

## **Sudanese Rights Group (Hugoog)**

## Human Rights Monitoring 1st -30th June 2017 Report-Sudan Issue: 15

## **Brief Summary**

The crackdown on human rights in Sudan remains alarming, with continuing repression of students activists, political opponents, media, and arbitrary detentions of students activists from Darfur. Over the last month of June 2017, Huqooq has documented human rights violations in Khartoum, Bakht Alruda, and Kosti in White Nile state, Port Sudan, Kassla Eastern Sudan and El Geneina in West Darfur state and one case in Nyala South Darfur, the rights being violated including use of force, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, freedom of association, arbitrary arrest, torture and other ill-treatment in detention, public order police and arrest of South Sudanese refugees.

The violations documented in this report were committed by National Intelligence and Security Service NISS, police forces, and the newly formed University police forces. The forces used excessive force to break-up peaceful meetings targeting students and political opponent activists.

Last month Huqooq has reported the arrest number of Bakht Alruda University students during the violence incident that occurred in 9 of May 2017, due to lack of information in regard to the incident, Huqooq team traveled to Bakht Alruda in White Nile State during June 2017 in order to obtain more information about the violence incident and arrest of more than 72 students in May 2017, in particular the situation of ten students who were accused of murdering two policemen and in detention, during the mission the team observed there is a racial feelings towards Darfuri students drove by NISS propaganda in the city, the team conducted informal meetings with random residents who expressed their feelings against the

presence of Darfuri Students, in addition the team was intimidated by a family member of a policeman that allegedly was killed inside the students hostel during the violence in the university, however the team was able to document, cases of arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention and three cases of torture and other ill-treatment during arrest and in detention, Huqooq team interviewed more than ten students from Bakht Alruda University and three lawyers who are working on the case throughout June.

This report highlights verified human rights violations cases, which occurred during June 2017, Huqooq gathered the information through direct interviews with the victims, eyewitnesses and other sources such as relatives, lawyers and journalists.

## **New Development:**

• On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, in a speech during the celebration of Eid Al-fitr of the ruling party at the NCP headquarter office in Khartoum, President Al Bashir, vowed to conduct a broad dialogue on the Constitution based on the national document and consensus on the outputs of the national dialogue, adding that a draft bill of the permanent constitution will be presented to the parliament for approval and then to the Sudanese people in a referendum for approval and agreement. Bashir further called on all Sudanese to reconcile and pardon in order to move to new era. (Source: Alyoumaltali newspaper 28/06/2017)

# Human Rights Violations Monitoring: Use of Force against University of Khartoum Students:

• On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, police forces with support of the university of Khartoum police dispersed a group of students during their annual Ramdan Iftar gathering, the police used tear gas, sticks and black hoses to disperse the crowed near the university main gate( Alnashat), according to one student the police forces beat more than 25 students with sticks and hoses the police also beat Mr. Ismat Mahmoud a professor at university of Khartoum faculty of arts, department of Philosophy and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts, who was attending the Iftar gathering with the students, according to professor Ismat he told Huqooq that, they came to the gathering at around 5:30 pm, they found the riot police trucks surrounding the university, prior to Iftar time we sat and waiting for Almaghrib Azan(the call for Almaghrib prayers), Mr. Ismat with a group of students were sitting in the street near the university when a police officer ordered them to move from the area, after they moved to near the graduates club, the riot police fired tear gas and rubber bullets and attacked the students with sticks and hoses while they were having their iftar, and dispersed the crowd, Mr. Ismat came back to the gathering scene in order to collect the scattered utensils and food, around seven policemen

attacked and beat him with sticks and black hoses all over his body and insulted him with indecent language in front of some of the students and three high ranks police officers. Following the incident Mr. Ismat wrote a public complain addressed to the minister of interior about the insults and the beating by the police forces. (Source: interview with professor Ismat and two students)

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2017, at around 5:00pm, police forces at Al-Awsat police station in port Sudan, beat, insulted and detained Salawa Thabit Abd Alhameed, a female lawyer, during her regular work on a case follow up, on behalf of one of her clients who was detained at Al-Awsat police station, Mrs. Thabit was at the police station to complete the release on bail procedures, when she was stopped by a police officer First-Lieutenant Alrasheed Abd Alhameed and called her ya mara (women) she told him I am a lawyer and I am here to pursue legal procedures, the police said to her so what at the end you are a woman (mara), she was annoyed to be called by such humiliating name while she is acting officially with officials, according to Mrs. Thabit she told Hugoog that around six policemen and first -lieutenant beat her with their hands all over her body, kicked her with their boots and bunched her on her face, stomach and back, the policemen insulted her with indecent language, she complained to the security police when she came back the police arrested and detained her in the police custody, she was locked in a dirty cell full of insects, the police didn't provide her with water or food although she was fasting, at around 10:pm the police filed six complaints against her under articles, 57 Entering and photographing military areas and works, 103 Threat to public servant 143 Criminal force, 144 Intimidation 160 Insult and abuse, 182 Criminal mischief of the criminal law of 1991, her detention and arrest is contradicting lawyers immunities as provided for under article 48 of the advocate and lawyers law of 1983 amendment of 2014, (no legal procedures prior to arrest or summoning for investigation, may be brought against a lawyer, unless upon necessary permission and approval of the Council, exempt in cases of flagrante delicto or crimes against the security of the state, Mrs. Thabit was released on bail on the next day 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2017, her case has not yet referred to the court, Mrs. Thabit has filed a complaint against the policemen who beat and unlawfully detained her. (source: interview with Salaw Thabit by Hugoog team)

## Freedom of Expression:

• On the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>and 19<sup>th</sup> of June2017, the National Intelligence and Security Service NISS confiscated the daily Akhir Lahza newspaper for the third time in a raw from the printing house without disclosing the reasons for the confiscation. NISS has

returned to confiscations of newspapers after a nearly five-month pause since January 2017. (Source: HR journalist)

• On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, police and criminal investigation police in Suakin locality—Red Sea state, arrested Mohamed Al Amin Oshaik, 32 years, a blogger and correspondent journalist of Almijhar newspaper, according to Mr. Oshaik he told Huqooq that a criminal investigation police officer telephoned him in the morning and ordered him to attend the police station due to a complaint and a warrant of arrest against him, when he arrived at the police station he was interrogated by Inquirer who scolded him for his critic facebook posts, Mr. Oshaik was detained at Suakin police station custody for several hours, he was detained in connection with a complaint filed by the executive director of the locality following the publication of a post on his facebook page criticizing Suakin commissioner and the deterioration of the basic services in the local area, prior to his arrest the commissioner of Suakin locality sent some individuals to Mr. Oshaik family and ordered them to talk to their son to stop criticizing him, Mr. Oshaik was released on the same day late evening at around 6:00pm on bail, he has been charged with defamation under 159 article of the criminal law of 1991, Mr. Oshaik case has not yet referred to the court.



Photo of Mr. Oshaik at the police custody

 On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, El Geneina general prosecutor interrogated the editor in-chief of the pro popular congress party digital newspaper Sawt El-Shaab (Voice of the Nation), Adam Abdalrahman Deghais, in connection with a complaint filed against Mr. Deghais by the land director of West Darfur state, following an article published on the digital newspaper on 17 May 2017, about corruption in land administration that led to registration of a located residential land blocks under different names other than the beneficiaries who obtained land certificates and paid the land fees to the authorities, Mr. Deghais has been charged under article 159 defamation of the criminal law of 1991, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2017, he was informed by police that the land director withdrew the complaint against him.( Source: interview with Adam Deghais by Huqooq team)

#### Freedom of Association:

• On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2017, the Humanitarian Aid Commission in Kassala East Sudan, issued a decree freezing the activity of Sharia Alhawdith (Emergency Street Initiative) organization<sup>1</sup>, a locally registered NGO with HAC in Kassala, according to the program officer of the organization he informed Huqooq that on 14 June 2017, the organization received a letter from the state ministry of health ordering the organization to deliver the intensive care unit for children project to Kassala hospital, the organization responded to the ministry of health letter in writing explaining the project is almost completed and they will deliver the project to the ministry of health when finished, prior to the letter NISS summoned the organization director to their offices in Kassala and ordered him to deliver the project to a tasked committee. (Source: interview with the ESI program officer by Huqooq team)

#### **Arbitrary Arrest:**

- On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, National Intelligence and Security Service NISS arrested the following nine members of Sudanese Congress party and the chairman of the popular committee from Dar Alsalam primary school in Ombada locality- Omdurman, following awareness forum on cholera, their names as follow:
  - 1- Noor Aldeen Salaheldeen Mahmoud, 38 year,
  - 2- Amira Elshaikh Mohamed Suliman, 38 year,
  - Nazar Mohamed Noor,37 year,
  - 4- Mahmoud Shoaib Mohamed, 32 year,
  - 5- Jalal Mustafa Rahma, 62 year,
  - 6- Widad Abd Alrahman Darwish, 31 year,
  - 7- Alfatih Omer Masoud,52 year,
  - 8- Mawahib Majzoub Mohamed, 46 year,
  - 9- Amer Abd Allah Mohamed Ismail, 30 year and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> a countrywide initiative founded in 2013 by youth activists aimed at providing medicines and health services to vulnerable people in Sudan, the organization depends on donations from people inside and outside Sudan

## 10- Mohamed (Chairman of the popular committee – Dar-Alsalam Ombada)

According to three of the arrested person's testimonies who informed Hugoog that at around 5:30 pm following the awareness forum, we have been invited by the rector of the school to his office, while were in the office answering some of the audience questions around the cholera, ten armed NISS officers stormed the office and arrested us including the chairman of the popular committee who coordinated the forum, the NISS took us to the NISS offices in Ombada locality they interrogated us for almost eight hours, and then they released us at around 1:00am without charge, the NISS ordered the chairman of the popular committee to report next day, according to one of the interviewee he told Hugoog that the chairman of the popular committee reported to the NISS on the next day, and then the NISS took him to his house where the NISS searched the chairman of the committee house and confiscated all the Cholera prevention medicine and material, during the search the NISS found a receipt from a pharmacy in Omdurman showing the quantity and the prices of some cholera prevention medicines then they took the chairman of the popular committee to the pharmacy in Omdurman, Hugoog team was unable to interview the chairman of the popular committee due to his fear of reporting about his arrest. (Source: Interview with three arrested members of SCP)

- On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, at around 6:00 am, a group of police in uniform and NISS in plainclothes arrested three students from the university of Khartoum central complex hostel, their names as follow:
  - 1- Eltahir Suliman Issa Tina, 29 years, student at the faculty of Geography and Environment, year 5,
  - 2- Fadol Idris Ali Fadali, 21 years, student at the faculty of Geography and Environment, year 2.
  - 3- Student at Bahri University, (Hugoog was unable to obtain his name)

Huqooq spook to two of the students arrested, according to their testimonies they informed Huqooq that, the police and NISS agents raided the university of Khartoum students accommodation (central complex hostels) early morning at around 6:00 am, the police and NISS agents stormed the rooms and arrested number of students ordering them to evacuate the hostel, as directed by the National Students Support Fund, the police beat the students and detained number of them briefly at the police truck and released them immediately exempt the three students, who were taken to Khartoum North police station, according to the interviewed students, the police continued beating them all the way to the police station with sticks and their hands all over their bodies, at the police station they were interrogated by police, photographed them and insulted them with racial insults, the

three students were released after almost six hours in detention in the police custody without charge. (Source: Interview with students by Huqooq team)

- On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, the National Intelligence and Security Service NISS arrested the following three members of the Sudanese Congress party (SCP). Their names are as follows:
  - 1- Ahmed Abo Zaid, 32 years,
  - 2- Ayman Ali Ismail, 33 years
  - 3- Adil Abd Allah Mohamed Ahmed (Hadatha) 35 years.

The three men were arrested at around 7.430pm from Sufi Shaikh oratory in Alhaj Yousif block 6, Khartoum, following a peaceful nonpolitical meeting, organized by Sudanese Congress Party as part of the awareness campaign launched by the party to fight cholera ailment and distribution of awarness posters and materials on the disease prevention and control, according to one of the arrested men Ahmed Abo Zaid he informed Huqooq that following the public speech in Souq 6 in Alhaj yousif we were invited by Shaikh Homaida to his oratory to Ramadan Iftar and also to conduct an awareness forum for his students about Cholera prevention, at around 7:30 pm, eight NISS officers stormed Shaikh Homaida oratory and beat Ayaman and Adil then they arrested us and took us to the NISS offices in Alhaj Yousif area, the officers interrogated us for several hours, on the next day they transferred us to the NISS headquarter offices in Sharq Alneel, the NISS questioned us about the reasons of the campaign and who funded the campaign, we were released on the next day 8 June at around 6:30 pm, we were ordered to report back to the NISS next day at 10:00 am. The three men refused to report as they were ordered. (Source: Interview with Ahmed Abo Zaid by Huqooq team).

## **Torture and Ill-treatment:**

• On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, at around 11:00 am, a group of police in uniform and staff from Ombada locality administration unit of Souq Abozaid in Ombada in Omdurman, arrested, beat and tortured Talal Eldeen Yaseen Mohamed Ahmed, 18 years old, secondary school graduate student, according to Talal he told Huqooq that, I used to work during the holidays to help my family in the living expenses and save money for my studies, during Ramadan my father bought some children cloths to sell it before Eid Alfitr in Abozaid market near Lybia market in Ombada the suburb of Omdurman, on that day the police and locality staff subjected me to brutal beating and verbal abuse, they beat me in the street in front of the people in the market and confiscated the clothes, then they threw me onto the police sweep truck (dafar), at the locality they took me to

a room, two policemen participated in beating me all over my body with sticks and whipping with a leather whip 'Sot' they kicked and punched me, the police men insulted me with awful insults and they forced me to do physical exercises - forcing me to do knee bends(rabbits jumping until I swooned, and my clothes torn, the blood flowed from my wounded body, the police beat me severely I was lying on the ground suffering from the pain of the beatings, I was locked in a room inside the locality administrative unit, then the police took me to the deputy director of the administrative unit office, I complained to him that I have subjected to torture and beaten by the police and locality staff, instead he told me that he is going to take me to the general attorney office because I caused public nuisance, I was taken to the general attorney office where I have been transferred to Ombada South (Al Imam Malik) police station, the deputy director filed three complaints against me my father and mother who came to the locality and tried to persuade the director to allow them to take me to the hospital for treatment instead they were insulted and the deputy director of the locality attempted to hit my mother with stick and insulted her with awful language, we were detained at Ombada South (Al Imam Malik) police station custody for almost 6 hours then we were released on bail pending trial. (Source: Interview with Talal and his father by Hugoog on 10/07/2017)

On the 9th of May 2017, at Bakht Al Ruda University in White Nile State, hundreds of students organized a sit in and protests against the student's union election conduct in the university, which called for fair and free elections and the students union, should represent all the students. The police forces used tear gas and fired live ammunition to break into the sit- in, the police stormed the students hostel and arrested at least 72 students using excessive force. Hugoo spoke to three of the students arrested, whom reported being tortured and beaten all over their bodies with black hoses and sticks by NISS agents where they were detained for 24 hours at the NISS offices in El Duim city, then transferred to the police station in El Duim city where they subjected to torture and ill treatment by the police during the interrogation in order to extracting confessions by force in the killing of two policemen allegedly they were killed during the violence incident, The arrested students were subsequently charged with murder, rioting, disturbance of public peace, causing intentional wounds, and criminal force under130,68, 69,77,139 and 142 of the criminal law of 1991, the police released 30 students on the following days for lack of evidence, and transferred 15 students to El Duim prison after detained incommunicado and a harsh condition for almost 17 days without access to their families or lawyers and after started a hunger strike, five of them were released on 26 May 2017 on bail from El Duim prison, according to the released students there are nine students still detained in El Duim prison waiting for their trial,

three lawyers who are working on the case told Huqooq that the students were detained at the NISS offices then transferred to El Duim police station custody where they were detained incommunicado for almost 17 days, and then transferred to El Duim Prison now there are nine students detained at El Duim prison awaiting trial. Two lawyers who are working on the case told Hugoog in May 2017, the police prevented them to meet with the students and faced intimidation by NISS in El Duim, the students informed Hugoog that they were severely beaten and subjected to ill treatment and verbal racial abuse during arrest by NISS and police officers while in detention, a lawyer told Huqooq that they are unable to obtain any information in regard to the medical reports of the causes of the death of policemen, the police inquirer informed him the investigation has not yet completed, also the police are waiting to arrest more students after they come back from Eid holiday. Hugoog team traveled to Bakht Al Ruda to collect more information about the incident, the number of arrested students, the detention condition and the cause of the death of two policemen alleged they were killed during the incident, the team observed that some citizens in El Duim expressed their hatred of the presence of Darfuri students in the city in a racial way, the team was intimidated by a family member of one of the policemen who allegedly killed during the violence incident, the family refused to provide any information in regard to the cause of the killing or any evidence to show the involvement of the students detained, the family member was intending to call the police, however, the team managed to leave the city. (Source interview with three arrested students and three lawyers who are working on the case) names of those subjected to torture and ill-treatment are in file with Hugoog.

## **Abduction in Darfur:**

• On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, at around 4:30pm, three armed militiamen attacked and abducted Abdalsalam Ahmed Ali Musa (Kyan), 40 years and a businessman in Nyala, South Darfur State, from his warehouse in Algasharat area, according to eyewitness the armed men attacked and threat Mr. Abdalsalam and other workers in the warehouse, then they took him away in a Toyota pick-up, the whereabouts of Mr. Abdalsalm and the reasons of the kidnaping remain unknown.

#### **Public Order Police Case:**

• On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2017, at around 12:00 am, public order police arrested four young women from the Nile Street in Khartoum from their car, the police forces stopped the girls who were in their car while waiting for their food that they ordered from a nearby restaurant (Aljazar for Takeaway) in Ryhad area in Khartoum, the police violently dragged the girls from their car to get onto the police truck, they refused to get on the

police truck and insisted to drive their car where they were accompanied by a police officer, they were taken to the public order police headquarter in Al Mugran area in Khartoum, they were detained for almost three hours and released at around 3:00 am on bail, and ordered to appear before East Khartoum (Alshargi) public order court on the next day, they came to the public order police station in Almugran at around 9 am where they transferred to Alshargi public order court in Arkawit area in Khartoum, at the court the judge told them they shouldn't bring a lawyer the case is simple and he will talk to them as their guardian, the judge told them wearing trousers is against our Sudanese tradition and values, then he sentenced them with a fine of 500 SDG, the lawyer who presented them asked the judge to provide him with a copy of the court decision, the judge annoyed by the lawyer request and ordered the police to refer the case to the child court because the judge assumed that all arrested girls are minor under 18, now the case pending referral to the child court in case the complainant pursued the case, or just to be neglected. (source: interview with one of the arrested girls) The names of the arrested as follows:

- 1- Leem Taj Alsir Alnajeeb, 28 years old, work with SIHA
- 2- Lena Taj Alsir Alnajeeb, 16 years old,
- 3- Jameela Mohamed Bairag, 29 years old,
- 4- Mozan Abo obaida Alnaial, 32 years old, civil engineer,

#### Arrest of South Sudanese in Kosti -White Nile State:

• On the 1st of June 2017, National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) with support of police forces arrested around 150 South Sudanese people from the market and public transportation in Kosti city in White Nile State, during a sweep campaign launched by the authorities to evacuate the city from South Sudanese, according to three arrested persons they told Huqooq that an armed group of NISS agents in plainclothes arrested more than 150 people from different locations in the city and public transport, they were detained in the police station custody in Kosti for five days and then transferred to the refugees camp near the boarders, according to one interviewee he told Huqooq that he was beaten by the NISS and police and forced to get on the police truck when he asked them about the reasons of his arrest, he was forced to get on the truck, the interviewed persons reported the harsh condition of the detention and ill treatment by the police they were racially insulted and told that they separated from Sudan why they came back and they shouldn't live in Sudan, they are unwanted people, when arrived at the refugees camp west Aljableen (Khor Waral) the people in charge in of the camp told

them they are not registered as refugees and the camp capacity insufficient to accommodate them, most of those arrested came to Sudan after the conflict erupted in South Sudan in 2013, they didn't register at the refugees commission or UNCHR because the president Al Bashir decided in December 2013, to treat South Sudanese refugees as citizens and refused establishing refugee camps for them, stating that they can live and work all over Sudan, in September 2016 the government decided to treat South Sudanese that fled the conflict in their country as refugees, noting that among those arrested students who entered Sudan with a valid visa and have a resident permit.



South Sudanese in kosti police station custody provided to Huqooq by one of the arrested