Shahla Al Tayeb, (f) Associate Professor, Head of the Trauma Centre at Ahfad University for Women.
8. Dr. Abdel Basit Merghani, (m), Professor, Al Jazeera University, Wad Medani town.
9. Dr. Hamid Al Doud, (m.), Professor, Al Neelain University in Khartoum.

The entire group was released the following day.

- On 5 November the NISS arrested Ameen Hassan Sunada, (m.). Mr. Sunada was arrested from the Sudanese Writers’ Association in Khartoum. He was taken to NISS offices and placed in a narrow 2 X 2 meter cell. There was no window in the room. At midnight Mr. Sunada was transferred to the NISS headquarters in Port Sudan. He was brought before the head of the NISS, called Mazin, who led his interrogation and questioned him on why he attended the meeting of Sudanese political party leaders, his relationship with the Sudan Radio Service and Radio Dabanga, and whether the SRF is present in Port Sudan. He was released without charge the following day, 6 November.
- On 16 November police in Kassala state arrested three residents of Al-Margania after they participated in a peaceful demonstration held on private property that had previously been a community yard. The land was purchased illegally.

The yard previously had been public property until it was recently sold by Kassala state authorities to Fath Allah Ali Easa, a close relative of the Khartoum state Governor, Abdurrahman Al-Khaidir. When Mr. Ali was unable to quell demonstrations on the yard, he resold the land to Osama Hashim, an ex-military officer. Mr. Hashim pressed charges against the three demonstrators under article 144 (intimidation) of the 1991 Criminal Procedures Act.

They were released on bail the following morning. Their names are below:
- Khalid Mohamed Abdulla Komi, (m).
- Walid Ibrahim Abdul-Aziz, (m).
- Khalid Ibrahim Abdul-Aziz, (m).

Excessive Use of Force

- At 4pm on 3 July, the local governor of Gala Al-Nahal locality of Al Gadarif state, Abduldaiem Eissa Ahmed, visited Salmien. Salmien is roughly 90 kilometres south of Al Gadarif and has a population of 5,000. Governor Eissa was accompanied by forty armed police officers.

The purpose of the visit was to announce the mining of gold in the area. The previous governor of Gala Al-Nahal had announced plans to mine gold in the area, but stopped the process as the target area borders a community graveyard. Governor Eissa announced to the residents that he had approved licenses to investors to begin mining, but would construct a fence around the target area to prevent the graves from being disturbed.
The residents of Salmien urged the Governor to halt the operation and offered to purchase the land. Governor Eissa rejected their offer, and moved with the police forces to the target area for mining.

The police fired tear gas and bullets in to the air to disperse the residents from the target area. The residents attempted to flee towards the mountains near their village. The police fired after them, killing one child and injuring four individuals, all children under the age of eighteen. The following child was killed:
- Musa Abdulrahman Mohamed, (m), 11 years of age. Mr. Mohamed was shot in his face. He died before reaching the hospital.

The following four children were injured:
- Ali Mohamed Ali, (m), 14 years of age.
- Mohamed Abdulrahman, (m), 14 years of age.
- Mujahid Mohamed Hamid, (m), 16 years of age.
- Edris Ali Edris (m), 17 years of age.

Al-Gadarif Hospital refused to admit the children. They were later admitted to the Military Hospital. The children’s families were forced to cover their medical expenses.

The Governor of Al-Gadarif visited Salmien the following day and promised to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice by launching an investigation. In a statement given to Al Majhar newspaper, the Governor of Al-Gadarif reported that residents had thrown stones at the police.

Freedom of Expression

- On 28 November the Port Sudan Criminal Court in Red Sea state initiated proceedings against seven university students. The case number is no. 4545/2013. The charges were brought by Mr. Al-hadi Al-haj, a NISS agent. The charges are articles 36 (“forfeiture and obstruction”), 67 (“rioting”), 77 (“public nuisance”), and 96 (“omission to produce document or deliver public statement”) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. The case was filed against the group when they engaged in a peaceful demonstration on 8 October in front of NISS headquarters in Port Sudan. The demonstrations called for the release of detainees arrested during the September 2013 demonstrations.

The students are:
- Mohamed Ahmed Mahoud, (m).
- Mahmoud Ali Hassan, (m).
- Hashim Sharif, (m).
- Ali Salih Ali, (m).
- Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Nour, (m).
- Mohamed Adam Mohamed, (m).
- Aonour Al-Tahir Ohaj, (m).

Human Trafficking and exploitation of migrants

- On 10 November a group of armed militias in eastern Sudan entered the Al-Shajrab refugee camp located near Wad-Helio locality and roughly 100km south of Kassala. Two female Eritrean refugees who had recently arrived in the camp were abducted.
Blue Nile Trials

- On 22 July 2013 the Terrorism Court of Al-Damazein, Blue Nile state presided over by Judge Hassan Ibrahim, convicted Ramadan Nile Hassan, (m.), 18 years of age, under articles 50 (“undermining the constitutional system”), 51 (“waging war against the state”), and 52 (“dealing with an enemy state”) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code and article 26 (“license for weapons”) of the Sudanese Weapons and Ammunition law of 1986. Mr. Hassan is a member of the Angasna ethnic group. The case was filed by Al-Bardi Idriss, a member of the NISS.
- On 27 August Alsir Amer Alzake was convicted by the Blue Nile Terrorism Court under Article 21 (joint acts in execution of criminal conspiracy) and 51 (waging war against the state) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. He was sentenced to five years in prison.
- On 27 August Musa Gad Allah was convicted by the Blue Nile Terrorism Court under Article 51 of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. He was sentenced to three years in prison.

Security Situation in Blue Nile

In August 2013 the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) launched a military campaign targeting the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) concentrated in the areas of Docan and Mudal in the northern part of Al-Kurmuk locality of Blue Nile. The clashes between the two forces resulted in a number of civilians being displaced to Ethiopia. The displaced are primarily comprised of members of the Al-Ragarig, Al-Nizila, and Finzgr ethnic groups.

On 19 August 2013 a clash was reported between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the SPLM-N in Daim Mansour, Bashir Nogo in Al-Kurmuk locality, Ashambo within Gesan locality, and other clashes in Algabanit of Al-Bao locality.

The ongoing clashes prevented farmers from harvesting in their fields.

Reliable sources reported to ACJPS that aerial bombardment by the SAF took place in the region during the clashes. Other incidents of aerial bombardment by the SAF and PDF were reported on 26, 27, and 28 October in Gisan locality.

Aerial Bombardment in South Kordofan

While the security situation in Kadugli remains relatively stable since the appointment of the new governor, Adam Elfaki, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) continued to engage in aerial bombardment campaigns in the eastern areas of South Kordofan state, particularly Elgabasia. Elgabasia was subjected to heavy aerial bombardment in Elhegier and Umshamashka villages during Ramadan 2013.

The following individuals were killed by aerial bombardment in July and August 2013.

1. Madiana Ismail Elagied, (f.), 41 years of age. Ms. Naoh is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Elhegair on 20 July 2013.
2. Abdalla Kabashi Elhaili Naoh, (m.), 70 years of age. Mr. Naoh is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Elhegair on 3 August 2013.

The following children were killed by aerial bombardment in July and August 2013.
1. Dawood Ismail Elagied, (m.), 10 years of age. Mr. Elagied is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 20 July 2013.
2. Ibrahim Musa Elagied, (m.), 8 years of age. Mr. Elagied is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 20 July 2013.
3. Omer Musa Ismail Elagied, (m.), 7 years of age. Mr. Elagied is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 20 July 2013.
4. Ihsan Badawi Ali, (m.), 12 years of age. Mr. Ali is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 20 July 2013.
5. Abdelaziz Ahmed Musa Idris, (m.), 12 years of age. Mr. Idris is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 20 July 2013.
6. Abdulla Dafalla Ahmed, (m.), 10 years of age. Mr. Ahmed is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 20 July 2013.
7. Mohamed Ismail Ahmed Abdalla, (m.), 9 years of age. Mr. Abdalla is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Umshamaska on 27 July 2013.
8. Elmoiz Ismail Ahmed Abdalla, (m.), 7 years of age. Mr. Abdalla is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Tukum on 3 August 2013.
9. Mohamed Elraih Ahmed Abdalla, (m.), 12 years of age. Mr. Abdalla is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Tukum on 3 August 2013.
10. Elsir Elraih Ahmed Abdalla, (m.), 11 years of age. Mr. Abdalla is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Tukum on 3 August 2013.

The following individuals were injured by aerial bombardment in July and August 2013.
1. Elhag Ahmed Sabo Eldoma, (m.), 27 years of age. Mr. Eldoma is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Tukum on 7 August 2013.
2. Abdalla Beringi, (m.), 52 years of age. Mr. Beringi is a member of the Tagali ethnic group and was killed by aerial bombardment in Tukum on 7 August 2013.

Insecurity in Kassala state

During November 2013 there was an increase in incidents of armed robbery in Kassala state. ACJPS documented the following incidents:
- On 10 November unknown gunmen opened fire on a bus on its way from Khartoum to the main road. The incident occurred 12 km away from Kassala.
- On the morning of 29 November unknown gunmen opened fire on a bus 20km away from Kassala.
- On the evening of 30 November unknown gunmen opened fire on a bus near to the Kassala airport.

The gunmen did not loot anything in any of the three incidents or directly target passengers. The local authorities of Kassala did not make any statements following the attacks and the motives behind them remain unknown.

Reliable sources reported to ACJPS that they believed that the unknown gunmen may be affiliated with armed paramilitary groups engaged in smuggling weapons to Gaza.
Insecurity in South Darfur

The security situation in South Darfur deteriorated drastically in September 2013.

- At 8pm on 2 September 2013 Ali Abdulrahman Abu Elzakey, (m.), was attacked by the NISS. His motorbike was stolen. The incident occurred near his home in Algabal, Nyala.
- At 7pm on 3 September, two unknown armed individuals riding motorbikes attacked Ibrahim Ahmed Ismail in front of his home. They attempted to rob his cell phone, but Mr. Ismail resisted. They shot him in his back. He was transferred to Khartoum for medical treatment.
- At 5am on 17 September, Alrashid Abu-Baker, (m.), 38 years of age, was killed by unknown individuals outside Alrashid’s home in Karyou area of Nyala. Mr. Abu-Baker’s relatives accused Ahmed Mohamed Abd-Erahman, a local policeman, who they were engaged in land disputes with.
- On 18 September four armed individuals on a truck attacked Ismail Ibrahim Wadi, (m.), businessman, and his family. Mr. Wadi was killed instantly. His cousin passed away later the same day in the hospital. His son was transferred to Khartoum for medical treatment.