

Medhat

A young man who flames the fire of enlightenment

Writing on wise men who are preoccupied with the misery of life, Abu Taiab Al-Motanabi, one of the most well-known poets of ancient Arab history, said: "Whoever has a mind feels misery in the bliss." If you want a clear example of this type of person, you will find Midhat Afifaldeen leading them as a



prisoner of the Sudanese regime accused of spreading awareness and enlightenment.

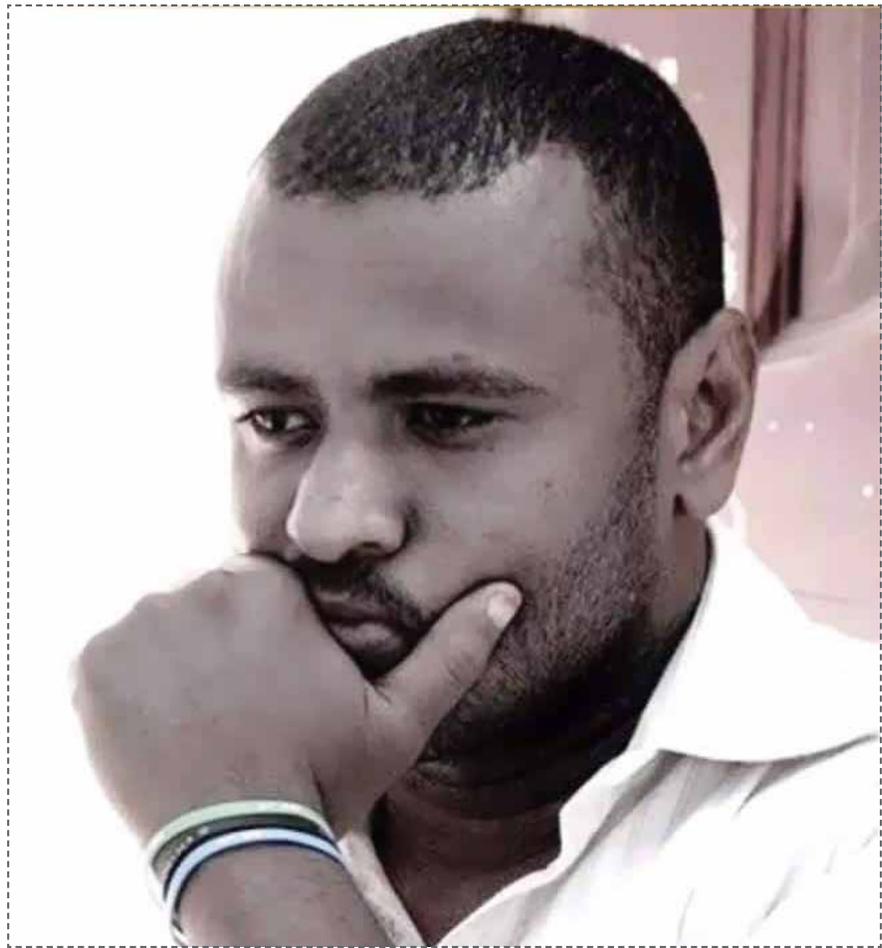
Midhat the engineer, who learnt from engineering the logic, and perhaps the accuracy, of information technology, moved from Wad Madani to Khartoum to study at Sudan University for Science and Technology. As a mature and aware person from Madani, he participated since he was a student in high school in many associations and cultural initiatives. He and his friends established a Youth Cultural Center in Wad Madani. After high school, Midhat was to work in the field of awareness and enlightenment. He was also to pay a price for his public work, but he accepted this with determination and faith. The first test would occur even before he enrolled at Sudan University. This ordeal revealed Midhat's character and the fact that he loved country and the people more than himself. In the early nineties, during the days of jihad in Sudan and the obsession with being a martyr, the state put strict conditions on entrance to the university, forcing military service in isolated areas, far from the cities. Midhat had to pass through this gate to achieve his dream and that of his dad Afif Al-Deen and his mom Nafisah Ibrahim to be an engineer. But at the military camp, the state suddenly saw fit to use these young students to fill the shortage of soldiers in the war with South Sudan. Midhat told his comrades that night about the abnormal movement that he had noticed in the camp, and news of pushing the recruits to duty on the frontlines spread, and some of the boys decided to escape. Indeed, some escaped across the barbed wire. "I myself hated to leave my comrades in the tent to this unknown experience, so I did not escape". This is Midhat, who took care of other people in a rare, brave, and wonderful way. He spent days and nights there, between the jungles, lacking sleep and food and resisting all attempts brainwashing in those dark remote areas. Midhat held to his principles of consciousness, culture and enlightenment, and returned from there only with more hate for the darkness, injustice and dark thoughts.

Everyone who knows Midhat says that he is a quiet person whose

actions are translation of his thoughts and his unwavering inner peace. For that reason, Midhat became involved with the Al-Khatim Adlan Center for Enlightenment and Human Development (KACE) and recorded his name as one of the founders of the center in 2007, perhaps the youngest at that time. At the center, Midhat participated in all activities, helping people who faced obstacles in carrying out their assignments. In short, Midhat was the true spirit of team work in the center. Soon, he became projects manager, where in addition to his other responsibilities, he directly supervised the Cinema Club, neutral spaces and magazine projects. He was also assigned the tasks of documentation and archives due to the accuracy of his work and his skills in photography.

When the Al Khatim Adlan Center began to experience internal struggles, when some of the members tried to gain control of the center to profit from it, Midhat stood firm at a historic moment. For him, the matter was clear and unchangeable, personal desires against public benefits, no doubt he played a key role in advocating that the center remain true to the public, and defeating personal greed, and Midhat stayed committed to the center as a one of its shining lights until the local authorities released a final decision to close it in 2012.

As an example of a person who shows professionalism, is committed to his principles, ideas and has a deep love of his country, and in line with his background in engineering was good at information technology, he was a usual target for the Sudanese security forces in his position at Al-Khatim Adlan Center



and even after his move to TRACKS center for training, but their attempts were in vain, gone with the wind.

In February 2016, Sudanese security forces attacked TRACKS center for training, while Midhat was preparing himself for a training course. After the security forces had taken control of the premises, some TRACKS employees were arrested and Midhat was among them. In prison, they tried many ways to dissolve his determination, but he always became stronger and stronger each time. In May 2016, the Sudanese security summoned the staff members for questioning at the State Crimes Prosecution Office and Midhat was the first person arrested. This time Midhat and his colleagues, Khalafallah Mukhtar, the center manager, Hasan Khiri, the trainer, Al-Shazali Ibraim Al-Shiekh, the

office supervisor, Al-Khazoeini Al-Hadi who worked as accountant, and the lawyer Mustafa Adam who was visiting the center were all held in the same narrow oubliette, suffering from the high temperature of the day without water and depending completely on their family members, friends and activists to provide bottles of water. Midhat and his fellow prisoners showed a patience confusing to their jailers.

Still Midhat flames the fire of awareness and enlightenment, although he has paid a very high price under the repressive and oppressive regime which sees Midhat and his ilk as enemies that should be banished so that they can spread darkness, carry out their corrupt plans and loot the resources of the country by turning its youth away from awareness and enlightenment.

The National Human Rights Commission: the case of TRACKs and others



Khartoum- It seems that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is addicted to failure and failing in tests to defend the human rights and dignity of Sudanese citizens over and over again. This issue has disappointed and crushed the hopes of many activists and politicians as well as human rights defenders.

The Sudanese government pushed to establish the commission in 2012 and it was given many tasks and responsibilities based on its constitution. It was expected to at least realize at least some of these and most importantly, to find ways and means of promoting and realizing the objectives of international human rights

agreements and conventions as well as look into any violations of human rights principles and freedoms. It was also tasked with responding to the complaints it received and working with the different bodies in question to find solutions as well as follow-up on the ongoing judicial procedures in human rights cases such as detentions, delays in trials and others.

Those subjected to detention and confiscation of property found that the commission did not come to their defense, but faced complete neglect and, at times, that the commission was even working against them.

The most recent group to see the

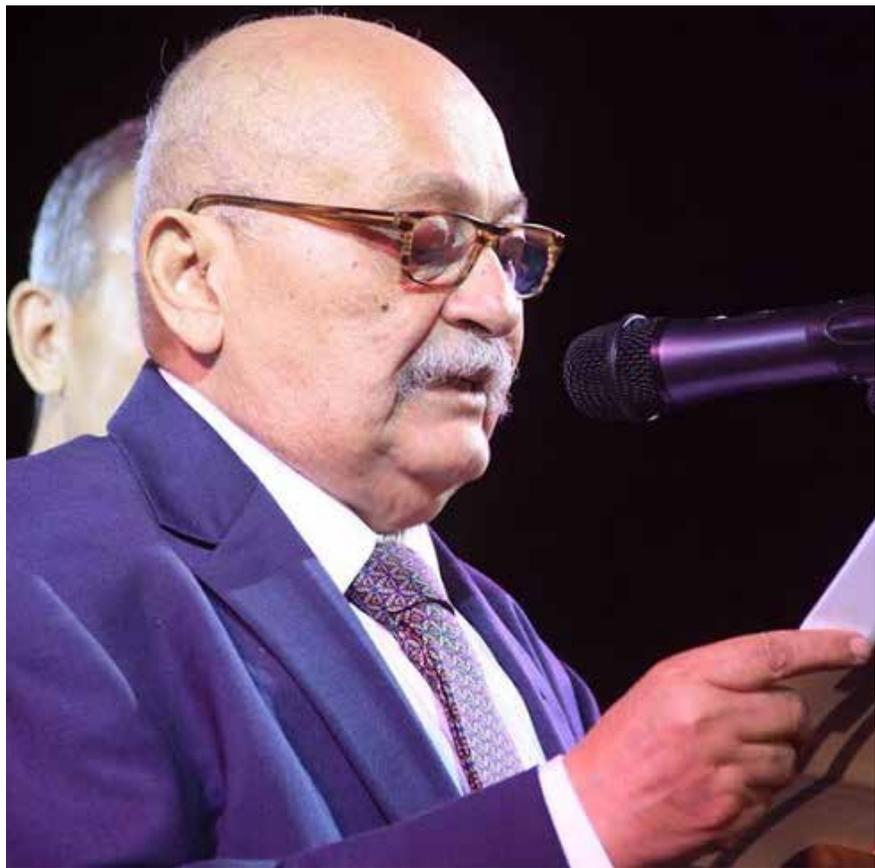
NHRC fail them are the staff members of TRACKs center who were subjected to arbitrary detention and an unjust trial that is still ongoing. Below we will present evidence to express the failure of the commission.

After the infamous September protests in 2013 in which the lives of those protesting against increase in prices of basic commodities as well as the lifting of subsidies were lost, the NHRC took no position on the bloodshed and the detentions that followed. In fact, it continued to ignore demands of activists and civilians to protect human rights by calling for those responsible for the deaths of peaceful protestors to be held

accountable. The Sudanese opposition even accused officials from the NHRC of avoiding taking any complaints from them or other bodies on the issue of the martyrs, the wounded and the political detainees of the September 2013 protest movement.

At the time, the spokesperson for the Sudanese Congress Party (SCP), Bakri Yousif, stated that he was surprised when he reached the venue of the commission and saw that there were no staff members available, even though he had informed them previously that he would be coming to submit a complaint. He added that “this is escaping from responsibilities.” Moreover, he explained that the political section of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), which is part of the Interior Ministry, arrested 10 political activists, two of whom have been in detention since January and eight of whom were arrested by the NISS due to the protests that took place at the University of Khartoum. In all those cases, the commission did not even work on securing their release or communicating with their families to express concern. They never do that if the detainee is held by the NISS.

The NHRC is composed of 15 members; all are also members of the ruling party, the National Congress Party (NCP), or are loyal to it. The body was formed following a presidential decree and its



president is chosen by the president and the first vice-president. Nabil Adib, a prominent lawyer, said that “there should be many conditions that are provided by the commission, firstly, a new law to specify its duties and responsibilities and total independence from any governmental body and the independence of its members and their total neutrality and this is not the case in the current commission.”

For Adib, independence means that no staff members are appointed by the executive authority which is stipulated in the peace agreement which clearly states that “the president of the commission is appointed by

the president after negotiations with the first vice-president.” Adib said that having the presidency appoint the head of the commission contradicts the value of independence because the president “is the president of a party with loyalties and enemies and his vice-president is from the same party.” In addition, the commission needs professional independence which should include empowering the commission to specify its budget and the perks given to its employees without the interference from the executive. The debate reached a point where many asked for the commission to be dissolved after it became clear

that it is biased, never considers looking into human rights violations and always apologizes or procrastinates to the point that one time, the director of the commission, Amal Al Beily, said that the commission could not take action because they had no premises. When Southern Kordofan became a conflict area and civilians were subjected to aerial bombardment and displacement and when terrible violations occurred there in 2015, a number of national organizations criticized the situation there and published a detailed report about the violations of international humanitarian law happening there and asked for the war and aerial bombardment to stop, and for safe channels to be opened to allow the flow of humanitarian aid. The report pointed out the lack of action taken by the NHRC and asked the president to cancel the commission and reconsider its establishment. The case of the TRACKS center was also a very important failure for the commission. The TRACKS center works on training civil society to build their capacity and in the field of information technology. The center was raided more than once, but the last time was the most violent of all. The beginning of the crackdown was on Thursday,

March 26, 2015 and NISS agents raided the center while trainees were engaged in a normal training session. NISS agents entered all offices and halls, taking personal computers and all equipment belonging to the center. It is ironic that they even confiscated cell-phones and laptops of trainees. The staff members exhausted themselves in attempts to get back the equipment of the center and after months of stalling from the side of the security, they finally retrieved their belongings. After a year, history repeated itself and this time, it was more aggressive. In February 2016, a new force raided the center and confiscated the material, arrested all staff members and only released them after they were interrogated. In this instance, the center officially corresponded with the commission that it should fight such violations. The commission received this complaint in writing and promised that it would respond. The stalling once again continued and when the commission set up a time to answer their complaints, the NISS summoned them once again and the State Crimes Prosecution Office kept them in detention in extremely harsh conditions. After a week in detention,

the administrative manager, Arwa Al-Rabie, and a Cameroonian volunteer, Imany-Leyla Raye, were released on bail. Khalafallah Al-Afif, the director of the center, Mustafa Adam, the executive director of Al-Zarqa organization for rural development who was visiting the center at the time of the raid, and Midhat Afifaldeen, a trainer at TRACKS, have remained in detention for more than nine months now. Other staff members such as Al-Khozeini Ahmed, Al-Shazli Ibrahim and AlHassan Kheiry were released from the prosecution office weeks after they were detained. Currently, the three detained are on trial facing unreasonable charges in an unjust trial. The NHRC completely neglected them and the official complaint did not lead them to take action. The trial is ongoing. The sexual violence incident in Tabit happened. The violations in Southern Kordofan continue to happen. There is news of chemical weapons being used against civilians in Darfur, newspapers are getting confiscated every morning and members of the commission continue to receive salaries from the presidency for their shameful silence.

Targeting Civil Society Organizations



Since the beginning of 2016, the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) has led an aggressive crackdown on activists, politicians and religious men as NISS has raided the venues and houses of activists and subjected them to arrest then to interrogation at the hands of State Crimes Prosecution Office where they usually face criminal charges in which the complainer is often the security apparatus, the NISS.

The activists usually face the death penalty, charged with capital charges under Sudanese criminal law. The scenario often continues to repeat itself, a raid results in arrests then the detainees are transferred to the State Crimes Prosecution Office, there they are subjected to a lengthy trial and entire institutions are put on trial, bringing the integrity of the courts into question.

TRACKS:

An armed force raided, for the second time in less than one year, the Center for Training and Human Development (TRACKs) center and arrested its staff members as well as the director of Al-Zarqa Organization who happened to be visiting the center at the time of the raid. The activists affiliated with TRACKs center, which is a center working in the field of training on information technology and human rights, face two criminal cases, one filed after the primary raid on March 27, 2015 and another one after the second and last raid on the February 29, 2016. It should be noted that during the raid conducted by NISS agents on TRACKs center, all laptops, personal cellphones and documents were confiscated and staff members were summoned for questioning. On the June 11, 2016, NISS officers searched

the house of the director of TRACKs center, Khalafallah Al-Afif Mukhtar, and the houses of three of his brothers and relatives and confiscated documents as well as money that belongs to his family. They also arrested Jamal Al-Afif Mukhtar who is the brother of Khalafallah Al-Afif Mukhtar before releasing him shortly afterwards.

The defenders and staff members affiliated with TRACKs continued to be summoned for interrogation by the State Crimes Prosecution Office from the February 29, 2016 where they were subjected to physical and psychological abuse and were arrested for long periods without any judicial order. Khalafallah Al-Afif, the director of TRACKs center, Arwa AlRabie, the administrative manager, Midhat Afifaldeen, an affiliated trainer, Mustafa Adam, the director of Al-Zarqa Organization for Rural Development, Imany-Leyla Raye, a Cameroonian



volunteer and English language tutor at the center, Shazli Ibrahim, a worker at the center, Al-Hassan Kheiry, an affiliated trainer and Al-Khozeini Al-Hadi, an affiliated accountant were detained in terrible conditions and were kept amongst dozens in a poorly ventilated room. The last three were released after a month in detention, while Arwa and Imany-Leyla were released after over a week in detention.

From May 22, 2016, the State Crimes Prosecutor filed a complaint with capital crimes against eight staff-members and affiliates of the TRACKS center under Article 50 (undermining the constitutional authority), Article 51 (waging war against the state), Article 53 (espionage) and Article 65 (managing terrorist and criminal organizations) of the Sudanese Criminal Code. After three months of detention inside the State Crimes Prosecution Office in Al-Amarat street 53, Khalafallah Al-Afif Mukhtar, Midhat Afifaldeen Hamdan and Mustafa Adam were transferred to Al-Huda prison in Omdurman.

This is not the only case to be fabricated against the center and its director, Khalafallah Al-Afif, there is another case from 2015 which led to the

arrest of Adil Bakheit, a trainer, at the State Crimes Prosecution Office for nearly two months as he faced seven charges, including capital charges such as undermining the constitutional authority. Meanwhile, Khalafallah Al-Afif was banned from traveling even though he had been receiving medical treatment in the USA. NISS officers raided TRACKS in April 2015 and arrested Adil Bakheit as he was conducting a workshop and confiscated all equipment belonging to the center (and they only returned the equipment a year later after the charges were dropped as communicated by the prosecution office to the center's director). However, a sudden decision was made to re-start the case against the center and the trial is ongoing as the three activists completed their eighth month in detention in January 2017.

Emad and Erwa

Emad and Erwa Al-Sadiq, two youth political activists and members of the National Umma Party (NUP) were arrested on December 12, 2015 and January 6, 2016, respectively. The two brothers faced capital charges under Article 50 (undermining the constitutional authority) of the Sudanese



Criminal Code. In the court session of September 5, 2016, the judge dropped the charges against them under Article 50, but they were charged under Article 160 of the information crimes law punishable by a fine and imprisonment. In this regard, Emad was fined 10,000 SDG and six months' imprisonment if he did not pay. Erwa was charged under Articles 10, 16 and 17 of the information crimes law and faced six months' imprisonment as a result and was fined 20,000 SDG (if did not pay, he would face 12 months' imprisonment. The health of the two brothers rapidly deteriorated in detention especially as they faced solitary confinement for a long time.

Asim Omer's trial

Asim Omer is a political activist and student studying at Bahry University. He was arrested on May 2, 2016 during protests by University of Khartoum students against the decision by the government to sell the university campus. He faced charges under Article 130 (murder) of the Sudanese Criminal Code as he was accused by security officers of killing a police officer during the protests. Until now, the name and

other personal information of officer that he the allegedly murdered have yet to be revealed. The head of the defense team, Mohamed Al-Hafiz, said during the August 24, 2016 court session that a complaint of bodily harm under case file 4877 was filed against Omer, while the case file concerning the murder of the police officer was filed against Omer under case file 4836 (after 44 another case files). The fact that bodily harm charges were filed after the murder charges makes the case seem fabricated.

The trial of religious leaders

Two religious leaders, father Hassan Abdelrahim and father Kowa Shamel and an activist, Abdelmoniem Fadul Al- Mola and a Czech religious leader named Petr Jasek face the same capital charges faced by TRACKs center; waging war against the state, espionage, undermining the constitutional system, and spying. The court issued its verdict and sentenced the Czech journalist Peter Jasek to 24-year jail-sentence. The court also sentenced Father Hassan Abdelrahim and activist Abdelmunim Abdelmoula to 12-year jail sentences. Defense lawyer Marjan said that they will be appealing the sentence. The defendant was detained by NISS on October 1, 2015, four days after the Czech journalist arrived in Sudan.

The trial of Alaa Aldeen Babiker, the journalist

The security apparatus in Al-Geneina city, the capital of West Darfur, arrested Alaa Aldeen Babiker, a journalist and activist in an "emergency street initiative." They filed against us a case related to instigating people to protest, disturbing the authorities along other



charges. His court was postponed five times in a row as the complainer, which is the security service, did not show up. After that, the judge asked for the complainer to be brought to court. The charges were dropped due to lack in evidence, however, his trial was simply a politically-motivated one aimed at targeting active members of the civil society and the human rights movement. The NISS shut down a number of centers and organizations in the last years, confiscating their equipment without offering any written reasons. Some of the organizations that were shut down are the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO), the Sudanese Studies Center, Al-Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development (KACE), Salmmah Women's Resource Center, Sudanese Human Rights Monitor and the Sudanese Writer's Union. The lawyer and human rights activist, Rifaat Mekkawi, comments on the trials of activists by saying that *those activists are victims, they are not criminals and the real criminals escape justice. This raises questions about the justice system in Sudan as the real rights*

activists are subjected to human rights violations including violations of their freedom of expression and movement. This also includes the closure of their cultural centers. Religious activists have their right of freedom of religion taken away from them and religious venues are torn down and confiscated. Those victims did not undermine the constitutional authority; the state did that by violating the constitution. They did not wage war against the state; the state is waging war against, and killing, its citizens. There is a gap between what international human rights conventions have called for in terms of free and fair trials and the standards applied against activists as vengeful complaints are filed against them and this increases the injustice that is protected by law. The cases that are filed against the activists are sadly filed through the very institutions that should protect justice, but are taking a negative role by responding to the authorities demands for self-protection and protecting their jobs and their relationships with the authorities over justice. Complaints, even when they lack legal backing, and trials failing to meet standards of fairness continue to be processed. This is a theatrical play where the state crimes prosecution office plays the role of the victim and the honest victims are framed as criminals deserving of the death penalty.

Mekkawi adds that those defenders of the rights of the Sudanese people are also subjected to injustice at the hands of civil society, as they are silent and they are hesitant to provide psychological, physical and emotional support to them and to their families.

The Sudanese Security Apparatus banned the leader of the communist party from traveling to Switzerland

11 November 2016

In the early morning of November 19, 2016, the security apparatus stopped Sidiq Yousuf, a leader in the Sudanese communist party and a member of its central committee from traveling abroad through Khartoum International Airport. Yousuf was going to Switzerland to conduct meetings related to his party and this is not the first time he was prevented from traveling; his right to free movement and traveling out of Sudan has been violated many times before.

In March, he was prevented from travelling to Cairo on his way to Geneva to participate in the meetings of the UN Human Rights Council on Sudan's Universal Periodic Review (UPR). "I had intended to travel to Switzerland from Khartoum Airport, but the airport security agents prevented me from boarding the plane under the pretext of having my name on the travel ban list," said Yousuf.

Yousuf considers this move as an attempt by the Sudanese authorities to tighten the grip even more on Sudanese

opposition parties and considers this a violation of the constitution and the law governing political parties.



The Sudanese Police stormed the dorms of Red Sea University, arresting 100 students

19 November 2016

Red Sea State police stormed one of the dormitories of Red Sea University in the city of Port Sudan. Dozens of students were wounded while about 100 were arrested during the aggressive raid which occurred after the outbreak of protests and demonstrations close to Sewak road. The previous evening, the students had come out in a peaceful demonstration to protest the poor conditions in student housing and they blocked the main street leading to Suakin. In Port Sudan, witnesses confirmed that the police beat the students and used teargas and

the raid resulted in dozens of injuries. One of the witnesses confirmed that Abdulmoniem Mahmoud, one of the students, was injured as a result of the beatings and had clear marks on his body in addition to being subjected to suffocating tear gas. The police filed a

complaint against the arrested students under Article 77 of the Sudanese Criminal Code (public nuisance), while they refused to allow their families to see them or bail them out until they had finished the interrogations, causing widespread anger.



Humanitarian Situation:

UNICEF : 5.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan

16 October 2016

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) revealed that 5.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. UNICEF mentioned in its last report the disaggregation of the people in need of humanitarian assistance is as follows: three million are males, 2.8 million are females while 2.6 million are children. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are eligible for humanitarian assistance are 2.2 million. 60%, or about 1.3 million, of them are children. The total number of the refugees in Sudan is 700,000, about 70% of them are children.



Farmers arrested in Al-Gedarif State

15 November 2016

The authorities in Al-Gedarif state arrested 19 farmers from the communities displaced as a result of the Upper Atbara and Setait dams from village 1 where they were re-settled. The farmers protested after they were banned from harvesting their farms because they didn't pay the fees imposed on them. They were later released on bail.

The independent parliamentarian, Mubarak Al-Nour, stated that he would summon the State Minister for Electricity, Financial Resources and Dams, Moataz Musa, to clarify with him what happened with the displaced farmers.

Al-Nour also accused the authorities of taking the lands of farmers in Upper Atbara and Setait without compensating them. He said that "these farmers had to look for other lands to farm when they were re-settled and the authorities were quiet about it". He added that "when the farmers wanted to harvest, the authorities stepped in and prohibited them and imposed fees on them."

Al-Nour said that the communities displaced as a result of the dams have faced great injustices and they live in very difficult economic situations and are unable to pay even one pound. He reiterated that he will summon

the minister about this issue and said: "we want to do them justice, not more injustice".



Gunmen loot health ministry car in Nyala

14 November 2016

Cattle traders in Om Sultana village, east of Al-Abasiah city in South Kordofan, revealed that they had been subjected to an armed robbery by six men wearing military uniforms. The gunmen managed to loot 1.3 billion Sudanese pounds at gunpoint, claiming to be part of the drugs combating police taskforce to search their luggage.

Abdul-Qaioom Fadl Al-Basheer one of the looted traders said, "seven traders and I were on our way to buy cattle from Al-Wakrah market in Al-trtr locality east

of Al-Abasiah and on the way, we spent the night in a house and were attacked by the armed group who fired two shots at the house of our host, Habib Mohamed Osman."

The traders were threatened and the gunmen looted all the money and left. Abdul-Qaioom added that they rushed to inform the police center near Al-Wakrah, and the case was filed under Article 175 (robbery at gunpoint) and the search for the gunmen continues.



Omdorman Islamic University has stormed by the police

13 November 2016

The police forces stormed Omdurman Islamic University and dispersed a peaceful demonstration using tear gas and live ammunition. The rally organized by the Darfur student association in the university was to protest against the

failure to resolve the university fees issue facing the Darfuri students. In the last period, the university fees issue has become more complicated and Darfuri students have organized protests, demonstrations and sit-ins to express their views. To disperse any gathering by

Darfuri students and the ongoing protest movement, the authorities have used violence, deprived students from taking their exams and kicked out male and female students from dormitories.



Gunmen in military uniform looted (1.339) billion SDG in South Kordofan

13 November 2016

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Mass demonstration in Al-Gedarif after the security apparatus assaults a college student

11 November 2016

Al-Gedarif university students came out in a massive demonstration to protest against an attack on a student by security agents. The demonstration moved from the campus to the city market with calls and slogans condemning violence by security agents and demanding accountability from the perpetrators, before residents joined the demonstration and slogans developed calling for the downfall of the regime.

Mountaser Karra, the assaulted student said: "I was arrested while attending a wedding in Al-Mamora in Gedarif city, they took me to the security offices and I was badly beaten causing me injuries and they insulted me, my family and even my creed. After they released me, I went for treatment and asked for a police report under Article 8 and filed a case against the security agent Adel Naqash Mohammed Awad."





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