

URGENT ACTION

EIGHT STUDENTS ARRESTED, WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN
National Intelligence Security Service (NISS) agents raided the office of a prominent human rights lawyer, Nabil Adib, in Khartoum on 5 May and arrested 10 people, including eight students recently expelled and suspended from the University of Khartoum. Two people were released, while the whereabouts of the eight students' remains unknown.

The NISS raided the office of human rights lawyer Nabil Adib on 5 May and arrested **Bader Aldeen Salah Mohamed**, 25, Faculty of Economics; **Wifag Mohamed Altayeb Gorashi**, 24, Faculty of Art; **Hussien Yahia Haran**, 30, Faculty of Science; **Mudathir Tayseer Mudathir**, 25, Faculty of Science, **Hamid Omer Hamid Digno**, 28, Faculty of Engineering; **Mai Adil Ibrahim Karar**, 24, Faculty of Engineering; **Mohamed Mahjoub Otaiba**, 23, Faculty of Law; and **Hassan Aldai Mohamed Abdalla**, 24, Faculty of Law. The eight students were recently expelled (one) and suspended (seven) from the University of Khartoum following anti-government protests at the university. They were at the office seeking legal assistance from Nabil Adib to challenge their expulsion and suspension from the university. The office secretary and another employee were also arrested, but they were released on the same day.

The NISS claimed that the lawyer was holding an illegal meeting. The agents beat the students, ransacked Nabil's office and seized a number of legal documents, including the case files of the students and Nabil's personal laptop. NISS agents also searched Nabil's house without presenting a search warrant.

Nabil Adib said in a public statement that "a number of armed men in plainclothes raided my office. They shouted at my clients asking them to sit then stand up again and used violence against them. They presented themselves as NISS agents without producing identity cards or a search warrant, they beat my clients and arrested them." He further added that the raid was "a dangerous precedent represent[ing] a blatant attack on the legal profession and the rights of the accused to a fair trial."

The whereabouts of the eight students remains unknown, and they are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Sudanese authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of the eight students and release them immediately unless they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure all eight students have prompt access to lawyers, medical treatment and their families;
- Urging them to protect the students from torture or any other ill-treatment and ensure that any allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are independently investigated.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JUNE 2016 TO:

President

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

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

In April 2016, violent confrontations between students and security agents (the police/the NISS) went on for three weeks at the University of Khartoum. The protests erupted as a result of reports that the government was planning to sell some of the university's buildings. Dozens of students have been arrested during these protests. The Council of Deans of the University of Khartoum indefinitely suspended studies at the university from 3 May. The Council of Deans also expelled six students and suspended 11 others for two years. Among those expelled and suspended are a number of student activists who were arrested and detained in April.

Mohamad Al Sadiq Yoyo, 20, student at Omdurman Al Alhila University, was shot dead by the NISS agents during student activities on 27 April. Abubakar Hassan Mohamed Taha, 18, student at the University of Kordofan, was also shot by the NISS agents on 19 April. The unlawful killing of these two students sparked country-wide student protests against the government and a massive wave of arrests.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of intensified NISS and police crackdown on activities of political activists and students. 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 many have been subjected to torture and other forms of 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 that accorded sweeping powers to the NISS have exacerbated the situation by providing it with unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues.

Name: Bader Aldeen Salah Mohamed, Wifag Mohamed Altayeeb Gorashi, Hussien Yahia Haran, Mudathir Tayseer Mudathir, Hamid Omer Hamid Digno, Mai Adil Ibrahim Karar, Mohamed Mahjoub Otaiba, and Hassan Aldai Mohamed Abdalla
Gender m/f: Both

UA: 105/16 Index: AFR 54/3986/2016 Issue Date: 9 May 2016