

# URGENT ACTION

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS HELD AS PROTESTS CONTINUE

**At least 23 members of Sudan's political opposition parties have been arrested by the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) between 4 and 27 November. Their whereabouts are unknown. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. There have been sporadic protests against the recent rise in fuel, electricity, transport, food, and medicine costs.**

At least 15 members of the political opposition party Sudan Congress Party (SCoP), including the chairperson, **Omer Yousef El Digair**, deputy chairperson **Khalid Omer Yousef**, and the Secretary General **Mastoor Ahmed Mohammed**, were arrested by the NISS between 4 and 27 November. 19 other SCoP members were also arrested and released during the same period. The NISS on 8 November arrested **Khalid Sayed Nouri**, **Jafar Al Sadig**, **Dia Eldin Hussein Al Siddig** and **Awad Aldaw Khalifa** who are members of the Reform Now Movement. The NISS also arrested **Siddig Yousef**, **Mohamed Dia El-Din**, **Tarig Abdel Majeed** and **Munzer Abu al-Maali** leading figures of the political opposition umbrella group National Consensus Forces (NCF) on 23 November. Their arrests come in the wake of mounting public dissatisfaction and sporadic protests in the country against new economic austerity measures imposed by the Sudan government on 3 November. Activists and members of the political opposition have been protesting against the rise in fuel, electricity, transport, food, and medicine costs which are as a result of the new austerity measures.

The whereabouts of the arrested political opposition members remains unknown and they have had no access to their families or lawyers, raising concerns that they have been disappeared. They are also vulnerable to being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. If they are in state custody, Amnesty International considers them prisoner of conscience detained solely on the basis of their peaceful exercise of their rights.

### **Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:**

- Calling on the Sudanese authorities to reveal the whereabouts of Abdelgayoum Awad Elseed, Abdallah Shamselkon A. Mohamed, Abu baker Yousef Babikir, Ahmed Abu Zaid Ahmed, Awad Aldaw Khalifa, Dia El-Din Hussein Al Siddig, Ibrahim El Sheikh Abdel Rahman, Jafar Al Sadig, Jalal Mustafa, Khalid Omer Yousef, Khalid Sayed Nouri, Mastoor Ahmed Mohamed, Mohamed Dia El-Din, Munzer Abu al-Maali, Nour Aldeen Babikir, Nour El-Deen Salah Mahmoud, Omer Kamal, Omer Yousef El Digair, Siddig Yousef, Seeda Sharif, Suliman Khalifa Dinary, Tarig Abdel Majeed, Yassin Salah Shashoog, and ensure that they are granted regular access to their families, medical treatment and lawyers of their choice;
- Urging them to release immediately and unconditionally the opposition party members as they are prisoners of conscience arrested solely on the basis of their peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Urging them to ensure that the opposition party members are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during their detention.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 JANUARY 2017 TO:**

#### President

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

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Minister for Justice

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

**Salutation : Your Excellency**

#### **And copies to:**

#### Minister for 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

On 3 November, the Government of Sudan imposed new economic austerity measures to reduce the trade deficit (higher cost of import compared to export), and to stop the deteriorating exchange rate of the Sudanese Pound. The new measures have significantly increased the fuel, transport, food, electricity and medicine prices. The government announced that it will increase salaries by 20% to mitigate the impact of such increases. Sudan's external debt is projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reach \$52.6 billion at end of 2016. Since the announcement the parallel exchange rate continued to depreciate, the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar went up from 16 to 19 Sudanese pound (SDG). In protest against the government's new economic policy, a call by political activists for three-day nationwide strikes commenced on 27 November. Throughout the day the streets of Khartoum were relatively quiet as many residents stayed at home. With the protests, the government deployed security forces across the capital city and they have arrested several political activists. As of Monday 28 November, at least 23 members of Sudan's political opposition parties have been arrested, and their whereabouts remain unknown. The ministry of justice has denied any knowledge of their arrest.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of intensified NISS crackdown on political activists since the beginning of November. 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.

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