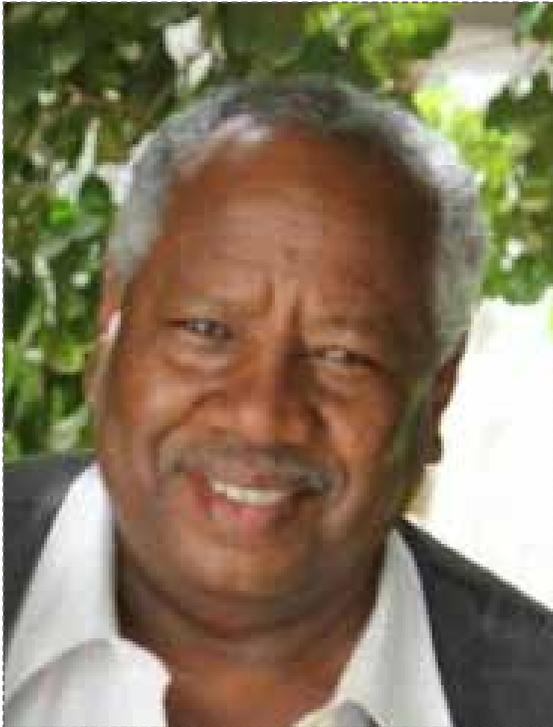


Khalafallah

The fear of the tyrants of the steadfast

The battle is old, and faith in the cause is older and deep rooted for Khalafallah Al-Affif. The right to a decent living, to preserve dignity, justice and equality and to spread goodness, love and tolerance among people, is the essence of what Khalafallah believes in. In unanimous statements from those who talked to us about the life of this courageous man, who was imprisoned in the cells and prisons of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) for over nine months, for the values he believes in and does not



compromise. He was imprisoned as the lead suspect in the case of TRACKs, the Centre for Training and Human Development, which was seized and raided by a security apparatus force that arrested everyone who was there on February/29/2016.

Management of War Returnees

We pointed out that the battle is old, because it started 27 years ago; on the day of the Islamists' coup of Hassan Abdullah Al- Turabi and its declaration as broadcasted by Omar Hassan al-Bashir in 1989. It was a dark night and before morning yielded the truth, Khalafallah and all of those who believe in the values of democracy and justice, became certain of the wretched years ahead. Indeed, his first confrontation with the coup plotters was in their earliest months. At the time, Khalafallah was the director of the department of War Returnees Affairs at the Ministry of Peace under the Council of Ministers. He says that he was very passionate about administering the affairs of the returnees, inventing solutions and remedies to integrate them in the peace process, in that the Department and its mission corresponded to his values and what he believes in. But the coupists had a different opinion; it was decided to transfer Khalafallah from the Department of War Returnees to the Training Department in the Cabinet, as the first confrontation episode.

"Forced Retirement for the Public Interest" is dearer to me

Khalafallah spent five years in the Training Department in the Cabinet, wherein he suffered a great deal of harassment and marginalization from those empowered with positions by coupists. Finally, and within the "forced retirement for the public interest" fever, Khalafallah was terminated and referred to the "forced retirement for the public interest" by a brief letter that contained no explanation, no gratitude for years of service and no benefits or pension, leaving his seat for someone whose qualifications and loyalty align with the coupists and the National Islamic Front. Khalafallah accepted the forced retirement as he expected



it; it was inevitable as part of the regime's treatment towards him and although he was terminated from public service with no pension, it was dearer to him than working within the new circumstances that was taking the country off a cliff. He often said "better to stay in our homes than to participate in this systematic destruction of the civil service".

Away from politics

The battle didn't end with the expulsion of Khalafallah from civil service; in fact, it had just begun as he didn't dispose of the work of human rights. And how could he when he was of the first that took interest in the issue of human rights in the country. His service at the Ministry of Peace and the Department of War Returnees from 25 years ago provided him with a great opportunity to learn about the situation of human rights in Sudan which he qualified for by his

academic specialization in humanitarian sciences and specifically his bachelor's degree in social planning which he obtained from Helwan University in Cairo in 1981. The interest of Khalafallah was directed at training and qualifying human rights defenders so to protect the rights of ordinary people in all fields. The irony is that the main defendant in respect to the charge of "undermining the constitutional order", which leads to an overthrow of the regime, does not belong to a political organization that would naturally desires and seeks power. However, Khalafallah's purpose is to defend basic human rights and to promote justice and tolerance in accord with human values and the teachings of God Almighty.

Law Training Center

Khalafallah was a frequent guest to the security apparatus' bodies, in one summoning after another, for or without

reasons, especially after he took the post of project coordinator with Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment (KACE). Yet, measures taken by the security apparatus failed to budge neither Khalafallah, nor the management of the Centre from their vision. At last, the authorities could no longer tolerate the enlightenment message that was adopted by the Centre, and it was decided to close it permanently; and it was. Khalafallah and a number of coworkers from the Khatim Adlan Centre decided to establish a training center; he is after all, well experienced in this field and he was the director of the National Training Centre at the Cabinet 20 years ago. Indeed, Khalafallah and his colleagues secured the necessary legal registration permits for the center and it is the TRACKs Centre for Training and Human Development. Khalafallah was chosen as the director, but would the security apparatus leave him to be?

Terrible imprisonment

For the TRACKs Centre, the surveillance from the security apparatus was more severe, the situation was worse and the harassment towards Khalafallah continued, but raids were now a part of it. On March/26/2015, during a computer training session, a heavily armed force attacked the TRACKs Centre, and in the same manner that criminal sites are raided, security personnel scattered, carrying their automatic rifles and being rough. They ordered the staff and the participants in the session to hand over their mobile phones and their personal laptops. Khalafallah frequented the NISS offices demanding the return of the electronics and equipment that is property of the Centre, but the NISS promised and delayed. The work of the Centre was disrupted and so were the trainings.

Eleven months later, they restored the equipment; however, they attacked and raided the Centre four days later but more violently. They confiscated all the devices again and arrested everyone who was in the Centre, again! They took them to NISS offices and by late night, they were released on the condition to come back for questioning in the morning. The summons continued in this manner for three weeks. But on the morning of May/22/2016, they were summoned to the NISS office and held without questioning for hours, they were then transferred to the State Security Prosecution, where they held

in a holding cell without informing them that they were on their way to jail. They discovered their arrest after it had happened, after they found themselves in the holding cell. The cell is very narrow, poorly ventilated, overcrowded, without water or any kind of services and they were denied visitation. They were allowed to go to the bathroom twice a day, the first at 6 am and the second at 6 pm; in between they had to command nature not to call, but nature called and called the diabetics urgently. In these cases, empty water bottles were of paramount importance.

Khalafallah and six employees of the TRACKs Centre along with the director of Zarqa Organization, Mustafa Adam, were in that terrible cell for varying durations, the shortest was then days and the longest was three months. Khalafallah suffers from high blood pressure and heart problems and so he experienced a number of sickness ordeals. He was transferred to the NISS hospital three times under tight security. Then began a new chapter of torment for Khalafallah and his colleagues, when the court sessions commenced; during which NISS and its office of prosecution purposely attempted to insult their dignity, nevertheless he and the others faced them with vigor and vitality.

Khalafallah in Huda Prison

The old battle is ongoing, with Khalafallah and his colleagues facing “undermining the constitutional order” and “espionage” charges that are

punishable by death. The real charges are trainings on documenting human rights violations and raising awareness of Sudanese people on their human rights. After spending nine and half months, Khalafallah left Al Huda Prison with inevitability to stand up and confront, believing that nothing goes to waste and that justice will triumph, gaining strength from the vigor of his colleagues albeit his deteriorating health due to what he encounters.

Khalafallah was born in the city of Al-Hosh in Al-Jazeera state. He is was the third born among his brothers and sisters. He received his primary and intermediate education in Al- Hosh, his secondary in Hantoob and his college education in Egypt. His paralyzed mother was always asking about him, but family members didn't tell her that her son was in prison until he was freed. His wife is Amna Eltigani and he has two sons, Mohammed al- Khatim (16 years old) and Mahmoud (10 years old). «The health of Khalafallah has deteriorated greatly during the prison,» his wife said, and his children were very worried about their father who spent time in an inhumane condition in a terrible confinement. The battle continues, on one side is a man steadfast like a rock his full name is Khalafallah Al- Afif Mukhtar, and on another are oppressive, unjust and arrogant rulers; his rendezvous with them is at morning. Is not morning near?

Sudan: Numerous Crises and Absence of a Comprehensive Resolution



The regime in Khartoum is facing numerous crises varying in different directions, including war, humanitarian suffering, regime internal conditions and the deteriorated economy in terms of manufacturing and agricultural production; alongside, the rampant corruption. Through this material we will showcase, in small points, these issues and how they interact with each other in addition to their development within the ruling party. Furthermore, we will shed light on the development of the local, regional and international situations alongside issues of freedoms and economy.

Despite its proactive constitutional amendments, the National Congress party received strong blows from its members in the other states of the Sudan. On Thursday the 30th of August, newspapers reported that the ruling party warned its members from crossing its regulations or conducting non-consultative orientated conducts, threatening that the regulations of the party are remotely capable of settling and resolving any slipping or misconduct conducted by the members

- on central levels or states levels. The vice-president of the political sector, Abdalmalik Al-Bireir, further assured that the establishments of the party are completely ready to settle and resolve any organizational problems.

Tactical Position

The regime softening the storm and temporarily acceptance of the dialogue, is more of a tactical position than a strategic one; this supposition can be easily concluded from the statements of its previous and current leaderships, which conveys that «the situation is good and everything is alright,» although the country is facing deep issues becoming difficult to deal with. For instance, there are wars and their effects and reflections, in addition to, processing and resolving humanitarian situations of refugees and internal displaced persons escaping from the terror of militias, roar of armored war vehicles and Antonov bombing; furthermore, the economic conditions, the severe decrease in the exchange rate of the Sudanese pound as per foreign currencies, the chaos and madness of the market and the regression of basic

services such as health, education, environmental health, agricultural production and manufacturing. The situation in the country is not limited to what is mentioned, apart from that, there are continuous electricity cuts, severe shortage in drinking water and pastures for livestock and the ever-expanding corruption. Reports of the Auditor General clearly shows the extent of the violation of public money which the government failed to counter. There is, also, the absence of freedoms such freedom of expression, freedom to organize, freedom of assembly for non-governmental organizations and especially press freedoms. Sudan is one of the countries that do not respect its legal obligations in respecting and protecting human rights, hundreds of politicians and rights activists are regularly imprisoned and detained upon malicious and false charges by the State Security Prosecution.

Internal conditions

The National Congress Party is suffering from a devastating crisis that has been going on continuously for a while now, but today it is getting closer to political

confrontation. The internal conflict within the party took various shapes, sometimes between the old front-liners and the new ambitious ones, between the older (Sheikhs) and the youth and between the military personnel and the civilians. Despite the passing of three years after the calls for reform for the party and the state, which the ruling party adopted, these steps did not reach their objectives yet. The reflections of this conflict were present before and after the elections of April/2015 which the government and the ruling party had lost due to the very weak vote even though it was announced that the membership of the party was over six million. The evidence of which our claims and conclusions could be supported is president Al-Bashir commenting on the weakness of his party, wherein in August of last year, in the closing of the consultative meetings, he stated that the previous constructing period and the period of the elections revealed that the party is very weak in its foundation. He went further and said "I fear that the National Congress is going to experience the same fate as the Socialist Union, vanish upon the end of the government," "If we are depending on power, power is very limited, people can wait for tomorrow or after tomorrow but eventually, one day, they are going to explode," he added. In this high rank meeting, Al-Bashir assured that he will send committees to the states to follow up on his party's bodies' constructive processes for the upcoming period; furthermore, he stated that the performance will be evaluated after six months. Before Al-Bashir's speech, the member of the party leadership Qutbi Al-Mahdi stated that "Al-Inqaz is a medicine that expired." But the most dangerous

statement was Amin Hasan Omer's, who stated that the National Congress is "a party on vocation, a party of initiative and better yet it feeds through the ideas of the president." Mohamed Abdallah Al-Shiekh, one of the leadership described the National Congress as a party that is "decadent." If these are the opinions and views of the leadership of the party on their party, then what could the opinions and views of the opposition be?

The Instability of the States

Before we explain this crisis, we should analyze the nature of the recently revealed conflict within the National Congress in the states of the River Nile, Al-Gazeira and the Red Sea. Conflicts in the first state, the Nile River State this is, resulted in taking down the governor of the state, in the Red Sea State conflicts took down the minister of Social Care/Welfare and as for the third state, Al-Gaziera, the conflict develops on a daily basis. Daily confrontations between the executive and legislative bodies caused great troubles and handicapped the administrative state authorities. We believe that the essential defect is the totalitarian and authoritarian nature of the regime which wants to reign supreme upon all levels, whether federal or state; this is further evidence that the government's propaganda about seeking federal system is just fake. The government is planning to apply an 'iron fist' on the situations in the states through weak characters and bodies. The previous constitutional amendments were as a clear sign that the government have had enough of the political movement in the states, accordingly, the government smartly made this political movement seem like a tribal conflict and furthermore, the government

connected what is happening in parts of Darfur including very terrible tribal confrontations and conflicts, to, the party's internal conflicts. It later used this to justify the withdraw of authority of electing the governors from their own states; electing the governors is considered a corner stone of the federal system. The constitutional amendments placed these authorities within the hands of the president, accordingly if any legislative board exercised its rights in holding the governor and the executive body responsible for the accounts of anything, then it will be considered an act of treason and rebellion; the leadership of the party moves to hold the representatives responsible or instruct them. We consider the conflict in the three areas a minimized image of the unstable situation and the refusal of the idea of appointing governors, which is indeed considered 'an act of treason' against the federal system. There are panels/committees of investigations in Khartoum which calls on party leaders from the states to come to the center, Khartoum that is, in order to contain any political movement. These procedures can contain the movement, but not for too long, it's a matter of time until the refusing and condemning kicks back in regarding these wrong policies and the 'iron fist' of the center.

Conflicts in Al-Gazeira state

As to get a clear vision, we shall demonstrate the nature of the conflict within the National Congress in the state of Al-Gazeira. The conflict keeps on arising whenever a new governor is appointed. When Mohamed Tahir Eila was appointed governor of Al-Gazeira, the conflicts appeared on the surface after only one month from being governor. A



political entity titled “Ahl Al-Faza’a” was established from members of legislative and political leadership of the previous two governments. The conflict expanded to the state’s Legislative Council, which the National Congress members occupy 85% of its membership. The conflict regarding the candidacy for the National Council started in the previous election, during the ruling of governor Dr. Mohamed Yousif; it resulted in the resignation of 90 members of the National Congress as to run for elections as independents, for they accused the government of Mohamed Yousif of intentional exclusion and choosing representatives that support him, they furthermore accused him of excluding some of them from the presidency of the committees of the council.

The Legislative Council: the history of conflicts in Al-Gazeira Legislative Council is dated back to last April when the second round of the state council started, when the governor presented his plans for the upcoming period. In accordance to the council’s agendas, it was planned to counsel the governors plans in the following day, but some of the members refused to do so, saying that the governor has committed constitutional violations by creating parallel bodies. The council formed a committee of ten persons in order to limit the violations of the governor based on article 54 of

the regulation of the council, besides that, some information was leaked to the press, conveying that the Legislative Council is going to call on the governor and withdraw confidence. These pieces of information were shared via social media, which made the group supporting the governor organize a march and call it “Support to the Governor”. The march took place on Friday 16th of April from several mosques in Madani wherein the governor addressed them. Before the end of this, another conflict arose between the Legislative Council’s body of the representatives of the National Congress and both the legislative and executive bodies, for the council dropped the law of the Development Fund which is one of the laws considered by the council as a parallel body; this is the first law to be dropped in the Legislative Council of the state of Al-Gazeira.

Again, the conflict arose, this time it was between the legislative body and the political body of the state, when the leadership of the Council announced the holding of an urgent session upon the request of forty-four members in accordance to article 6, paragraph 3 from the regulations of the Council; the session was aimed at calling the council to be held to discuss the report of the emergency room of the floods, the health conditions and the Hajj of the year. The Vice-President of the National Congress party wrote a letter, dated 16/8/2016, to the president of the Legislative Council of Al-Gazeira and the member of the leadership office; the letter contained a request to not hold any urgent sessions during the vocation of the Council and furthermore instructed the representatives to move to their districts to follow up with the floods

and the rain, this was in accordance to the instructions of the party in the center. The president of the council did not like this, accordingly he ignored this request, the first urgent session was held Wednesday 24th of August for the Minister of Health and the Minister of Social Affairs to submit their reports before the Council, yet they issued their apologies in writing.

The Red Sea state

The ‘explosion’ of political situations in the Red Sea state was bigger than that of Al-Gazeira state, the Legislative Council in the state excluded Dr. Mohamed Babikir Biriema the Minister of the Social, Cultural and Media Affairs. The details of this problem are connected to the fact that the Legislative Council Interrogated Dr. Bireima in an urgent session wherein he had to cancel his vocation. Yet, the center in Khartoum, after a lot of investigations in Khartoum, reached a resolution satisfying for everyone; the minister was moved to another state and another one was placed in his position, who is the president of the Consultative Board of the Islamic Movement in the state of Al-Qadarif, Othman Mohamed Ali.

International Situations

During the past period of time, it is obvious that there has been a decrease in the international concern about the crises of the Sudan, compared to the past. This decrease is happening despite the outbreak of war again in South Korudofan and the Blue Nile states in 2011 and the expanding of it. Furthermore, despite the major violations varying from the killing of demonstrators with live ammunition in the streets of Khartoum in 2013 and

other major violations, the international community did react in very low tones. For instance, the African Peace and Security Council issued the decrees 546/2014 and 2046/2015 and the European Union and Troika Group issued two statements also in 2015. These decrees and statements called to end war and resolve its humanitarian disasters, aid those affected and cancel/drop freedoms limiting laws. It is strange that the government respond to these decrees and statements was more violations in terms of freedoms and rights besides more intransigence in the peace talks/negotiations and regression from the soft-landing objective of the regime; for talks about the National Dialogue were decreased and replaced by talks about expanding the circle of political participation. On the other hand, the international community is busy with the subjects of illegal immigration and human trafficking alongside the importance of Sudan in stopping them, for these subjects of illegal immigration and human trafficking, especially through and from Sudan, are the primary concerns for the American Administration and the European Union. As per political resolution and governmental reform, they are facing great regression in Sudan. It is clear that the subject of immigration shifted the power balance from the international community to the government's favor; because now, the need for Sudan for the international community is more than the need for the international community for Sudan.

South Sudan

The second and important issue we are noticing is the government's political game with South Sudan. Khartoum

welcomed the First Vice-President of South Sudan Ta'ban Deng, who is dissident from the opposition leader Dr. Riek Machar. Speculations suggest that the government wants to get a glimpse of where things are heading and developing through playing with the cards of Ta'ban and Machar whom are both dissidents from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement of Dr. John Gareng since 1997. They concluded the Khartoum Peace agreement with Khartoum, during that period of time they furnished Khartoum with useful intelligences, yet, they quickly returned to Gareng, Ta'ban first then followed by Machar. Khartoum, as we stated, is trying to measure Ta'ban's ability to split fighters from Mahar alongside the extent of which politicians and accordingly the tribe of Noir can align with him. Ta'ban did actually succeeded in lobbying a number of politicians by giving them political jobs, furthermore, he is proceeding in lobbying big generals in the opposition. As per Machar who was receiving medical treatment in Khartoum did not reveal his political strategy. It is correct that Dr. Machar, compared to Ta'ban, is much more experienced politically and academically, apart from that he is backed with a spiritual heritage and the popular myth of Nondeng prophecies (the gift of God), one of the tribe's prophets in the forties of the nineteenth century (1840-1906). The myth which the tribe has strong faith on, state that Nondeng was a wise man with direct connection to God; this was present through a series of prophecies he predicted and members of the Noir tribe use as hymns. One of his first prophecies was Christianity in South Sudan as a new religion replacing old

religions alongside with Dr. John Gareng and his death upon the mountain. Another myth of his is that Machar shall rule the south.

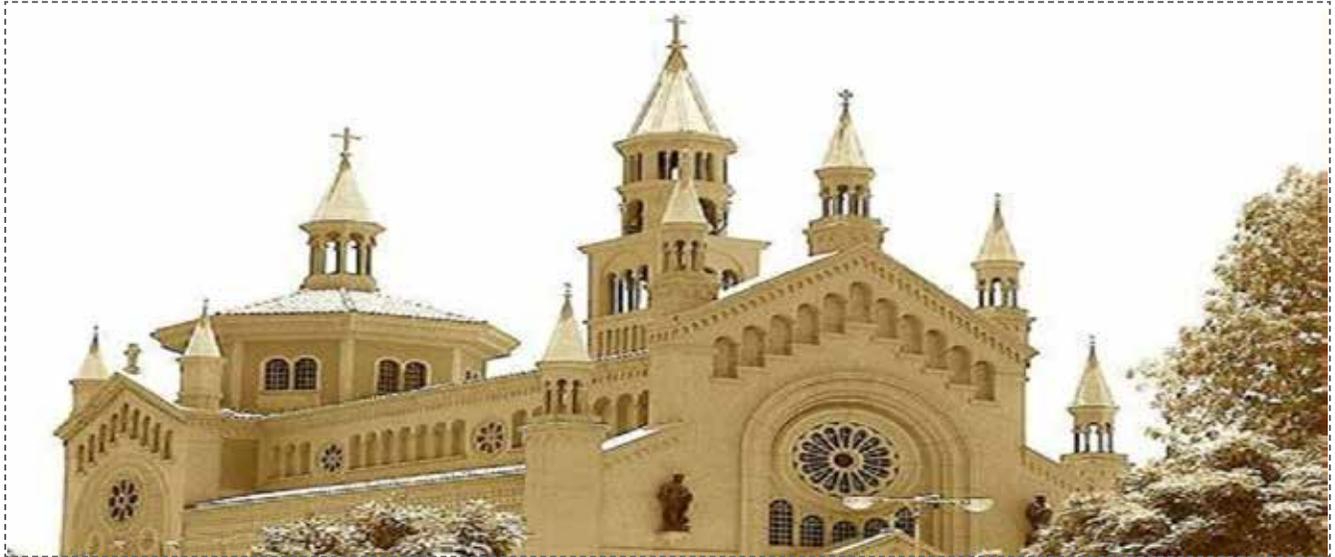
Press Freedom

During the past period of time, violations against freedom of expression, press freedom and freedom of journalists increased; demonstrated by the verbal attacks, physical attacks and oppression that journalists were subject to. Attacks against journalists are conducted by several governmental entities including the legislative and executive bodies, justified by allegations that the press is rousing against the armed forces



and it is the voice of the opposition. The National Intelligence and Security Services continuous to seize newspapers and stop them from publishing including sports newspapers. Alongside the National Intelligence and Security, the Board of Press and Printings contributes in violating the freedom of expression through suspending five newspapers with the justification that they should settle their financial positions through paying the annual registration fees (26,000.00 Sudanese pounds). Recently the NISS issued a verbal statement to the editors of newspapers forbidding any news relating to the increase of the US Dollar exchange rates or the Sudanese pound exchange rate decrease and banned any reference to this issue.

Sudanese Christians: The Campaign of Oppression Continues



Administrative Decrees to Demolish and Remove 25 Churches in the State of Khartoum

Sudanese Christians are facing religious-based discrimination. They are not allowed to practice their religious rituals freely nor build Churches while they are still subject to campaigns against them. The latest campaign is the decree issued by the Directorate of Lands of Khartoum state, an explicit violation of their constitutional rights, allowing the removal of 25 Churches in the locality of Eastern Nile. These Churches are valued by Christians who live remotely far from the center of Khartoum. The removal decree included eight Christian denominations threatened now to be not allowed to practice their religious rituals.

Removal, at any Second:

The member of the defense in the appeal against the administrative decree, lawyer Ahmed Sibier, said they requested to terminate the decree due to its nullity and

the procedures were under processing while the Churches are to be subject of removal at any moment because no decree of suspension of execution was issued. He adds that the court's decision is limited to three possibilities; accepting the appeal, refusing the appeal or granting compensation, he further adds that the article no. 6 of the Transitional Constitution of 2005 emphasizes on the freedom of religion and belief and possession of the worship facilities.

Lawyer Demyas Murgan says that if a different decision is made they will go to the Appeals Directorate in the Administrative Appeals Court and if the decision was almost right they will go the Appeals Directorate of the Supreme Court then the Directorate of Audit and finally they will take it to the Constitutional Court. And finally, if all the inside grievance efforts failed, it is possible to take this matter to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the violation of

article no. 8: "Freedom of belief and practice of religious rites are guaranteed. No one shall be subject to any measures restricting the exercise of these freedoms with regards to the law public order." Sudan ratified the African Human and Peoples' Charter in 18th of February 1986.

Murgan adds, in a statement regarding the issue, that after the warnings, he and a team of lawyers requested to get a copy of the removal decree no. 214/2016 but the General Manager of the Directorate of Lands refused; so, they accordingly put up two requests to the Minister of Planning and Urban Development; the first one was a request to suspend the execution of the decree, the second was a grievance against the decree of removal. We showed these officials that these Churches are old ownerships since 1976, 1987 and 1992; before the planning, so, these ownerships are protected by the law.

Murgan clarifies: "When planning came



to the area of Eastern Nile, planning committees were formed, these committees gave residential lands and lands for general facilities like markets, fields and mosques, but it intentionally did not give lands for Churches, in addition to that, these committees did not allow the majority of Churches to own official documents, they just left them as they were as to be later considered being transitive upon fields and lands owned by people even though the planning later came in the favor of the Churches.”

Murgan reveals that the minister refused the grievance and confirmed the decree of the manager of the Lands directorate and also, had refused the suspension of execution request alongside instructing to continue the removal process.

«While we were following up the necessary legal procedures regarding the three Churches threatened to be removed in Khartoum, Bahri and Sharg Al-Niel/ Eastern Nile, we found out that there are two removal warnings for Bantio Church in Jabal Awleya and Soba Church. For Jabal Awleya Church, the warning was sent to father Abram John, who is the one in charge. As per Soba Church, the warning was issued verbally by members of the Popular Committee of the neighbourhoods; these members informed the Church’s administration that there is a decree for the removal

of the Church, therefore, it shall be evacuated,» Murgan said, «we will not accept the verbal decree,» he added. Accordingly, they submitted a request to finish the ownership procedures of the Church but the Khartoum South Land’s Office refused, saying that there is no ownership under the name of the Church in the record books, even though the Church’s administration followed up the ownership procedures before the relevant specialized personnel several times and it was all going very well. Now there is no file and there is no a name for the Church in the office.

Murgan stated that when they received the decree on the 2nd of February, they filed a grievance to the minister , but he refused it, prior to that the General Manager of The Lands Directorate also refused. The Secretary General of the Sudanese Council of Churches Cory Al-Ramli stated that «the Sudanese government announcing that it will not grant permit for building Churches surprised and shocked me,» he continuous, «we want the government to give us a place where we can build a new Church, we are Sudanese citizens, the constitution grants the freedoms of belief and worship, we demand our constitutional rights.»

Legal Appeal

Lawyer Ahmed Sibar stated that they are preparing for a legal appeal to be

presented to court in order to show the illegality of the removal decrees. In case of refusal regarding this request, they will submit a constitutional appeal for the invalidity of these decrees violating the constitution. Sibar added that there is an ongoing campaign aimed at creating restrictions against Christians, this decree of removing this large number of Churches confirms it; furthermore, these Churches have been there since the seventies and the eighties. The South Sudanese people exiting those places made those places appealing and attractive for some entities due to the increase in the lands’ market value. That’s why they want to remove these Churches and turn the lands into investments. He further pointed out that the government stopped issuing any new permits for building Churches in Sudan which is an explicit violation of the constitution and law, we will fight this through constitutional appeals.

Demolition is Possible

Adam Yagoub, a religious freedoms activist, states that the Sudanese government has a big record of violations conducted upon the bases of race, religion and color. This issue increased since the separation of the South of Sudan, the government ignores the presence of other Christians other than the South Sudanese Christians. Yagoub expressed his fears that the government would use force in order to demolish the Churches, which will add more social and religious tension; specially that there are Churches that has been demolished before such as the Church of Al-Izba and the buildings of the Episcopal Church in Al-Haj Yousif. He urged the Sudanese community to defend its diversity and the freedom of religion and beliefs in order to assure freedoms and rights.

Presbyterian Evangelical Church Witnesses a Bloody Day

KHARTOUM, April 4th/2017

Yunnan Abdulllah Kimbo, one of the leaders of the Presbyterian Evangelical Church in Sudan, was killed after he was stabbed with a knife. On the other hand, Ayoub Kamama was seriously wounded on his hand and chest as he attempted to catch the killer and was later taken to the hospital. The police arrested thirteen people of those holding a sit-in in protest inside the Church.

An eyewitness, who preferred to conceal his identity, stated that "a police force raided the Evangelical School and violently assaulted worshippers and protestors and arrested 13 men whom were later transferred to al-Aawsat Police Station in Omdurman. Soon after, another police force showed up accompanied by the investor whereas they attempted to force their way into the Church, but their effort was halted by the women protesters in the Church. One of the members of the security force jumped over the school wall pointing a knife at those gathered. Yunnan appeared in front of the man trying to protect others, but the attacker stabbed him in his right thigh

cutting a major artery leading to severe bleeding which resulted to his fatality in Omdurman Hospital at six o'clock in the evening.

Dr. Jumma Konda, who is close to the Church, said that a group of young people (he didn't identify them) signed illegal contracts with an investor that entitles him to turn the Evangelical Church land into an investment piece for 25 years. The events developed further when the investor attempted to seize the School by force which led to resistance by the youngsters of the Church, who also organized a sit in for two weeks in protest. Dr. Konda further elaborated that what has been happening to Christians in Sudan is a result of wrong policies from the government, calling for application of laws set by the State itself which includes the right to choose, practice and embrace religions as outlined in the Constitution. He also urged the international community to prioritize the issue of freedom of religion and the rights of Christians in Sudan.

The leadership of the Evangelical Church called for the State to put an end to the interference of the Administration

of Churches within the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments in the Church's affairs and to halt the establishment of the committees which it calls unconstitutional. It pointed that the matter had arisen to the point of murder and that the leadership is committed to implement the decisions reached by the Supreme Administrative Appeals Court to call off the work of the committees which are supported by the Ministry. The Evangelical School witnessed yesterday in Omdurman, the commemoration of the killed leader Yunnan. The commemoration event was attended by the US Charge d'affaires, Mr. Steven Koutsis who corroborated that the Evangelical School is an affiliate to the American Mission since 1924 and that he is attending the event to console the Church and the family of the deceased.

The priest, Yahya Abdelrahim said that they follow the teachings of Christ which renounce all forms of violence. He stressed the continuation of the sit-in in protest, until the problem is resolved at its roots.

A Prisoner Dies under Torture

Nyala, March/ 30/2017

The prisoner (M.A. S) who is 29 years old was killed in Nyala Prison in South Darfur State amid reports of torture; however, prison administration has denied such claims. An official source in the state said that the prisoner who died on Tuesday had arrived to the prison three days prior, after he was convicted in a Public Order Court under article 169 which is associated with alcohol consumption; he was sentenced to

flogging and a prison time for nonpayment. According to the source, the victim was beaten before being incarcerated, causing his health to deteriorate which led to his death at nighttime. «The cause of death, according to a medical autopsy report issued by the Turkish hospital in Nyala, is a severe rupture of the kidneys due to beating with a solid tool, in addition to bruises on the head. He added that "relatives of the deceased refused to receive his body until a complete autopsy is done, causes of his

death known and legal action taken.

The source pointed that the Public Order Police and the Prison Administration exchanged accusations of involvement in the torture of the prisoner which led to his death in result of the beatings.

However, an official with the Nyala Prison Administration strongly denied that the prisoner was tortured and assured that the victim was not beaten in the Prison; however, he could not provide an explanation for the cause of death.

Peaceful Protesters Beaten by Security Personals in Sawarda

April/3rd/2017

Protesters in the village of Sawarda in Northern/Shamalya State were violently beaten at 3 a.m in the morning of Monday 3rd of April 2017 by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). The attack seriously injured Mohammed Dawood (Kanoon) which led to him being transferred to Abri Hospital. The details of the incident go back to when NISS affiliates and some workers at nighttime attempted to connect electrical power to the plant associated with the International Mining Company after it was cut off. The village's surveillance team was alerted by the move

and resisted it in protest; the security force then responded by severely beating the residents.

The director of the Administrative Unit in Abri apologized to the citizens for the actions of the security forces, affirming that a police case against the director of NISS within the Administrative Unit was issued and that it is expected that his immunity to be withdrawn as he will be brought to trial.

The residents of Sawarda rejected the apology and maintained their unwillingness to hear any promises until the Sawarda Plant which uses the cyanide chemical compound and other polluting chemicals, is shut down and removed from the area.

The media secretary of the six-party Committee, engineer Wael Hassan pointed that "the residents gathered from 2: 30 a.m. in response to a call for help from the surveillance team and they managed to expel the security forces and the technical team that tried to connect electrical power at nighttime, in spite of their commitment to a Judge and the Director of the Administrative Unit of Ibri to halt the connection of electric power." Wael added that the residents removed all the electric power utility poles that were installed by the Company, which amount to five poles and that they will continue to sit-in in protest in the tent of resistance until the closure of the plant".



Washington Warns its Citizens from Traveling to Sudan for (Terrorism Risks)

Khartoum: March/30/2017.

The State Department warned its citizens from traveling to Sudan for “terrorism risks” as it declared, and specified three areas where tension is rising. “U.S citizens should avoid traveling to the Darfur region, Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States and to take caution prior to travel plans to other regions in Sudan because of terrorism and armed conflict risks”.

The Embassy requested of its staff in Khartoum to use armored vehicles for all travel plans and bar travel outside

Khartoum without prior permission and additional security precautions. The warning also called vigilance and caution, particularly places of public gatherings and sites frequented by foreigners. The Embassy also called of its citizens to follow the news from trusted sources closely, to be aware of the local security situation and to follow instructions of local authorities. It also alerted those who visit areas of high tension without permission from Sudanese authorities, as they might be subjected to detention by the National Intelligence and Security

Service apparatus (NISS).

The warning pointed that “terrorist groups are active in Sudan and they stated their intention to harm Westerners and Western interests. They intend to carry out their threats through suicide bombings, bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, armed robbery, house attacks and car hijackings. Withstanding that the latter is happening across Sudan, it is increasing significantly, especially in the Darfur region”.

Gunmen Release a Merchant in El Fashir after being kidnapped for Five Days

El Fashir; March/27/2017

Ibrahim Abdulallah Osman, a businessman was lastly able to return to his relatives in El Fashir in northern Darfur, after being released by the gunmen who kidnapped him from in front of his home last Thursday. The incident dates back to last Thursday when gunmen in a Land Cruiser vehicle kidnapped Ibrahim, the owner of the shop “Wad Bakri” in the Big Market, from in front of his home, along with his car, a four door Hyundai sedan, at gunpoint and took him to unknown destination.

One of the businessman’s brothers said that his brother was released last Sunday, but his car is still missing. He added that authorities have started an investigation to catch the perpetrators; nevertheless, the brother didn’t illuminate whether he was released with ransom or not.



Amnesty International: Sudanese Government Accuses Human Rights Defenders of being Spies to Silence them:

Khartoum; March/22/2017

Amnesty International said the Sudanese government portrays human rights defenders as «spies» or agents of foreign governments, with the aim of silencing them.

“When arrested, they are usually charged with the offences of ‘undermining the constitutional system,’ ‘waging war against the state’ or ‘espionage,’ all of which carry the death penalty or life in prison”. Amnesty explained that the motive behind such hostility is to silence those who speak out against human rights abuses and that by doing so the Government of Sudan (GoS) is criminalizing the work of human rights.

The Organization pointed to the release of three Sudanese human rights defenders from prison on March/6/2017 after each one of them paid a fine of 50,000 Sudanese pounds (about 7,700 US dollars).

Khalafallah Afif Mokhtar, director of the TRACKs Centre, Medhat Afifeldin Hamdan, trainer at the Centre and Mustafa Adam director of Alzarqa Organization, were sentenced to a year in prison each and

ordered to pay fines. They were released after spending nine months in prison and made to pay hefty fines. But what are the charges they were convicted of? Khalafallah and Medhat were convicted of publishing false information, whereas Mustafa was convicted of espionage.

The TRACKs Centre provides training on various topics including human rights and information technology for civil society bodies in Sudan, whereas Alzarqa Organization works on rural communities’ development and human rights training.

Amnesty International named the arbitrary detention of Mudawi Ibrahim for over three months. Mudawi’s accountant Noora Osman and his driver Adam Elshiek were also detained along with Hafiz El Doma, an internally displaced person from Darfur. The Organization said that Hafiz El Doma was tortured through electrocution and beatings as he was also forced to record confessions.

It noted that none of these human rights defenders were made aware of the reasons behind their detention and remained held without charge. Additionally, the GoS prevented human rights defender from attending international events/ forums.

The National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) detained Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim (59 years old) professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Khartoum and winner of an award in 2005 from “Frontline Defenders”—the international foundation for the protection of human rights defenders—

“We need independent human rights defenders to expose violations such as arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment of detainees by the NISS, Amnesty declared. They ensure human rights violations are not kept secret and victims do not suffer in silence.”

Amnesty International affirmed that Sudan has obligations under international law to respect, protect and fulfill human rights. And the GoS is obliged to stop human rights violations and that it should view the role of human rights defenders as one complementary to its own, rather than criminalizing their activities.

It called for the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees currently in detention for their work in the field of human rights and to drop all charges against them.



The «Sudanese Women against Violence» Initiative Expresses Concern over the Increasing Number of Girls Child Marriage

March/11/2017

The “Sudanese Women against Violence” initiative has expressed concern over the increasing number of girls’ child marriage in Sudan, referring to the marriage of an 11-year-old girl in one of the states of Sudan this past February.

The Initiative called on the Sudanese society to abandon deliberate violation of children’s rights. The statement stressed that Sudanese don’t abide by the law and fail to apply it. Evidence of such is the marriage of girls under the age of 18 and this is considered violence.

The Statement also called for Sudanese families to ensure the wellbeing of their daughters and not to pressure or force them into marriages on the pretext of economic circumstances and harmful norms.

The Statement also demanded punishing those who commit such crimes; and appealed to organizations and initiatives that are active in fields of protection of women and children to raise communities’ awareness in the cities and rural areas on risks of child marriage and to protect them from its harms.



The Kidnapping of a Businessman by Militiamen in Nyala

Nyala; January/2017

Gunmen riding in a Land Cruiser vehicle in Nyala City kidnapped the director of procurement of the Medical City and president of Wadi Neighborhood, Nyala Club, Dr. Abu Obeida Mahmoud Eltaher, from the front of a mosque in Cinema Neighborhood at sunset time. According to reliable sources, he was taken to an unknown destination. The police received a report on the incident and tracked down and hunted the perpetrators.

According to a witness, «four gunmen in a four-wheel drive vehicle intercepted Dr. Abu Obeida’s road, threatened him with guns, forced him into their car and then

fled”. Activists from the city stated that the gunmen belong to the border control militia which is close to the government. These militiamen men often target rich merchants and businessmen on pretext of ethnic identity; they ask of families and relatives to pay a ransom for their release. In the past few months, gunmen had kidnapped seven businessmen from Nyala City. According to official statistics made public in a press statement, by the head of Nyala Northern District in Parliament, Mr. Omar Suleiman, only three were released.

The city is experiencing decline in security, as gangs that kill and those engage in kidnapping have spread in the past few

years. Nyala is considered the second largest city in Sudan after Khartoum; it has the largest military and security forces base, as well as the 26,000-strong force of the United Nations- African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).





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