

URGENT ACTION

TEN CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISTS HARASSED BY NISS

Staff members, trainers, a volunteer and visitors of the training centre TRACKS for Training and Human Development had to report daily to the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) office in Khartoum, Sudan between 3 March and 13 March.

The NISS raided TRACKS' office on 29 February and confiscated nine mobile phones, and five laptops, as well as publications, flip charts and other office documents. The NISS also confiscated the passports of those in the office at the time and two vehicles and detained, for six hours, the Director of TRACKS, **Khalafalla Mukhtar**, a TRACKS employee **Shazali Ibrahim El Shiekh** and a visitor **Mustafa Adam**, who is the director of Al Zarqaa, a civil society organization.

TRACKS' employees Khalafalla Mukhtar, Shazali Ibrahim El Shiekh and **Khuzaini Elhadi Rajab**, TRACKS trainers **Midhat Hamdan**, and **Alhassan Kheiri** and visitors Mustafa Adam, **Adam Ali** and **Al Waleed Mohamed Ahmed** were summoned to the NISS office on 3 March, and TRACKS employee **Arwa Elrabie** was summoned around 10 to 12 March. While at the NISS office, they reported that they were verbally abused, threatened and ill-treated by NISS agents including being denied food.

The nine individuals had to report every morning to the NISS office in Khartoum between 3 and 13 March. While at the NISS office, the nine were made to sit facing the wall in the NISS's car park and were released between 11pm and midnight. They were occasionally questioned about the activities of TRACKS and its links to Al Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development (KACE). KACE was arbitrarily shut down by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in 2012. In March 2013 some of its former staff established TRACKS.

The NISS also summoned **Raye Imany Leyla**, a student from Cameroon who is volunteering with TRACKS on 12 March. She was questioned for two days and her passport confiscated. Although the questioning of all ten ended on 13 March, the NISS told TRACKS staff, visitors, trainers and volunteers that they will be called in the coming days to report to their office. The NISS harassment is disrupting the work and activities of TRACKS.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Urging the Sudanese authorities to immediately inform Khalafalla Mukhtar, Khuzaini Elhadi Rajab, Shazali Ibrahim El-Shiekh, Arwa Elrabie, Midhat Hamdan, Alhassan Kheiri, Mustafa Adam, Adam Ali, Al Waleed Mohamed Ahmed and Raye Imany Leyla of the reasons for their arrest and restrictions on their freedom of movement;
- Urging them to lift any restrictions on their human rights including the right to personal liberty, freedom of association and assembly, and freedom of movement, and ensure these rights are fully respected, protected and fulfilled;
- Reminding them of their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Sudan is a state party, to respect, protect and fulfill the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 APRIL 2016 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Minister for Justice

Awad Al Hassan Alnour
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan

Minister of Interior

Ismat Abdul-Rahman Zain Al-Abdin
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR MOHAMMED ABDALLA ALI ELTOM
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row St James's SW1A 1DD, 020 7839 8080, info@sudan-embassy.co.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRACKS for Training and Human Development provides training on a range of themes including IT, capacity building and human rights training for the private sector and national organizations. It is registered with the National Training Bureau, a division of the Ministry of Labour.

NISS raided the TRACKS office in Khartoum on 26 March 2015 and interrupted a workshop on social responsibility. The NISS agents confiscated all laptops in the premises and detained Khalafalla Mukhtar, Director of TRACKS, for one day and Adil Bakheit for about a month before releasing them on bail, after charging each of them with seven offences, two of which carry the death penalty. The NISS Prosecution Chamber carried out investigations into TRACKS' activities. The confiscated equipment was sent to the criminal laboratories for forensic investigation. After 11 months, the NISS Prosecutor's Chamber dropped the charges against the TRACKS director, and returned the confiscated equipment on 24 February.

Amnesty International has continued to document the intensified crackdown on activities of civil society organizations and human rights defenders in Sudan as well as the NISS's new tactic of summoning individuals to their offices daily to curtail their freedom of movement.

Last year, the NISS shut down three civil society organizations: Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Cultural Centre, the National Civic Forum and the Sudanese Writers' Union. In June 2015, the Sudanese Consumer Protection Society was shut down and two of its members were arrested and interrogated by the NISS. They were released without charge after seven days. The Confederation of Sudanese Civil Society Organizations reported in July that, since the beginning of 2015, more than 40 registered organizations had failed to renew their licences due to cumbersome legal procedures or obstruction by the government's regulatory body, the Humanitarian Aid Commission.

The NISS maintains broad powers of arrest and detention under the National Security Act 2010, which allows suspects to be detained for up to four-and-a-half months without judicial review. NISS officials often use these powers to arbitrarily arrest and detain individuals, and to subject them to torture and ill-treatment. Under the same Act, NISS agents are provided with protection from prosecution for any act committed in the course of their work, which has resulted in a pervasive culture of impunity. The constitutional amendments passed by Parliament on 5 January 2015, which accorded sweeping powers to the NISS giving it unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues, have exacerbated the situation.

Name: Khalafalla A Mukhtar (m), Khuzaini Elhadi A Rajab (m), Shazali Ibrahim El-Shiekh (m), Arwa Elrabie (f), Midhat A Hamdan (m), Alhassan Kheiri (m), Mustafa Adam (m), Adam Ali (m), Al Waleed Mohamed Ahmed (m) and Raye Imany Leyla (f)

Gender m/f: Both

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