



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

SUDAN: STOP KILLING PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS



Protesters outside Defense Ministry in Khartoum, Sudan April 9, 2019

In a recent wave of attack against civilians Sudan security forces killed at least 14 anti-government protesters taking part in a peaceful protest outside the army headquarters in the capital, Khartoum. This brings the total number of civilians killed to 60 and wounded 153.

The protest led by activists, doctors, teachers and lawyers, among others, erupted in December 2018 calling for political and human rights reform in the country, including demand for the president, Omar al-Bashir, to step down after three decades in power.

We are particularly appalled by the continuing repression of civil and political rights, especially the ongoing crackdown on protesters and abuse of independent civil society and human rights defenders. We deplore the deaths and serious

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injury to those exercising their legitimate right to protest, as well the use of live ammunition against protestors.

Government forces continue to use excessive force to disperse demonstrations, resulting in death and injury and there has been no accountability for the deaths of hundreds of protesters killed during violent crackdowns. Across Sudan, national security officials and other security forces have targeted opposition party members, human rights defenders, students, and political activists for arrest, detention, and torture and ill treatments.

It is estimated that up to two thirds of the protestors in Sudan are women, demonstrating against systemic gender injustice in the country. Authorities have used repressive laws to target female activists and human rights defenders for arrest, detention, and various forms of harassment, including sexual violence. Women organizations are under intense scrutiny and struggle with laws that generally discriminate against women. Additionally authorities have restricted civil society organizations from operating freely.

Despite international call for justice, accountability, and credible plan for political transition, the government forces remains to be disproportionate attack against protestors using live ammunition, arbitrarily detention of hundreds of opposition party members, protestors, students, journalists, and professionals including doctors and medics. Doctors' associations reported ongoing detentions of doctors and violence against medical professionals and patients. In addition, 47 students of Darfur origin remain in incommunicado detention after security agents arrested them in raids on their homes on 23 and 27 December 2018 in Sinnar and Khartoum states. One student was killed in the raids.

It is imperative for the Sudanese government to listen and respond to the demands of the protestors in a serious and credible manner.

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Rather than using violence and abuses to clamp down on dissent, Sudan needs to engage peacefully with protesters' concerns. We also urge the Sudanese government to ensure that the detainees are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, while in detention, and that they are given access to family visits and lawyers of their choosing.

We urge Sudan to release all political detainees, stop the use of violence against peaceful protestors, remove all restrictions to rights, and allow for a credible and inclusive political dialogue with the view of transitioning to a reformed political and economic country that upholds human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

ICSFT also calls for an independent international investigation team, with expertise in sexual and gender-based violence, to investigate crimes under international law and serious violations and abuses of human rights in Sudan, to identify those responsible for committing such heinous crimes against civilians, provide concrete recommendations for accountability. All stakeholders, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Union should pressure Sudan for an independent investigation into all abuses during the protests.