Sudan: Killing of peaceful protesters and a wave of arbitrary arrests and detention by Sudanese authorities, 14-24 December 2018

(31 December 2018) The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies is deeply concerned about the policing of anti-austerity protests including the use of excessive forces resulting in the death of several peaceful protestors. The Government of Sudan has responded to widespread disgruntlement over recent austerity measures by arresting and detaining opposition political party members, human rights defenders, activists, journalists, students and other individuals, censoring newspapers through prohibiting publication of information on protests and confiscation of daily- print runs prior to distribution, use of force including firing live ammunition resulting into deaths and injury of peaceful protestors. The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) received reliable information of the killing of at least 13 individuals, injuring of 50 individuals and the arrest and detention of 80 individuals, including opposition political party leaders, students, advocates, doctors, journalists and human rights activists for their participation or suspected involvement in the protests.

The Government’s response to the growing public unrest as a result of the recent austerity measures violates numerous rights including the right to freedom of assembly, association and expression, right to personal liberty, prohibition against torture and ill-treatment, among others, guaranteed in Sudan’s Interim National Constitution, 2005. This is the second time in 2018 that protests have broken out following the announcement of austerity measures.

The policing of assemblies must respect human rights and must be carried out in accordance with international standards, which prohibit the use of force unless strictly necessary and proportionate. Sudanese authorities should ensure that police and other security services responsible for policing demonstrations or performing other law enforcement duties comply with international standards on the use of force. It should be made clear that arbitrary or abusive use of force by security forces will be punished as a criminal offence. ACJPS urges the Government of Sudan to ensure accountability for excessive use of force against protesters, which caused civilian deaths during crackdowns.

ACJPS is further concerned about the physical and psychological well-being of the individuals who remain in detention, including those held incommunicado and are at risk of torture. We urge the Government of Sudan to guarantee the physical safety of those in custody, grant the detainees immediate and unequivocal access to their lawyers and family members, and release them in the absence of valid legal charges consistent with international standards. If such charges exist, the detainees should be brought promptly before an impartial, independent and competent tribunal and guarantee their procedural rights at all times. We further urge the Government to release those in detention, in absence of valid legal charges that are consistent with international standards, and grant those in detention access to courts to challenge their detention.

ACJPS calls to the Government of Sudan to immediately end its policies of pre- and post-print censorship of newspapers, which severely circumscribes the availability of information in the public sphere and hinders freedom of expression and access to information.
**Background**

**Economic situation:**

Since 2017, there has been a continuous deterioration in the economic situation in Sudan leading to the decline in value of the Sudanese Pound. The exchange rate for the US Dollar to the Sudanese pound had risen to 60 Sudanese Pounds, resulting in increased costs of living and the prices of basic commodities. There has also been scarcity of hard cash in the banks, making it difficult for citizens to withdraw necessary amounts needed to meet the costs of purchasing the necessary commodities.

In June 2017, the US Government lifted the economic sanctions against Sudan. At the time, the market value of the US Dollar to the Sudanese Pound was 15 Pounds. 3 days after the lifting of the sanctions, the value of the Sudanese pound rose to 17 Pounds. By September 2018, the Pound had gone beyond 40 Pounds.

Sudan has also suffered a number of fuel shortages with citizens queuing at the petrol stations on several occasions. Citizens have also had to queue in front of confectionaries and bread shops. There have been long queues at ATM machines. These scenes have occurred in various cities and towns across Sudan. In September 2018, the Sudanese Central Bank introduced two new currency notes for 100 and 500 Sudanese pounds but this did not result in an increase of money in circulation.

Numerous private factories and business involved in either food production or other basic commodities closed down without prior notice. This resulted in a shortage of supply of basic commodities as well as unemployment of former employees. Several facilities, service centres, companies, etc. have preferred to transact in cash and started to reject bank cheques. This has also been taken on by medical facilities making it difficult to receive treatment for those without cash.

The lack of cash flow led public distrust in the banking system that has preferred to keep cash out of the banks or transact on the black market. On the market, the exchange rate of the US Dollar to the Sudanese Pound is 6 Sudanese Pounds if transacting with cash and 8 Sudanese pounds if transacting by bank cheque.

In November 2018, the Sudanese Judiciary issued a decree restricting the selling of land and cars to be conducted via cheque instead of cash. Such a declaration is against the law and indicates an economic policy intended to force people to engage with the struggling banking system. This policy has also left many investors and businessmen wondering about the fate of their money.

**Political situation:**

In February 2018, following the reappointment of Mr. Salah Mohamed Abdalla (Salah Gosh), as the Director of the Sudan National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), the general political arena witnessed several changes that can be directly related to the conflicts and disagreement between President Omar Al Bashir and members within the ruling party National Congress Party (NCP), concerning his candidacy for 2020 elections.
Several NCP members and businessmen affiliated with the NCP were arrested and accused of corruption. There has only been one complete prosecution against Mr. Abdel afar El Sharif, the former head of the political department of NISS. He was prosecuted for abuse of office and illegal gain under the NISS Act and sentenced for 7 years’ imprisonment. He appealed his conviction and his sentence was reduced to 6 years on 9 November 2018. His trial took place before the NISS courts.

State of emergency

Since the beginning of the anti-austerity protests, a number of state governments declared a state of emergency in their jurisdictions. On 20 December, a state of emergency was declared in Atbara, River Nile State and in Karima, Northern State. On 21 December, a state of emergency was announced in Al-Gedarif, Eastern Sudan. On 22 December, an emergency situation was announced in White Nile state.

A state of emergency is in forces in all Darfur states, Blue Nile and South Kordofan states following armed clashes in the region. In 2012, after the incident in Hajleej area, between Sudan and South Sudan, the Government announced a state of emergency in the White Nile state and areas near the South Sudan border. In July 2017, Aljazeera state government announced a state of emergency following armed clashes. 3 months later, the state Governor of North Kordofan declared a state of emergency in order to carry out a weapons collection campaign. That same month Kassala state did the same.

DETAILS OF DECEMBER 2018 INCIDENTS:

ACJPS documented the following details of individuals killed during the anti-austerity protests. They include:

1. Tariq Ahmed Abduljalil, a student of School of Engineering of River Nile University, was shot by Sudanese authorities in Atbara town, River Nile State on 19 December 2018.
2. Mamnoon Mohamed Khair was shot by Sudanese authorities in Atbara town, River Nile State on 19 December 2018.
3. Esam Eldien Yousef, was shot by Sudanese authorities in Atbara town, River Nile State on 19 December 2018.
4. Osman Suliman Marawi, Barabr, killed in River Nile state
5. Osman Al-Labota, was shot by police in Karima, Northern State.
6. Mohanad Ahmed Mahmoud Abdulgadir, 18 years old, was shot by NISS in Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan on 20 December 2018
7. Hamid Abdul Malik Mursal, 40 years old,
8. Daim Bakur, was shot by NISS in Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan on 20 December 2018
9. Al-Noor Abdelgani, was shot by NISS in Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan on 20 December 2018
10. Tariq Suliman, a member of Sudanese Armed Forces was shot by NISS in Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan on 20 December 2018
11. Mohamed Issa was shot by NISS in Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan on 20 December 2018
12. Mahmoud Al-Qureshi, was shot by NISS in Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan on 20 December 2018
13. Shawgi Alsadig Ishaq Hamdeen, was shot in Aljazeera Abba, White Nile state, on 21 December 2018
14. Maraym Mohamed Abdalla, (f), died on 23 December 2018 after she was shot by police in Atbara, River Nile state on 20 December 2018

ACJPS documented the following details of those injured during protests in Atbara, River Nile State

1. Jalal Ibrahim
2. Ismail Osman
3. Mohamed Khair Mohamed
4. Sier Elkhatif Abdalla
5. Jamal Ahmed Kabier
6. Mohamed Omer
7. Salah Eldien Arbab
8. Yassin Obid Yassin
9. Salih Mohamed Salih Sofi
10. Abdulhafiz Ammar
11. Ashraf Ammar
12. Muzamil Abdulwahab
13. Nasir Mohamed
14. Mohamed Ali Omer
15. Ashraf Eltair
16. Mohamed Khair Abdisamad
17. Ensaf Musa (f)

The following injured individuals are receiving medical attention at Barabr Hospital in River Nile State:

18. Abdulrahman Jamal
19. Saif Eldien Haj Hamad Alsanjak
20. Murad Mohamed Mahjoob
21. Yassin Fadul
22. Ali Osman Khidir
23. Saif Al-Eslam Taj Eldien

In Al Gedarif, Eastern Sudan, ACJPS was documented details of 24 individuals, including 6 minors who were injured during the protests. They include:

1. Mazin Mohamed Mahjoob, (m), 10 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his stomach.
2. Samir Bushara Hamad, (m), 14 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his head.
3. Abdul hafiz Mohamed, (m), 15 years of old, sustained a gunshot injury on his stomach.
4. Abdul afar Osman, (m), 17 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his stomach
5. Sir Alhadi Abdalla, (m), 28 years old, sustained gunshot injury on his stomach.
6. Abazar Osama, (m), 25 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his head.
7. Mutwakil (m), 35 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his stomach.
8. Mohamed Khair, (m), 17 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his left thigh.
9. Mohamed Omer Younies, (m), 17 years old sustained a gunshot injury on his left foot.
10. Arwa Saeed, (m), 18 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on his right thigh.
11. Abdul Halim Mahjoob, (m), 22 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the right thigh.
12. Mwafag Jalal, (m), 19 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the left thigh.
13. Amin Adam Ibrahim, (m), 25 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the right thigh.
14. Yassin Aobid Issa, (m), 43 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the right leg.
15. Salih Osman, (m), 30 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the head.
16. Ashraf Elfashir Mohamed, (m), 23 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the right thigh.
17. Mohamed Kjair Abdisamad, (m), 24 years old, sustained a gunshot injury on the right thigh.
18. Sif al-Salam Mohamed, (m)
19. Salah Eldien Arbab, (m)
20. Nasir Mohamed, (m)
21. Mohamed Ali Omer, (m)
22. Yassin Obied Omer, (m)
23. Yassin Obied Issa, (m)
24. Salih Mohamed Jamie, (m)

In North Kordofan, ACJPS was able to document the following details of 2 individuals who were injured during the house raids carried out by NISS. They include:

1. Faiq Farooq Abdulraheem, (m), was sustained a gunshot on the leg at his home during a raid of his home by officers from the NISS. The NISS were looking for his father Mr. Farooq Abdul Rahim, the director of private school. Faiq was admitted to the Military Hospital in Al Obeid, North Kordofan
2. Khalid Al Haj Idris was also injured as the NISS raided the house of his relative Mr. Farooq Abdul Raheem. He was referred to Khartoum for further medical attention.

ACJPS documented details of the following individuals who have been detained in connection with the December 2018 protests. Where available, updates on release have been included.

Detained on 20 December 2018

1. Gomeria Omer, (f), a teacher and a member of Teacher Committee, was arrested from her school in Khartoum.
2. Izzat Osman, (m), student at the Education Faculty of University of Khartoum, was arrested at 5 PM from the front of the Education Faculty located in Omdurman.
3. Wadah Lamasery, (m), student at the Education Faculty of University of Khartoum, was arrested at 5 PM from the front of the Education Faculty located in Omdurman.

4. Mutaz Osman, (m), university student

5. Khalid Kasambar, (m)

6. Salah Eldien, (m)

7. Al-Obid Alshater, (m)

8. Sidig Mohamed Issa, (m)

9. Abdalla Issa, (m)

10. Al-Farazdag Abdulrahman, (m), a farmer in Al Gedarif state, Eastern Sudan, was arrested from the Al-Katiba market of Al Gedarif. During detention, he was reportedly beaten at the NISS office before he was released on 21 December 2018.

11. Jafar Khidir, (m), teacher and human rights defender, was arrested from his home located in Diem Bakur, Al Gedarif state, Eastern Sudan. He was released the following day, 21 December 2018. Before his release he was warned that he could be rearrested if he published anything related to the on-going demonstrations.

**Detained on 21 December 2018:**

12. Ihsan Fagiri, (f), a doctor and chairperson of No to Women’s Oppression, was arrested from her home in Kafori neighbourhood of Khartoum Bahri and released at 1 AM, on 22 December 2018.

13. Judi Ibrahim, (f), was arrested from the main street of Khartoum while she was filming the demonstration. Her location remains unknown.

14. Osman Mohamed Omran, (m), was arrested in Sennar state, Central Sudan.

15. Muiz Mohamed Hamza, (m) was arrested from Al-Fetihab 18 esquire, located in Abu Seied town of Omdurman.

16. Elfashir Elsair, (m), a teacher in Al Gedarif was summoned to report to the NISS office of Al-Gedarif, Eastern Sudan.

17. Samia Argawi, (f), an advocate and human rights defender, was summoned by phone at 2 PM to the NISS offices in Khartoum Bahri. She was released at 9 PM that same day. Earlier in the day, Ms. Aragwi had been at the Northern Police station in Khartoum to provide legal aid to a group of students who had been arrested by the police for their participation in peaceful protests.

**Detained on 22 December 2018:**

18. Hashim Mohamed Ahmed, (m), was arrested at 7 AM from his home in Shandi 4, Shandi town in River Nile state.

19. Maryam Elnagib, (f), wife to Mr. Hashim Mohamed Ahmed, was arrested at 7 AM, her home at the same address indicated above.

20. Abdulmajd Hassan, (m), was arrested from Aldine market, East Darfur state.

21. Abakar Suliman, (m), correspondent of Al-Intebaha newspaper, was arrested from Aldine market of Eastern Darfur state.

22. Issa Mohamed Manzoul, a teacher, was arrested from Aldine market of Eastern Darfur state.
23. Abdul Rahim Al-Sonja Mahdi, (m), a member of opposition Baath Arabic political party, was arrested from his home in Khartoum State.
24. Amna Awad, (f), member of opposition Baath Arabic political party, was arrested as she participated in protests in Omdurman Abu-seaid.
25. Nazik Hassan Adam, a member of opposition Baath Arabic political party, was arrested as she participated in protests in Omdurman Abu-seaid.
26. Nahid Hassan Adam, a member of opposition Baath Arabic political party, was arrested as she participated in protests in Omdurman Abu-seaid.
27. Hanadi Fadul, (f), an advocate, human rights defender and member of the central committee of the opposition Sudanese Communist party, was arrested in Wad Madani, Aljazeera state.
28. Tariq Abdulmajd, (m), a member of central committee of the opposition Sudanese Communist party, was arrested from Al-Baath party offices in Omdurman.
29. Wagdi Salih, an advocate, human rights defender and member of Arabic Baath party, was arrested from Al-Baath party offices in Omdurman.
30. Saatia Al-haj, (m), an advocate, human rights defender and member of opposition Arabic Nasiri party, was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
31. Hanan Mohamed, (f), member of Sudanese Communist party, was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
32. Tariq Kandik, (m), an advocate and member of Arabic Baath party, was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
33. Abdulmoim Mohamed Alamin, (m), was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
34. Amani Idris, (f), was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
35. Munira Said, (f), was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
36. Haytham Taj Elsir, was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
37. Abu Algasim Babakir, (m), was arrested from Al-baath party offices in Omdurman.
38. Farouq Abu Eissa, (m), an advocate, human rights activist and chairperson of the National Consensus Forces was arrested but later taken to Omdurman hospital due to his medical condition.
39. Fathi Al-Hadi, (m), a member of Sudanese Communist party, was arrested from Atbara, River Nile state.
40. Mohamed Almutasim Mahjoob, (m), a doctor, was summoned to report to NISS of Al-Gedarif, Eastern Sudan.
41. Musab Abdulmajd, (m), an official with UNAMID was arrested in El Geneina, West Darfur state.

Detained on 23 December 2018:

42. Batoul Abdelfattah Alrufai, (f), was arrested by NISS from her home following a house raid. The NISS were looking for her father Mr. Abdul Halim Airway who had travelled out of town to attend a burial ceremony. Ms. Batoul was released at 5:00 PM after she was interrogated about her political affiliation and activism. She was forced to sign pledge stating that she would not participate in any protests.
43. Sara Abdelfattah Alrufai, (f) was arrested from her family home after the release of her sister Batoul. She was interrogated about her political affiliation and also forced to sign a pledge stating that she would not participate in any protests.

44. Massod Elhassan, (m), the political secretary of Sudanese Communist party, Khartoum sector, was arrested from the general offices of Sudanese Communist Party in Khartoum II during a raid by group of armed NISS officers.

45. Musab Alsir Mohamed Khair, (m), an advocate, was arrested from his home in Almazad neighborhood, Khartoum Bahri.

**Detained on 24 December 2018:**

46. Osman Salih, an advocate, human rights defender and member of Sudanese Communist party, was arrested from his home in Al Obeid, North Kordofan state. He was transferred to Al Obeid prison and informed that he was being detained for 6 months under the emergency law. This is the second time this year that Mr. Salih is being detained under the emergency law. Mr. Salih was arrested during the January 2018 anti-austerity protests in Al Obeid and detained for about 3 months without charge under the emergency law before being released on 19 March 2018.

47. Mohamed Suliman, (m), a political activist, was arrested from his home in Al Obeid of North Kordofan state and transferred to Al Obeid prison. He was informed that he is being detained for 6 months in accordance with the emergency law.

48. Hatim Mergani, (m), a member of Sudanese Congress party, was arrested from Um Rwaba, North Kordofan state and transferred to Al Obeid prison. He was informed that he is being detained for 6 months in accordance with the emergency law.

49. Yahya Hassam Yahya, (m), Aljazeera Abba, White Nile state.

50. Eltigani Haroun Elkhalifa, (m), arrested from Al-Rahad, North Kordofan state. His location remains unknown.

51. Musan Alshafie Mohamed Salih, (m), arrested from Al-Rahad, North Kordofan state. His location remains unknown.

52. Mohanad Abdul Rahman Alsadig, (m), arrested from Al-Rahad, North Kordofan. His location remains unknown.

53. Wadah Bushra Mohamed Noor, (m), arrested from Al-Rahad, North Kordfan. His location remains unknown.

54. Ali Mohamed Ahmed Trbal, (m), arrested from Al-Rahad, North Kordfan. His location remains unknown.

55. Yousef Mohamed Ibrahim Alhusni, (m), the chairperson of Aljazeera Ababa Framers association, was arrested from Aljazeera Abab, White Nile state.

56. Adil Alamin, (m), member of Umma National Party, was arrested from Aljazeera Abab, White Nile state.

57. Mansour Ali Obid, he is the director of future private school, also he is an artist, and he was arrested from Rabak of white Nile State.

**Detained on 25 December 2018:**

58. Abdalla Omer, (m), 16 years’ old.

59. Yousef Mohamed Ibrahim Al-Hassan, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
60. Nasur Eldien Ahmed Mohamed, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
61. Adil Alamin Hassan, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
62. Mahdi Mahmoud, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
63. Ahmed Abdul Rahman, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
64. Adam Mohamed Ahmed Saeed, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
65. Mansour Ali Obid (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
66. Idris Mohamed Ismail (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
67. Ahmed Alasda (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
68. Yousef Fadul (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
69. Khalid Bushara, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
70. Rafie Abdalla, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
71. Musab Salah Albala, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
72. Mohamed Khalil Mohamed Ali, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
73. Muaz Musa Idris, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
74. Alfatih Mohamed Abdul Rahman, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
75. Amjed Mohamed Berima, (m), Aljazeera Aba, White Nile state.
76. Yahya Hassam Yahya, (m), Aljazeera Abba, White Nile state.
77. Ahmed Gasim Mukhair, (m), an engineer and member of Umma National party, was arrested from Alsouq Alarabi, Khartoum. He was released on 26 December 2018.
78. Salma Ahmed Gasim, (f), a human rights defender, was arrested from Alsouq Alarabi, Khartoum. She was released on 26 December 2018.

Protestors charged in Al Obeid, North Kordofan state

On 14 December 2018, police forces of Al-Obeid town in North Kordofan State armed with weapons, wooden sticks and tear gas descended on a peaceful protest in the Maki neighbourhood of Al Obeid, where Sudanese citizens were protesting against the deteriorating economic situation that The police arrested 22 people, including 3 minors and held them at the Al Obeid police station. The group was charged with offences under articles 69 (disturbance of public peace) and 77 (public nuisance) of Sudanese Criminal Code, 1991. They spent the night under police custody and were released on bail the following day, 15 December. The charges against them are still pending and a court date is yet to be scheduled.

The details of the group are:

1. Osama Ahmed Yosef, (m), 14 years old.
2. Mohamed Mukhtar Alsadig, (m), 13 years old.
3. Abdalla Almahadi Abdalla, (m), 16 years old.
4. Sidig Abdalla Ahmed jebril, (m).
5. Idris Mohamed Ahmed Shanto, (m).
6. Amin Salah Ahmed Alshami, (m).
7. Bakri Izz Alarab Doulieb, (m).
8. Mawia Adam Abdul Rahim, (m).
10. Osman Sidig Mohamed, (m).
11. Hassan Muhi Eldien Fadul Almwla, (m).
13. Mohamed Salah Ahmed Alshami, (m)
15. Aban Bukhari Elshekh Hamad El-Nile, (m).
17. Ibrahim Omer Ibrahim Alfadil, (m).
19. Anas Malik Burie, (m).
20. Abazar Salih Ashana, (m).
22. Amjed Adam Abdul-Aziz, (m).

Protestors charged in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile state

On 19 December 2018, a group of police officers in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile state carried out an arrest campaign between 7-8 PM targeted at people along the main street. At least 36 individuals including 8 minors were arrested. Individuals arrested were severely beaten with sticks by the police during the arrests. Some of the detainees had to be transferred to Khartoum for further medical attention. The group was taken to the Ed Damazin police station and charged with offences under articles 69 (disturbance of public peace) and 77 (public nuisance) of Sudanese Criminal Code, 1991. The following day, 20 December, the detainees were referred to the Child Court and Public Order Court in Ed Damazin. Due to the absence of a complainant, the presiding judges of both courts released the detainees on condition that the detainees gave a pledge not to disturb the public peace. The guardians of the minors gave this pledge on their behalf.

ACJPS was able to obtain details of some of those released. They include:

1. Ahmed Awad Issa, (m), 14 years old.
2. Abdo Adam, (m), 14 years old.
3. Mujahid Hassan, (m), 15 years old.
4. Alsadiq Sid Elias, (m), 17 years old.
5. Jamal Adam Abakar, (m), 17 years old.
6. Hassan Yahya Ali, (m), 17 years old.
7. Bahari Bakhit, (m), 17 years old.
8. Abdelbagi Ali, (m), 17 years old.
9. Abdalla Younies, (m), 18 years Old
10. Nabil Ibrahim Suliman, (m), 18 years old.
11. Suliman Mukhtar Hussein, (m), 18 years old.
12. Mohamed Abdulrahman, (m), 18 years old
13. Bushara Elnoor, (m), 20 years old.

Protestors charged in Khartoum
On 21 December 2018, police officers in Khartoum arrested a group of 16 students who were participating in peaceful demonstrations in Khartoum. The group was detained at the Northern police station in Khartoum and charged with offences under articles 69 (disturbing public peace) and 79 (public nuisance) of the Sudanese Criminal Code, 1991. They were released on bail later that the same day.

Their names are:

1. Nutaf Abashar, (f).
2. Rawan Ibrahim, (f).
5. Abulgasim Alzubir Osman, (m).
6. Hassan Yousef Taj Eldien, (m).
7. Mohamed Salih Osman Yahya, (m).
10. Mohamed Bashir Daw Albeit, (m).
12. Gambol Mohamed Musa, (m).
16. Mohamed Sami, (m).

**Interference with media freedom**

On 18 December 2018, NISS of Khartoum summoned Ms. Asma Jumma, a journalist with Altyaar newspaper after she published an article titled *Cursed Tree*. A tree is the logo of the NCP. She was interrogated about her article and asked whether she was advocating for the fall of the regime. She was released later that day.

On 19 December 2018, NISS of Khartoum summoned two journalist working for Altyaar newspaper, Mr. Ahmed Omer Khogali and Mr. Ali Farsab. Both were interrogated about an article published following their interview with Mr. Osama Faisal, a minster within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The interrogation focused on a statement in the article that stated that the Central Bank had no reserve fund for hard currency.

On 19 December 2018, NISS of Khartoum summoned Mr. Ahmed Younies, a journalist and the correspondent of Middle East Newspaper. He was interrogated about an article published by the newspaper reflecting on the current economic situation. The article addressed the lack of basic necessities as an indication of an economic crisis. Mr. Ahmed was released later that day.

On 20 December 2018, the NISS of Khartoum prevented the distribution of print-runs of Alakhbar newspaper without reason given. The front page of the newspaper addressed the
announcement of emergency situations in several states and imposition of a curfew in Atbara town.

On 21 December 2018, the NISS of Khartoum prohibited newspapers issued from Khartoum from publishing any information related to the various protests occurring across Sudan. Newspapers that had already printed copies of the day were forced to re-print copies that did not include any information related to protests. In protest, Algareeda newspaper decided not to publish any news that day.

On 22 December 2018, both Algareeda and Altyaar newspapers decided not to publish any newspapers after NISS issued restrictions on publishing information related to on-going protests.

On 24 December 2018, NISS confiscated the printed runs of Algareeda newspaper.

**Restricted access to the internet**

From 20 December 2018, the Government of Sudan blocked access to internet aimed at silencing decent. A reliable source informed ACJPS that the Minister of Communication intended to prohibit the publication of information related to the demonstrations through the internet shutdown. A statement made by Mr. Mahjoob Arwa, a board member of Zain Communication company, a leading telecom company in Sudan, stated that the shutdown was done by State authorities and that his company had no role in the shutdown. YouTube was totally shut down in Sudan.