

# Sudan

Sudan has been ruled by an authoritarian military regime with religious underpinnings since 1989, when Omar al-Bashir staged a military coup to overthrow the elected civilian government headed by Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Umma Party. Bashir then dissolved all political parties and civil society groups, with the exception of religious groups, and brought unions under the administrative control of “steering committees” headed by individuals who were closely linked to the new regime. Members of the political opposition, union leaders, and human rights defenders were severely harassed, including through arbitrary arrest and torture in secret detention centers known as “ghost houses.”

Despite the more recent resurgence of political parties and civic activity after having been banned for many years, the Bashir regime continued to use repressive tactics to curtail the political opposition and employed legislation which violates the right to freedom of association to clamp down on civil society organizations. The licenses of a number of human rights organizations were revoked, and activists continued to face arrest and unfair trials. Freedom of expression in Sudan continued to face repression as well, particularly through the imposition of security censorship on newspapers, confiscation of publications, and the prosecution of journalists in recent years.

The Bashir regime sought to ensure its ability to remain in power by stirring up and exploiting conflicting tribal loyalties and inciting certain tribes against its political opponents in order to erode their traditional centers of support. This was seen most clearly in Darfur and in southern Sudan, where such policies led to a massive failure to address problems arising from ethnic and religious diversity and thwarted all chances for national integration, giving way instead to armed conflicts which have led to massive casualties and the displacement of millions over the past ten years. These policies and practices led the International Criminal Court to accuse the Bashir regime of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed in the context of the war in Darfur and to issue a warrant for the arrest of President Bashir and a number of other Sudanese officials. Indeed, these policies also resulted in the official secession of South Sudan in July 2011.

In light of the continuation of such policies and practices throughout 2012, the state of human rights remained bleak. No improvements were made to the country's legislative framework - notable for its hostility to fundamental freedoms - and the police continued to exploit their exceptional powers to commit serious violations amidst an environment of impunity for the entire security apparatus. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees continued, and excessive force was increasingly used against peaceful political and social protests, leading to numerous deaths among demonstrators. Political activists, human rights advocates, and other civil society activists were increasingly subjected to arbitrary arrest due to their suspected participation in or support for these demonstrations. Freedom of opinion and expression was repressed, including through security harassment, prosecutions, orders banning the works of particular writers from being published, and the confiscation of newspapers, which resulted in major financial losses for the papers and forced some of them to close. A number of websites were blocked, particularly those which monitor violations committed by the security apparatus while dispersing protests. Several of the most active human rights organizations and academic centers were also closed or their activities suspended.

The Bashir regime continues to defy the indictment issued by the International Criminal Court regarding the war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of genocide committed in Darfur, where arbitrary shelling continues to target towns and villages and brutal attacks and massacres are committed against civilians by tribal militias loyal to the regime. The Sudanese authorities have likewise shirked their responsibility to ensure the security of peacekeeping forces, which continue to face armed attacks and even abduction. The failure of negotiations between the Sudanese government in Khartoum and the South Sudanese government in

Juba to settle a number of issues, including where to draw the borders and how to distribute oil profits, has led to continued armed clashes between the two countries, exacerbating the deteriorating humanitarian conditions and increasing numbers of displaced people in the border areas. Some 50,000 citizens of Southern descent living in Sudan are at risk of being stripped of their Sudanese citizenship, even if they do not wish to obtain the citizenship of South Sudan. Tensions between Khartoum and Juba have ignited armed conflict in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions between forces loyal to Khartoum and groups associated with Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-North), which is considered by the Bashir regime to be loyal to his opponents in South Sudan. These armed clashes exacerbated the humanitarian suffering among civilians, and extrajudicial killings became more widespread along with arbitrary shelling. Furthermore, the Sudanese authorities refused to allow supplies for humanitarian aid to reach those affected by the fighting.

### **Repression of Political Protests and Peaceful Assemblies**

On January 27, two people were killed and dozens injured as the result of excessive force and live ammunition used by the security forces to suppress protests in the city of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur. The protests had called for the fall of the regime and took place after the government dismissed the governor.<sup>1</sup>

On June 16, student demonstrations began at Khartoum University and then spread throughout the city and even reached other parts of the country, protesting the austerity measures which had been announced by the government and had resulted in hikes in food prices. Students at other universities and people living in the city joined the protests, which began calling for the fall of the Bashir regime. Police, security forces, and national intelligence forces dealt with these protests severely, using clubs, tear gas, and live ammunition against demonstrators. Some members of the security forces who took part in suppressing the demonstrations were dressed in civilian clothing, and thugs were employed in support of the government, attacking protestors with clubs and knives and causing further injuries. Dozens of students and youth activists were arrested and subjected to ill treatment while being held in detention; some were even punished with

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<sup>1</sup> Radio Dabanga, "Maqatal 2 we garh we i'ateqal al-a'asharat fi al-yom al-thaleth le-mothaharat neyala we edana wase'a le-estekhdam al-hokuma lel-qowwa al-mofreta," Jan. 27, 2012, <<http://www.radiodabanga.org/ar/node/24527>>.

lashes.<sup>2</sup> They also faced charges of undermining the public peace and inciting to riots under the broad provisions found in articles 69 and 77 of the criminal code.<sup>3</sup>

On August 13, the Sudanese security apparatus re-arrested activist Radwan Yaqoub Dawwod just as he was about to be released following a court ruling ordering his release and dropping the charges against him due to lack of evidence. Dawwod had been charged of participating in organizing student protests, of possessing a petrol canister in order to use it against security forces, of blocking the flow of traffic, and of threatening public safety.<sup>4</sup>

On July 31, the authorities violently dispersed a peaceful demonstration in Nyala in which students from the various schools in the city took part in protesting price hikes. This violent police response led to the deaths of twelve protestors and the injury of around 60 others; a number of demonstrators were also arrested.<sup>5</sup>

In early September, the security apparatus carried out an arrest campaign against members of the opposition and rights activists in Nyala following protests against the deteriorating economic situation in the city in August. As number of activists had called for continued protests in Nyala, the security and intelligence agencies arrested a number of youth from their homes without presenting clear charges against them; the youth were not allowed to appoint lawyers or to communicate with their relatives at the time. When one of these detainees, Yousef al-Sharani, was forcibly disappeared after he was

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<sup>2</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, "Next Target of Bashir's Historical Repression: Attacks on Peaceful Protests in Sudan," June 27, 2012, <<http://www.cihrs.org/?p=3098&lang=en>>.

<sup>3</sup> African Center for Justice and Peace Studies, "Al-Sudan: estekhdam al-qowwa al-mofreta le-tafreeq al-motathahreen," June 26, 2012, <<http://www.sudanile.com/2008-12-01-11-35-26/43610-2012-08-14-18-31-13.html>>.

<sup>4</sup> Sudanese Online, "E'adet i'ateqal radwan daoud.. we soltat jehaz al-amn," Aug. 16, 2012, <<http://goo.gl/imD7O>>; The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, "Sudan: Arrests an Activist after being Acquitted Due to Charges of Participating in Peaceful Protests," Aug. 16, 2012, <<http://www.anhri.net/en/?p=9183>>.

<sup>5</sup> The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, "Sudan: Live Bullets to Face School Students' March," Aug. 1, 2012, <<http://www.anhri.net/en/?p=9063>>; Radio Dabanga, "Akthar men 12 shaheed we al-jorha yefawaq al-60 we i'ateqal al-katheer men al-ashkhas fi tathahora hasheda ams bi-neyala," Aug. 1, 2012, <<http://www.radiodabanga.org/ar/node/33969>>; Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North, "SPLM-N Condemns the Brutal Suppression of Nyala Peaceful Demonstrations," Aug. 1, 2012, <<http://www.sudanjem.com/2012/08/splm-n-condemns-the-brutal-suppression-of-nyala-peaceful-demonstrations/>>; Amnesty International, "Sudan: Security Forces Must Stop Using Live Rounds Against Demonstrators," Aug. 2, 2012, <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/sudan-security-forces-must-stop-using-live-rounds-against-demonstrators-2012-08-02>>.

arrested on September 6<sup>6</sup> and it was feared that he may have been killed; no information was available regarding his fate as of the end of the year.

In mid-September, three people were killed and others injured during an attempt by demonstrators to break into the American embassy in Khartoum out of protest against the film “Innocence of Islam,” which was considered insulting to the Prophet Mohamed. After tear gas was used by soldiers in an attempt to disperse the protestors, a police car was used to chase them away, and several protestors were run over. Protestors had previously broken into the German embassy and attempted to break into the British embassy, as well.<sup>7</sup>

On October 7, rights advocates and students at the University of al-Fashir, the capital of the state of North Darfur, conducted an open-ended sit-in to demand an investigation into allegations that a female student had been raped by a member of the regime’s forces after he threatened her with a weapon. The authorities conducted no such investigation; rather, the security apparatus raided the university campus on October 10 and attacked the students, beating them, using tear gas against them, and arresting a number of those present.<sup>8</sup>

On October 9, anti-riot police forcibly dispersed a protest being held at the Port Sudan branch of the Red Sea University to protest the redo of the university elections which had originally been held in April. Four students sustained broken bones and other injuries, and two students were detained by anti-riot police. It is important to note that the April elections had resulted in the defeat of the two candidates of the group loyal to the Sudanese regime.<sup>9</sup>

In December, four students from Darfur were killed and two others disappeared after security forces used excessive force to disperse protests held on December 5 inside Al-Jazeera University. Students had planned the demonstration to protest the establishment of a registration fee for Darfurian

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<sup>6</sup> Al-Karama, “Al-Sudan: i’ateqal we ikhtefa’ al-taleb youssef al-sha’arani,” Sept. 8, 2012, <[http://ar.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4522:2012-09-28-11-57-59&catid=152:ak-com-sou&Itemid=55](http://ar.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4522:2012-09-28-11-57-59&catid=152:ak-com-sou&Itemid=55)>.

<sup>7</sup> Sadaneyat Electroniya Newspaper, “Fi mothahera didd al-film al-mosii’ al-mo’arada tonaded bi-qatl al-mohtajeen,” Sept. 16, 2012, <<http://www.sudanyiat.net/news.php?action=show&id=15997>>; Al Jazeera Arabic, “Qowa sudaneyya tonaded bi-qatl al-mohtajeen,” Sept. 16, 2012, <<http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/71597193-f49f-4e16-a34e-adff881fdb56>>.

<sup>8</sup> Al-Karama, “Sudan: Government Confronts Students with Tear Gas, Arrests and Torture,” Oct. 24, 2012, <[http://en.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1029:sudan-government-confronts-students-with-tear-gas-arrests-and-torture&catid=35:communiqu&Itemid=192](http://en.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1029:sudan-government-confronts-students-with-tear-gas-arrests-and-torture&catid=35:communiqu&Itemid=192)>.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

students and to demand the release of eleven students who had asked to be exempted from paying the fee. The use of force by police pushed students towards a nearby waterway and caused several to fall into it, at which point the six students disappeared; four of their bodies were later found in the waterway. It was noted that three of the bodies carried signs of beatings, which suggested that they had been physically assaulted before they drowned. The authorities refused to make public the medical reports regarding the reasons for their deaths. The police also used excessive force against the protests which broke out in Khartoum and elsewhere in condemnation of the killing of the students and demanding the dismissal of the government; additional protestors were injured and dozens arrested as a result.<sup>10</sup>

### **Restrictions on Political Opposition and Freedom of Expression**

The authorities continued to adopt policies which allowed them to influence and censor the press, including through new strategies focused on creating economic losses for newspapers rather than imposing forms of pre-publication censorship. In the past, night raids of newspapers had been frequently conducted by the security apparatus in order to review all material prepared for publication in order to remove or replace any content that displeased the authorities before the paper went to press. In 2012, the authorities increasingly turned to new tactics which consisted of increased confiscation of newspapers after they were printed, which caused the papers to incur massive financial losses. For instance, the security apparatus confiscated several issues of the newspaper *Al-Midan* after they were printed and before they were distributed; at times, these confiscations took place multiple times within a very limited period of time (the issues of February 21 and of March 13, 15, 17, and 18 were all confiscated).<sup>11</sup>

Instructions from the security apparatus to the administrative boards of newspapers ordering them to prevent certain journalists from publishing their writings became a near-daily occurrence. Papers which failed to comply with these orders were punished by having their issues confiscated

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<sup>10</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Sudan: Justice Needed for Student Deaths," Dec. 10, 2012, <<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/12/10/sudan-justice-needed-student-deaths>>; Amnesty International, "Sudan Must End Violent Repression of Student Protests," Dec. 12, 2012, <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/sudan-must-end-violent-repression-student-protests-2012-12-12>>.

<sup>11</sup> Committee to Protest Journalists, "In Sudan, a New Strategy to Censor the Press," April 5, 2012, <<http://cpj.org/blog/2012/04/in-sudan-a-new-strategy-to-censor-the-press.php>>.

or being prevented from publishing at all. Editors of some newspapers stated that they received threats that their papers would be shut down entirely if they allowed certain journalists to publish their writings.<sup>12</sup>

The journalists who were prevented from writing in this way included Heidar al-Makashifi of the newspaper *Al-Sahafa*, who was banned from publication on May 6 based on orders from the National Security apparatus,<sup>13</sup> as well as Abdullah al-Sheikh, a former editor; Abou Thur Ali al-Amin, a writer with the newspaper *Ra'i al-Sha'ab*, which had been shut down; Fayez al-Salik, Zohair al-Suraj, Amel Habani, Rasha A'oud, Ashraf Abdulaziz, al-Taher Abou Jouhara, Mohamed Mahmoud al-Sobhy, and Abdel Salam al-Qurai, all from the newspaper *Al-Jarida*; and Mujahid Abdullah and Essam Jaafar, both of the newspaper *Alwan*.<sup>14</sup>

The security apparatus also issued daily instructions to newspaper editors with lists of subjects about which it is prohibited to publish criticisms or commentaries.<sup>15</sup> Newspapers face trials which do not provide them with the most basic guarantees of a fair trial based on cases filed by the National Intelligence and Security apparatus with the "Press and Publications Court," which often rules against the newspapers and imposes severe fines, representing another major economic burden on newspapers. Journalists are also penalized with monetary fines or imprisonment if the fines are not paid. A number of journalists, writers, and editors of newspapers - who are considered responsible for the articles that are published - also face trial based on their expression of opinion. Among them is Mudehet Abdullah, the editor of the newspaper *Sahifet al-Midan*, and journalist Hussein Saad, who were charged by the legal department of the National Intelligence and Security apparatus of calling for violence and hatred against the state, stirring up strife between sects and ethnicities, supporting revolt, encouraging rebels, and detracting from the prestige of the state, after Saad had written an article in April on the anniversary of the death of Yousef Kuwa Mikky, one of the deceased leaders of the Nuba Mountains and among the most prominent leaders of the popular armed movement. Similarly, the Press and Publications Court in the city of Wad Madani, the capital of the state of al-Jazeera in central Sudan, ruled against Ameer Hussein, from the newspaper *Al-Jarida*, and imposed on him a fine of 3,000 pounds or four

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<sup>12</sup> Amnesty International, "Sudan Must End Clampdown On Media," May 15, 2012, <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/sudan-must-end-clampdown-media-amid-arrest-journalist-2012-05-15>>.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Committee to Protest Journalists, "Sudan's Press Under Siege," May 22, 2012, <<http://cpj.org/blog/2012/05/sudans-press-under-siege.php>>.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

months in prison if he did not pay. Othman Shanqar, editor of *Al-Jarida*, was detained by the police of the court until the fine was paid.<sup>16</sup>

Journalist and prominent writer Faisal Mohamed Saleh, the editor of columns in a number of local papers, was summoned every day for nearly two weeks in April and May and forced to wait to be questioned for the whole day without food or water; investigations with him never took place. When he refused to return again, the authorities arrested him twice on vague charges, such as “crimes against the state,” as well as previous charges of defamation for having published information in March 2011 regarding the rape of a female activist by the National Security apparatus.<sup>17</sup>

In early 2012, the security apparatus shut down the newspapers *Alwan* and *Ra'i al-Shaab*, which both have Islamist leanings. Reports stated that the closure of *Alwan* followed its reporting on issues which revealed its support for the Justice and Equality movement, one of the sects in Darfur which oppose the government. It was suggested that this was the reason for the closure of *Ra'i al-Shaab* as well, as officials within the National Security apparatus commented on this closure by saying that press freedoms do not mean subjecting national security to danger or supporting rebel movements.<sup>18</sup> The independent newspaper *Al-Tayyar* was also closed after being raided, the May 18 issue of the newspaper *Akher Lahtha* was confiscated, and the newspaper *Al-Midan* was prevented from publishing its issue on May 20.<sup>19</sup>

On September 3, the government confiscated issue no. 807 of the journal *Al-Ahram Al-Araby*, which is published in Egypt, due to an investigative piece dealing with slave trading between Sudan and Libya and the human

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<sup>16</sup> Journalists for Human Rights, “Annual Report on the Monitoring and Documentation of the Case and Situation of Freedom of the Press and Expression in Sudan” (Arabic), May 2-3, 2013,

<[http://www.sudanile.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=53420:2013-05-03-18-56-21&catid=57:2008-12-01-11-34-43&Itemid=69](http://www.sudanile.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53420:2013-05-03-18-56-21&catid=57:2008-12-01-11-34-43&Itemid=69)>; Al-Sharq Newspaper Online, “Al-Sudan: mohakmet sahafeyeen mo'aradeen be-tohmet al-tahreed dedd al-dawla,” Aug. 28, 2012, <<http://www.alsharq.net.sa/2012/08/29/462027>>.

<sup>17</sup> Amnesty International, “Sudan Must End Clampdown on Media.”

<sup>18</sup> Sudan Tribune, “Sudan Shuts Pro-Opposition Newspaper,” Jan. 3, 2012, <<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article41164>>; Sudan Tribune, “Sudan Closes Alwan Newspaper Over Statements Glorifying JEM Former Leader,” Jan. 14, 2012, <<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article41290>>.

<sup>19</sup> The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms, “Al-sultat al-sudaneyya tosabeq al-zaman we tawasol qama'aha le-horeyyet al-ra'ie we al-ta'beer we tomna' sodoor al-a'adad 2515 men saheefet al-midan,” May 22, 2012, <[http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=187%3A-----2515----&format=pdf&option=com\\_content&Itemid=136](http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=187%3A-----2515----&format=pdf&option=com_content&Itemid=136)>.

trafficking networks in Khartoum. The same journal was confiscated again on September 8 for the same reasons.<sup>20</sup>

A number of journalists and members of the political opposition were arrested due to their anti-government positions or opinions. Following the protests which broke out in June, the National Security and Intelligence apparatus raided a number of homes and offices of well-known activists to arbitrarily arrest them. On June 19, 40 activists belonging to various peaceful youth movements were arrested from the headquarters of Al-Haq, a political opposition party; they were released the following day. Similarly, Mohamed Boushi Alim and Sadiq Tawwor, the leaders of the Baath Party, were arrested from their homes on the mornings of June 20 and 23, as were three members of the opposition Umma Party on June 24, including Adam Jarir, a member of the political bureau of the party. The security forces further ordered that all of the party's activities in Khartoum be ceased.<sup>21</sup> On June 23, a number of opposition leaders were arrested from their homes, including Mohamed Farid Byoumi of the Sudanese Conference Party, Sataa al-Haj of the Nasry Party, and Mohamed Deya' ad-Dein of the Baath Party.<sup>22</sup>

On June 16, the National Intelligence and Security apparatus raided the office of the Agence France-Presse news agency (AFP) in Khartoum and arrested journalist Talal Saad, who works with AFP, and a correspondent with the local daily paper *Al-Tayyar*. The security apparatus threatened AFP that it would break the computer in the office if they did not erase the photographs which had been taken by Saad, who remained in detention for 24 hours before being released.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Sudan Today Online, "Al-sudan tosader majalet al-ahram we tamna' tawzea'ha fi al-khartoum," Sept. 5, 2012, <<http://www.sudantodayonline.com/news.php?action=show&id=7063>>; The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, "ANHRI Condemns the Confiscation of Al-Ahram Al-Arabi Magazine due to a Investigative Report on Human Trafficking Gangs," Sept. 5, 2012, <<http://www.anhri.net/en/?p=9339>>; The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, "Al-sudan: al-shabaka al-a'arabeyya tastanker mossadaret al-sultat al-sudaneyya le-magalet al-ahram al-a'arbi lel-marra al-thaneyya," Sept. 8, 2012, <<http://www.anhri.net/?p=58810>>.

<sup>21</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, "Next Target of Bashir's Historical Repression: Attacks on Peaceful Protests in Sudan."

<sup>22</sup> African Center for Justice and Peace Studies, "Al-estekhdam al-mofret lel-qowwa we al-e'ateqalet al-ta'sufeyya al-gama'iyya we sou' al-mo'amala we al-ta'atheeb le-qama'a al-ehtegagat al-sha'abeyya," Aug. 14, 2012, <<http://www.alrakoba.net/news-action-show-id-68204.htm>>; The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, "Al-sudan: estkhdam al-qowwa al-mofreta le-tafreget al-motathahereen," June 26, 2012, <<http://www.anhri.net/?p=55751>>.

<sup>23</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists, "Sudan Must End Crackdown on Press Covering Protests," July 3, 2012, <<http://cpj.org/2012/07/sudan-must-end-crackdown-on-journalists-covering-p.php>>.

On June 22, activist Osama Mohamed was forcibly disappeared and held by the National Intelligence and Security apparatus in an unknown location after he spoke about the importance of participating in protests in Khartoum during an interview with Al-Jazeera English.<sup>24</sup>

On June 23, Simon Martili, a resident correspondent for AFP, was arrested as he was speaking with student protestors and taking pictures outside of their university; he was held for 12 hours. Videographer and blogger Naglaa Sayyed Ahmed was summoned for questioning on June 20, 21, and 24 in order to prevent him from covering the protests as well.<sup>25</sup>

On June 26, the authorities deported Egyptian journalist Salma al-Wardani, a correspondent with Bloomberg, after she had been detained without charge following her coverage of anti-government protests on June 21. On June 26, al-Wardani went to the Press Center to renew her press credentials, yet she was informed that an order for her immediate deportation had been issued; she was not given any time to settle her personal affairs before being deported.<sup>26</sup>

Also on June 26, the National Intelligence and Security apparatus raided the home of journalist Maha al-Sanoussi and confiscated her personal computer. The following day, she was called by the security apparatus for questioning and interrogated for 11 hours regarding her coverage of the protests. Al-Sanoussi had been arrested previously with Salma al-Wardani for several hours on June 21.<sup>27</sup>

On July 4, the security apparatus arrested Egyptian journalist Shaimaa Adel, a correspondent with the newspaper *al-Watan*, as she was covering the protests; she was released in mid-July after the Egyptian authorities intervened on her behalf.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, "Next Target of Bashir's Historical Repression: Attacks on Peaceful Protests in Sudan."

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid; Committee to Protect Journalists, "Sudan Must End Crackdown on Press Covering Protests."

<sup>27</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, "Next Target of Bashir's Historical Repression: Attacks on Peaceful Protests in Sudan"; Committee to Protect Journalists, "Sudan Must End Crackdown on Press Covering Protests."

<sup>28</sup> The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms, "Al-sahateyya shaimaa' a'adel la tazal mohtageza we al-markaz al-dawli le-da'am al-hoqooq we al-horreyat yotolab al-sultat al-masreyya be-sora'et e'adetha ela ard al-waran al-khamees," July 12, 2012, <[http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=210%3A2012-07-12-14-03-08&format=pdf&option=com\\_content&Itemid=136](http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=210%3A2012-07-12-14-03-08&format=pdf&option=com_content&Itemid=136)>; The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms, "Al-markaz al-dawli le-da'am al-hoqooq we al-hurreyat yotolab al-sultat al-sudaneyya be-wada'a had le-modayakat al-sahafeyyat al-masreyyat," July 5, 2012, <[http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=203:2012-](http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=203:2012-)

On December 25, the security authorities arrested Khaled Ahmed, a journalist with the newspaper *Al-Soudani*, and confiscated his camera and deleted all of the pictures on it as he was covering a student protest at Khartoum. Ahmed was interrogated before being released.<sup>29</sup> On December 31, the security forces arrested journalists Faisal Mohamed Saleh and Mohamed Amin and attacked and beat Abdelbaqi al-A'oud, a correspondent with the *Al-Horra* channel, as he was covering a gathering which had taken place in front of the Human Rights Commission to submit a memorandum of protest against an arbitrary decision to close the Sudanese Studies Center;<sup>30</sup> he was later released.<sup>31</sup>

The authorities continued to block and hack websites, as in June when they blocked the Arabic news website *Hureyyat* due to its coverage of the anti-government protests along with two other news websites, namely *Sudanese Online* and *Al-Rakoba*.<sup>32</sup> On September 16, *YouTube* was blocked without reasons for this decision being made public.<sup>33</sup>

On October 10, the website *Itha'at Kadentikar*, which uses the Nubian language, was hacked, according to the administrators of the webpage. It is well-known that the government uses an "electronic jihad unit," a body connected with security networks specialized in hacking. Previously, this unit had targeted a number of opposition websites, including *Al-Rakoba*, *Sudanial*, and *Sudanese Online* and blocked other news websites on Sudan.<sup>34</sup>

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07-05-05-29-32&catid=44:sudan&Itemid=136>; Egypt Independent, "Egypt Journalist Freed in Sudan, Returns Home," July 16, 2012, <<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/egypt-journalist-freed-sudan-returns-home>>.

<sup>29</sup> Journalists for Human Rights, "Fe-lenetahhed le-waqf al'ae'teda' a'ala hurriyat al-sahafa we al-sahafeyeen," Dec. 28, 2012, <<http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=46727>>.

<sup>30</sup> Sudanese Journalists Network, "Shabaket al-sahafiyeen todayan al-a'atedaa' a'ala morasel kanat al-hurra abd al-baqi al'awdd," Jan. 1, 2012, <<http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=91894>>.

<sup>31</sup> Radio Dabanga, "Jehaz al-amn ye'ataqel al-sahafeyeen faisal mohamed saleh we mohamed amin w yedrab morasel al-hurra," Dec. 31, 2012, <<http://www.radiodabanga.org/ar/node/40539>>.

<sup>32</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists, "Sudan Must End Crackdown on Press Covering Protests."

<sup>33</sup> The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, "Sudan: ANHRI Condemns the Blocking of 'YouTube' by the Sudanese Authorities," Sept. 18, 2012, <<http://www.anhri.net/en/?p=9561>>.

<sup>34</sup> Journalists for Human Rights, "Al-reqaba we tahkeer we hagb al-mawaqa'a al-elaktroniyya amnenyan gareema gadeeda ded hurriyat al-sahafa," Oct. 10, 2012, <<http://goo.gl/TFoJy>>.

## Torture and Ill-Treatment of Prisoners

Detainees held by the National Intelligence and Security apparatus are often subjected to ill-treatment and torture, and such practices were increasingly used against students detained in the context of protests calling for democracy.<sup>35</sup> Testimonies of a number of detainees who were released confirmed that they had been subjected to torture,<sup>36</sup> including through beatings with clubs and water hoses, and the heads, faces, and eyebrows of male detainees were shaved before they were released.

On October 29, journalist Samia Handousa was abducted by persons wearing civilian clothes who forced her into a car and covered her head with a black bag. She was detained in an unknown location for five days, during which she was tortured and terrorized. Handousa had previously received a call on her phone on October 27 summoning her to the National Intelligence and Security apparatus in Khartoum, at which point she said that she would not present herself without being officially summoned. During the period of her detention, her phone was confiscated and she was not able to communicate with the outside world. She was forced to sit on her knees with her face to the wall in a room where a mentally unstable person was also being held; signs of torture were visible on his body. From her place of detention, Handousa was able to hear the screams of other people who were apparently being tortured. Two hours after she was detained, she was brought to the office of the interrogator, who showed Handousa a file containing a number of articles and accused her of opposing the regime and insulting the Sudanese president. He then asked her about her name and tribe, and when she informed him that she is from Darfur, he cursed her with racist obscenities. She was forced to take off her outer garment, or *abeyya*, and her hair was cut. She was then subjected to lashes with rough water hoses, hit, and kicked. An iron was used on various parts of her body, and those present threatened to kill her son in front of her. After five days in detention, Handousa was left on the side of a road far from Khartoum.<sup>37</sup>

It is important to note that Sudan continues to implement a number of degrading physical punishments despite their being banned under the

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<sup>35</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Sudan: Rights Record Deteriorates with New Conflicts," Jan. 22, 2012, <<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/01/22/sudan-rights-record-deteriorates-new-conflicts>>.

<sup>36</sup> African Center for Justice and Peace Studies, "Al-sudan: estkhdam al-qowwa al-mofretta le-tafreget al-moathahereen."

<sup>37</sup> Al-Karama, "Al-sudan: al-karama totalab bel-tahqiq fi khatf we ta'theeb al-saheefa samia handoosa a'ala yad al-amn al-sudani," Nov. 8, 2012, <[http://ar.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4543:2012-11-08-12-42-50&catid=152:ak-com-sou&Itemid=55](http://ar.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4543:2012-11-08-12-42-50&catid=152:ak-com-sou&Itemid=55)>.

International Convention against Torture, including lashes and stoning. On April 22, for example, a court sentenced Intisar Sharif Abdullah, who had not yet turned 18, to death by stoning after only one hearing. In issuing this sentence, the court relied only on a confession by Abdullah which had been extracted under torture, even though the man with whom she was accused of committing adultery denied the charges and was released.<sup>38</sup> Women and girls are often arrested and subjected to lashes if they commit acts considered by the authorities to be “disgraceful” or to “undermine public morals” under article 152 of the penal code.<sup>39</sup>

## **Continued Repression of Human Rights Defenders**

In June, the authorities expelled four foreign humanitarian aid organizations working in eastern Sudan from the country under the pretext that they had failed in the implementation of their projects. The organizations are the Swedish organization Protect the Children, the Irish organization Goal, a Japanese group for humanitarian work, and another humanitarian organization from Ireland. One week before, the Spanish branch of Doctors Without Borders had been prevented from transporting medical equipment to Darfur.<sup>40</sup>

On July 15, the security apparatus ordered the Khatim Adlan Center to cancel a conference regarding the economic crisis in Sudan for security reasons. The center was then notified that it would be required to obtain prior security authorization before undertaking any further activities.<sup>41</sup>

Following the protests which were initiated by students at Khartoum University on June 16, the security apparatus arrested Dr. Kamel Idris, vice president of the Sudanese Group for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms, from in front of his home in Khartoum on June 20.<sup>42</sup> On July 1, Mai Shiteh, an activist with the Girifna movement, was arrested from her home in Om Durman; she was threatened with a pistol while being interrogated. Along

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<sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Ban Death by Stoning,” May 31, 2012, <<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/05/31/sudan-ban-death-stoning>>.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Daily Al-Bayan, “Al-sudan yatrodd 4 monathamam ensaneyya agnabeyya men aradyh,” June 2, 2012, <<http://www.albayan.ae/one-world/arabs/2012-06-02-1.1661534>>.

<sup>41</sup> African Center for Justice and Peace Studies, “Report on the State of Human Rights in Sudan” (Arabic), June-July 2012, <[http://www.sudanile.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=46037:-2012&catid=57:2008-12-01-11-34-43&Itemid=69](http://www.sudanile.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46037:-2012&catid=57:2008-12-01-11-34-43&Itemid=69)>.

<sup>42</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists, “Al-sudan: estkhdam al-qowwa al-mofretta le-tafreget al-motathahereen.”

with several others, she announced a hunger strike in protest of the fact that health and sanitary products were not provided. Before her release on August 11, Shiteh was forced to sign a document stating that she would renounce her activism and stop submitting reports to international organizations regarding human rights violations committed by the government.<sup>43</sup>

On July 8, the authorities prevented lawyer and human rights defender Kamal Omar from traveling to Doha, where he was scheduled to participate in a program regarding the protests in Sudan which was to be broadcast on the Al-Jazeera channel.<sup>44</sup>

On July 19, the authorities arrested lawyer and human rights defender Sayyed Ahmed Madwa and detained him in an unknown location without bringing charges against him. He had visited and provided legal assistance to detainees in the Sinja, Rasirs, and Sinar prisons who had been arrested in the context of the protests which had taken place earlier the same month.<sup>45</sup>

During the last week of June, Bikry al-Ajami, an activist with the Girifna movement, and Faisal Shabo, one of the founders and directors of the Sima Organization for Children's Rights, were arrested without any charges being brought against them until August 16, when they were released. During their detention, the two activists were subjected to torture, causing Shabo to sustain a severe hemorrhage and a heart attack for which he had to be hospitalized. Family visits to the activists were severely restricted, and al-Ajami was transferred to Port Sudan, 100 miles from his family's place of residence, making visiting him much more difficult.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Frontline Defenders, "Sudan – Update: Release of Human Rights Defender Ms Mai Shutta and Continued Arbitrary Detention of Mr. Bakry Al-Ajami and Mr. Faisal Shabu," Aug. 15, 2012, <<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/19530>>.

<sup>44</sup> The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms, "Al-amn al-sudany ya'ataqel al-madafa'e a'an hoqooq al-ensan al-mohami kamal amr le-mana'a men al-musharaka be-barnameg al-etegah al-mo'akes," July 11, 2011, <[http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=209%3A2012-07-11-06-37-57&format=pdf&option=com\\_content&Itemid=136](http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=209%3A2012-07-11-06-37-57&format=pdf&option=com_content&Itemid=136)>.

<sup>45</sup> The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms, "Al-markaz al-dawly le-da'am al-hoqooq we al'hurriyat yotalab al-sultat al-sudaneyya be-etlaq serah al-nashet al-hoqooqi al-mohami sayed ahmed madawy," July 24, 2012, <[http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=217%3A2012-07-24-07-07-29&format=pdf&option=com\\_content&Itemid=136](http://www.icsrf.org/index.php?view=article&catid=44%3Asudan&id=217%3A2012-07-24-07-07-29&format=pdf&option=com_content&Itemid=136)>.

<sup>46</sup> Frontline Defenders, "Sudan – Update: Release of Human Rights Defender Ms Mai Shutta and Continued Arbitrary Detention of Mr. Bakry Al-Ajami and Mr. Faisal Shabu"; Frontline Defenders, "Sudan: Update – Release of Human Rights Defenders Mr. Faisal Shabu and Mr. Bakry Al-Ajami," Aug. 27, 2012, <<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/19611>>; Frontline Defenders, "Bakry Al-Ajami," <<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/BakryAl-Ajami>>; Frontline Defenders, "Faisal Shabu," <<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/FaisalShabu>>.

Beginning in August, it became clear that the authorities were seeking to systematically repress civil society organizations, as smear campaigns aiming to damage the reputations of these organizations escalated. At the same time, the Humanitarian Aid Commission summoned representatives of the organizations registered with it and asked them to bring their affairs into compliance with the 2006 Law on Voluntary Work, despite the fact that these organizations had been operating according to the law. In November, the commission carried out surprise inspections of some of these organizations, investigated them with the aim of harassing them, and threatened to shut down their activities. The Ministry of Culture and Information also harassed the cultural organizations registered with it by obstructing the procedures for renewing licenses in preparation for closing them or freezing their activities. In December, the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Humanitarian Aid Commission issued decisions to shut down or suspend a number of organizations in Khartoum and other states. When a delegation representing these organizations was heading to the National Human Rights Commission to submit a complaint regarding the matter on December 30, the police stopped the delegation on their way and prevented it from submitting the complaint. The police further attacked some of the media personnel present at the scene, beating and cursing them.<sup>47</sup>

On December 18, the activities of the Arry Organization for Human Rights were suspended and six of its employees arrested on charges of receiving foreign funds, working against the interests of the state, and tarnishing Sudan's image abroad. The Arry Organization works to document abuses committed in the Nuba Mountains and in the Blue Nile region. On December 24, the activities of the Sudanese Studies Center were also frozen for a period of one year based on allegations that its activities represented a threat to national security and that the center had received foreign funds. The executive director of the center, Abdullah Aboul Reish, was detained for a time before being released. On December 26, the registration of the Khatem Adly Center for Enlightenment and Human Development was cancelled and it was removed from the list of voluntary organizations licensed to work in Sudan. Its assets were confiscated, including items belonging to employees at the center.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Advocating Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Publication Campaign and the Confederation of Sudanese Civil Society Organizaitons, "Bayan hawl al-waqfa al-ehtegageyya amam al-qasr al-gomhoury," Jan. 7, 2013, <<http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=92905>>.

<sup>48</sup> Sudan Human Rights Network, "The Government of Sudan Targets Sudanese Civil Society Organizations," Jan. 9, 2013, <<http://www.sudanhumanrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Press-Release..01092013.pdf>>; Hurriyat Newspaper, "Enteqadat le-

Meanwhile, the first hearing of the trial of Sudanese activist Jalila Khamees took place on December 18; Jalila had played a prominent role in providing humanitarian aid to displaced persons in South Kordofan and in uncovering the deteriorating situation of areas affected by the conflict in Kordofan. Jalila faced the possibility of being sentenced to death if convicted, as the charges officially brought against her on December 13 included “undermining the constitutional order” and “stirring up a war against the state,” along with lesser charges such as “spreading false information” and “inciting to hatred and sectarian strife.” The security apparatus had arrested Jalila in March 2012, and she remained in solitary confinement for three months until she was transferred to the Om Durman prison in Khartoum.<sup>49</sup>

### **Continued Armed Conflict and Its Repercussions on the State of Human Rights in Sudan**

Despite the secession of South Sudan, agreements between the authorities in Juba and those in Khartoum faltered regarding a number of key issues, chief among them how to deal with the disputed border region of Abyei and how to divide oil profits. These unresolved issues led to increased acts of hostility between the two countries.<sup>50</sup> Khartoum attempted to confiscate oil from South Sudan which was being transported across its territory, leading the government in South Sudan to reduce its oil production and completely stop exporting it through Sudan. South Sudan also moved troops to take control of the sources of oil in the disputed area of Higlig, leading to the outbreak of military clashes between the two parties and prompting Sudan to bomb refugee encampments and cities in South Sudan.<sup>51</sup>

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eghlaq marakez thakafeyya bel-sudan,” Jan. 6, 2013, <<http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=92666>>; Hurriyat Newspaper, “Mawasala lel-hagma a’ala al-mogtama’ a al-madani: eghlaq markez al-khatem a’adlan we mosadaret montalakatoh,” Jan. 1, 2013, <<http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=91940>>.

<sup>49</sup> Amnesty International, “Sudanese Teacher Faces the Death Penalty,” Dec. 14, 2012, <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/sudanese-teacher-faces-death-penalty-2012-12-14>>.

<sup>50</sup> Amnesty International, “One Year On: Failure of Leadership in Sudan and South Sudan has led to Human Rights Crisis,” July 8, 2012, <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/one-year-failure-leadership-sudan-and-south-sudan-has-led-human-rights-crisis-2012-07-08>>.

<sup>51</sup> International Crisis Group, “Mana’ a endela’ a harb wase’ a el-netaq bayn al-sudan we ganoun al-sudan,” April 2012, <<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/africa/horn-of-africa/sudan/op-eds/hoogendoorn-preventing-large-scale-war-between-sudans.aspx>>.

Over 10,000 people from the disputed Abyei area remained displaced in South Sudan, as the option of returning to their homes was considered to be highly dangerous.<sup>52</sup>

Armed clashes between Sudanese forces and armed groups belonging to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North, which is considered to be loyal to and supported by the government in Juba, continued to affect the Kordofan and Blue Nile regions as well.<sup>53</sup>

SPLM-North claims that the Sudanese government started to implement plans to assassinate its leaders in the state of South Kordofan and called the security authorities responsible for the assassination of Kheirullah Ismail, head of SPLM-North in Dabib in South Kordofan, who was killed in a market on March 15.<sup>54</sup>

This conflict led tens of thousands of people to flee to camps for displaced persons, where their only hope for survival is the arrival of trucks bringing humanitarian aid. Despite the fact that the authorities in Khartoum and the “rebels” signed two memorandums of understanding regarding allowing such aid to be delivered unhindered, humanitarian aid is unable to reach those who need it most.<sup>55</sup> The number of those who have fled the killing to the border of South Sudan since the beginning of the armed conflict in September 2011 is estimated to be some 169,000 people. These displaced persons face severe difficulties in obtaining food, water, and shelter, and their suffering is exacerbated by the imposition of a ban by the Sudanese government on all forms of trade in all border areas. This has led to a severe shortage of food among those residing in South Kordofan, particularly in the areas under the control of the SPLM-North. This represents a blatant violation of Sudan's obligation to protect its citizens.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Amnesty International, “One Year On: Failure of Leadership in Sudan and South Sudan has led to Human Rights Crisis.”

<sup>53</sup> International Crisis Group, “Mana'a endela'a harb wase'a el-netaq bayn al-sudan we ganoun al-sudan.”

<sup>54</sup> Hurriyal, “Al-haraka al-sha'abeyya todayen eghteyal al-shaheed khair allah ismail,” Mar. 19, 2012, <<http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=57554>>.

<sup>55</sup> International Crisis Group, “Al-sudan we tasyees al-eghatha: ma'asaa bala nehaya,” Oct. 2012, <<http://www.crisisgroup.org/ar/Regions%20Countries/Africa/Horn%20of%20Africa/Sudan/oped/sudan-e-j-hogendoorn-sudan-politicising-aid.aspx>>.

<sup>56</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, “Ongoing Crackdown on Peaceful Demonstrators, Human Rights Defenders and Journalists: Oral Intervention at the United Nations Human Rights Council,” Sept. 2012, <<http://www.cihrs.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Ongoing-crackdown-on-peaceful-demonstrators-Human-Rights-defenders-and-journalists.pdf>>.

In May, the United Nations Security Council announced its support for the recommendation presented by the African Union, the League of Arab States, and the United Nations to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to displaced persons by independent organizations. At the end of June, the Sudanese government announced its official acceptance of this recommendation, yet it has imposed arbitrary conditions and failed to allow the delivery of such aid, which emptied its acceptance of the recommendation of its meaning.<sup>57</sup>

Camps for displaced persons in South Sudan have been subjected to aerial bombings by Sudanese planes.<sup>58</sup> Such arbitrary bombings have led to the death, disfigurement, and injury of dozens of civilians and inflicted major damage on their property, including markets, homes, schools, and offices of aid organizations.<sup>59</sup> Internationally banned weapons such as cluster bombs have been found in civilian areas which were bombed by Sudanese forces.<sup>60</sup>

Since September 2011, the Sudanese authorities have banned journalists, independent monitors, and humanitarian organizations from entering the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states. With the expiration of the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping Force in the region, it has become impossible to document the effects of the continued fighting on civilians in the two states.<sup>61</sup>

With regards to the amended system of Sudanese citizenship following the independence of South Sudan, the Sudanese government now considers all Sudanese of southern origin to be citizens of South Sudan and that individuals automatically lose their Sudanese citizenship when they obtain the citizenship of South Sudan, “whether de jure or de facto.” The law does not indicate how individuals may be considered to have obtained Sudanese citizenship “de facto.” In practice, implementation of this system threatens to strip between 50,000 and 70,000 people of their Sudanese citizenship, even if they do not seek to obtain citizenship in South Sudan and do not have any connection to or interests in South Sudan.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Amnesty International, “One Year On: Failure of Leadership in Sudan and South Sudan has led to Human Rights Crisis.”

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, “Ongoing Crackdown on Peaceful Demonstrators, Human Rights Defenders and Journalists: Oral Intervention at the United Nations Human Rights Council.”

<sup>61</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Blue Nile Civilians Describe Attacks, Abuses,” Apr. 23, 2012, <<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/04/23/sudan-blue-nile-civilians-describe-attacks-abuses>>.

<sup>62</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Don’t Strip Citizenship Arbitrarily,” Mar. 2, 2012, <<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/03/02/sudan-don-t-strip-citizenship-arbitrarily>>.

The Sudanese government further continued to refuse to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, which between 2007 and 2009 issued arrest warrants for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, Minister of State for the Interior Minister Ahmed Haroun, who was the security official responsible for Darfur at the time, and Ali Kushayb, the leader of the Janjawid militias, based on charges of having committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide during the war in Darfur. Nor has Sudan taken steps towards implementing the recommendations issued by the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur in 2009 regarding judicial reformation.<sup>63</sup>

In early March 2012, the pre-trial chamber of the International Criminal Court issued a fourth arrest warrant for the current minister of defense, Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, who had worked during the war in Darfur in 2003 and 2004 as the minister for the interior, and thus as the direct superior of Minister of State for the Interior Ahmed Haroun. A report issued by the attorney general of the International Criminal Court in mid-June stated that the government continued to fail to uphold its responsibility to cooperate with the court by turning in the wanted persons. The report pointed out that these fugitives of justice continued to use the apparatuses of the state to commit further crimes, referring in this context to the fact that Haroun, who had become the governor of the state of South Kordofan, has incited the government forces fighting opposition militias not to return with prisoners of war, “as we have no place for them,” according to Haroun. The attorney general of the International Criminal Court further pointed out that this kind of rhetoric was previously used by Bashir himself in order to incite government forces in Darfur not to take prisoners of war and to leave the land completely scorched.<sup>64</sup>

In light of the continued impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of crimes in Darfur, such violations continued into their eighth year. At the beginning of 2012, government bombings of eastern Darfur began anew, leaving a number of civilians dead and destroying several villages.<sup>65</sup> In August, a militia attacked the Kisab camp for internally displaced persons, looting homes and markets and killing at least 21 people and forcing all of the

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<sup>63</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Rights Record Deteriorates with New Conflicts.”

<sup>64</sup> International Criminal Court, “Fifteenth Report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the UN Security Council Pursuant to UNSCR 1593,” 2005, <<http://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/D1794227-4B8B-4316-AF04-23DAEB110743/0/FifteenthReportToTheUNSConDarfurEng.pdf>>.

<sup>65</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Rights Record Deteriorates with new conflicts.”

camp's residents – some 25,000 people – to flee into the wilderness, where they struggled to survive without any form of shelter.<sup>66</sup>

On November 2, a large number of armed men from the al-Berti tribe who belong to the popular defense forces – local militias used by the Sudanese government in parallel to army forces in conflict areas in the country – attacked the town of Sijili, which lies 40 kilometers east of the city of al-Fashir, the capital of the state of North Darfur, and is inhabited by members of the al-Zaghawa tribe. Witnesses stated that the attackers entered the town and opened fire on civilians, looting and setting fire to homes and shops. The attack led to the deaths of 13 civilians, including two infants; a number of others were wounded or abducted. The authorities prevented members of the joint UN-AU Peacekeeping Forces from visiting the area until November 6.<sup>67</sup>

The joint peacekeeping forces (UNAMID) were attacked by armed groups on various occasions, most recently on October 23, in order to prevent the UNAMID forces from investigating acts of violence committed in the Hishabeh region in North Darfur, where more than 70 civilians were killed due to aerial bombings and clashes between government forces and armed Darfurian factions between September 25 and 27.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, “Ongoing Crackdown on Peaceful Demonstrators, Human Rights Defenders and Journalists: Oral Intervention at the United Nations Human Rights Council”; Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, “25 alf nazeh men a’amal o’nf gadeeda fi darfur,” Aug. 11, 2012,

<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=12310&article=690371>.

<sup>67</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: North Darfur Attack Kills 13 Civilians,” Nov. 7, 2012, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/11/07/sudan-north-darfur-attack-kills-13-civilians>.

<sup>68</sup> Radio Dabanga, “Amrika tahthor al-hokuma we totalab be-waqf al-qasf al-gawwy we taqool an akthar men 70 madaneyan qotelou fi heshaba,” Oct. 6, 2012, <http://www.radiodabanga.org/ar/node/36650>; Hurriyat, “Al-youmaneed: aslehma motatowera estokhdamat fi al-hogoom a’alayhom le-mana’a al-tahqeeq fi magzaret heshaba,” Oct. 23, 2012, <http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=83327>; United Nations News Center, “UN Human Rights Office Calls on Sudan to Investigate Attack on Convoy that Killed Peacekeeper,” Oct. 19, 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43331&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=&Kw1=sudan&Kw2=&Kw3=#.UPLvD-Q3u-k>.