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# Sudan: Query Response

The situation of persons of Darfuri origin in Khartoum and Omdurman; The situation of persons of Nuba origin in Khartoum and Omdurman; The situation of political opponents

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11 April 2014 (COI up to 28 March 2014)

11<sup>th</sup> April 2014

## Sudan COI Query Response

[Explanatory Note](#)

[List of sources and databases consulted](#)

### Issues for research

[1\) a\) What is the situation of persons of Darfuri origin, who, before they fled Sudan, had a place of habitual residence outside Darfur \(principally Khartoum and Omdurman\)? What are conditions like for Darfuris in the major cities, both in terms of a potential IFA analysis \(for certain cases with links there\) and for those whose well-founded fear would be assessed against these cities as place of habitual residence?](#)

[\*Lack of statistics on IDPs living in Khartoum and Omdurman\*](#)

#### **[Khartoum](#)**

[\*Is Khartoum safely, and legally accessible to Darfuris?\*](#)

[\*Evidence of ill-treatment of Darfuris in Khartoum\*](#)

[\*Treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum\*](#)

[\*Ill-treatment of single lone Darfuri women in Khartoum\*](#)

[\*Living conditions for Darfuris and urban poor in Khartoum\*](#)

#### **[Omdurman](#)**

[\*Evidence of ill-treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Omdurman\*](#)

[\*Living conditions for Darfuris and urban poor in Omdurman\*](#)

#### **[Darfuri detainees](#)**

[\*Torture and prison conditions for Darfuri detainees\*](#)

1) b) What is the situation of persons of Nuba origin, who, before they fled Sudan, had a place of habitual residence outside Nuba (principally Khartoum and Omdurman)? What are conditions like for Nubans in the major cities, both in terms of a potential IFA analysis (for certain cases with links there) and for those whose well-founded fear would be assessed against these cities as place of habitual residence?

*Lack of statistics on IDPs living in Khartoum and Omdurman*

### **Khartoum**

*Is Khartoum safely, and legally accessible to Nubans?*

*Evidence of ill-treatment of Nubans in Khartoum*

*Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Khartoum*

*Ill-treatment of single lone Nuban women in Khartoum*

*Living conditions for Nubans and urban poor in Khartoum*

### **Omdurman**

*Evidence of ill-treatment of Nubans in Omdurman*

*Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Omdurman*

*Living conditions for Nubans and urban poor in Omdurman*

### **Nuban detainees**

*Torture of and prison conditions for Nuban detainees*

2) What is the situation of political opponents who fled Sudan several (over 10) years ago, upon their return to Sudan?

### **Explanatory Note**

This report presents country of origin information (COI) on Sudan up to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 on issues for research identified to be of relevance in refugee status determination for Sudanese nationals. The COI presented is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain, nor is it determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. All sources are publicly available and a direct hyperlink has been provided. A list of sources and databases consulted is also provided, to enable users to conduct further research and source assessments. Research focused on sources published between 2012 and 28 March 2014 and all sources were accessed between March and April 2014.

This document is intended to be used as a tool to help to identify relevant COI and the COI referred to in this report can be considered by decision makers in assessing asylum applications and appeals. However, this document should not be submitted in full or in isolation as evidence to refugee decision making authorities. Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, the authors accept no responsibility for any errors included in this report.

### **List of sources and databases consulted**

Aegis Trust  
African Arguments  
African Centre for Peace and Justice Studies  
Afrol News  
Amnesty International  
Arry  
Brookings Institution  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
CHR Michelsen Institute  
Doctors Without Borders  
Enough Project  
Eric Reeves, Sudan Research, Analysis, and Advocacy  
Gurtong  
Human Rights Watch  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
International Crisis Group  
International Refugee Rights Initiative  
IOM  
IRIN news  
Minority Rights Group  
Nuba Reports  
OHCHR  
Open Society Foundations  
Radio Dabanga  
Radio Miraya  
Reuters Africa  
Rift Valley Institute  
Sudan Human Baseline assessment/Small Arms Survey  
Sudan Tribune  
United States Institute of Peace  
UNOCHA Sudan  
UNHCR  
Waging Peace

Databases consulted:

ECOI.net

Refworld

Reliefweb

**1) a) What is the situation of persons of Darfuri origin, who, before they fled Sudan, had a place of habitual residence outside Darfur (principally Khartoum and Omdurman)? What are conditions like for Darfuris in the major cities, both in terms of a potential IFA analysis (for certain cases with links there) and for those whose well-founded fear would be assessed against these cities as place of habitual residence?**

**Lack of statistics on IDPs living in Khartoum and Omdurman**

The June 2013 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons notes with regards to IDPs living in urban areas in general (which may apply to Khartoum and Omdurman) that:

Non-camp IDPs, especially in urban and semi-urban areas have become virtually “invisible”, with no standard registration or other procedure to identify them and respond to their protection or assistance needs. In relation to durable solutions, while the national IDP Policy provides for return, local integration or resettlement, the emphasis has generally been placed on returns, for which it has been important to establish joint verification mechanisms with the Government, in order to confirm voluntariness. A number of domestic laws such as the Child Act (2010), and the Armed Forces Act (2007)<sup>26</sup>, and regional peace agreements, such as the DDPD also contain pertinent references to IDPs and forced displacement (see chapter IV below).<sup>1</sup>

It should be noted that this report does not specifically address the situation for Darfuri or Nuban IDPs living in Khartoum or Omdurman.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre notes that “There is little or no data on IDPs living in towns and cities, and this constitutes a further obstacle in providing a comprehensive view of displacement in the country as a whole. It is thought, however, that very large numbers of IDPs have fled to urban areas, contributing to a general trend towards increasing urbanisation (Young and Jacobsen, January 2013; SR on IDPs, May 2013)”.<sup>2</sup>

**Khartoum**

**Is Khartoum safely, and legally accessible to Darfuris?**

Limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

The International Refugee Rights Initiative notes in a May 2013 report that:

Travel and movement has also been restricted in the context of growing tensions. The number of check-points on main roads coming towards Khartoum from South Sudan, Nuba Mountains, eastern Sudan and Darfur has increased. As a result, it has become increasingly necessary for everyone to obtain and carry national identity cards, making anyone unable to obtain one vulnerable. [...]

A new civil registry procedure, required for all residents and citizens, was introduced by legislation in May 2011 and has resulted in impeded access to official entities and services for communities already

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<sup>1</sup> UN, [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons](#), Chaloka Beyani, 25 June 2013

Paragraph 19

<sup>2</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, [Sudan IDP Figures Analysis](#), March 2014, *Data collection and availability*

in vulnerable situations. Under the new law, Sudanese nationals are issued with a national number which they can then use to apply for a national identification card. Accessing these cards is difficult for those in marginalised groups who may find it hard to prove their identity, particularly for those perceived to be of southern origin or from the Nuba Mountains.

To secure a national identification card, you must have a national number. To secure the latter you are required to present a birth/age assessment certificate; a residency certificate; a nationality by birth certificate, ID, or passport; a certificate of blood type or group and an employment letter. The majority of those in displaced populations do not have access to these documents, and presentation of witness evidence can be complex. Furthermore, many do not have clear information about the process and what is required. For those just surviving day-to-day, the costs associated with travelling to registration centres in the centre of Khartoum, which involves the loss of a day's work, makes the process inaccessible.<sup>3</sup>

### **Evidence of ill-treatment of Darfuris in Khartoum**

The COI included in this section focuses on ill-treatment of Darfuris based on their perceived ethnic origin or perceived identity as a Darfuri internally displaced person (IDP).

A March 2011 Middle East Institute report explains that in Khartoum, “many Darfuri IDPs instinctively try to assimilate to avoid standing out and attracting the attention of frequently hostile authorities. This sense of insecurity drives the IDPs to assume the identity of “urban poor” rather than being identified as migrants because of the stigma associated with forced migration”.<sup>4</sup> Reporting on the targeting of Darfuri IDPs in Khartoum the same source notes that:

The fears of some of these IDPs came true after the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked the capital Khartoum in May 2008. The GoS [Government of Sudan] security services rounded up many Darfuris in search-and-detain operations that combed through areas of the capital where the IDPs were believed to live. The government established roadblocks in some areas and forced people out of their vehicles or public transportation. Many were held for days or even months without trial and there are credible reports of torture and human rights abuses. IDPs are more likely to live in the poor areas of Khartoum, where unemployment is a serious concern. Many women have turned to illegally selling, putting themselves at risk of arrest. Exposure to crime and gender-based violence, malnourishment, disease, arbitrary arrest, forced eviction, lack of water, and poor access to transportation are problems that IDPs face. Forced evictions and relocations have often turned violent and resulted in deaths.<sup>5</sup>

A May 2013 International Refugee Rights Initiative report on the experience of people living in Khartoum State who identify themselves as being from one of the conflict-affected areas of Sudan (South Sudan, the (now) five Darfur states, and Southern Kordofan state) notes with regards to the marginalisation of persons originating from these areas that:

Specifically, people talked about the fact that they were being marginalised and targeted on the basis of race and/or culture. As one man said, “There is discrimination and injustice against black people,” a sentiment that was echoed repeatedly throughout the interviews. [...] Another man said, “if you are black and go to hospital you will not be treated because you are black.” [...] In particular, people talked of how they were discriminated on the basis of what they looked like, regardless of whether they were from the South or not. [...] As a man from Darfur said, when asked if he is ever asked to show identity papers replied: “Yes. I have to carry my passport every time with me because the police

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<sup>3</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Extension of the logic of exclusion beyond the conflict zones* p.6

<sup>4</sup> Middle East Institute, [Facing the Unknown: The Continuing Challenge of Assisting the Protracted Displaced in Darfur and Eastern Chad](#), 30 March 2011, *Darfuri IDPs and the Challenge of Urbanization*

<sup>5</sup> Middle East Institute, [Facing the Unknown: The Continuing Challenge of Assisting the Protracted Displaced in Darfur and Eastern Chad](#), 30 March 2011, *Darfuri IDPs and the Challenge of Urbanization*

and security are always asking where do I work and what is my identity... This happens every time when the police see anyone not looking brown as people in Khartoum. They always ask me where I am from and what I am doing.” He later said that he had been arrested and interrogated “just because I am from Darfur.” His story was echoed by another man from Darfur who talked of checkpoints coming in to Khartoum: “we were ordered by the police and security to get down, checked and asked where we come from... If you are black you will be checked but if you are light they don’t check you.” [...]As one man who described himself as “looking like an Arab” said, “frankly, if you don’t belong to the government, you don’t get.” It is important, therefore, to remain mindful of the fact that the type of discrimination described above is experienced by Sudanese people despite their colour: anyone who falls outside of the polity is excluded although there can be gradations in the oppressive treatment meted out on the basis of race or perceived origin. However, the power of this racist narrative should not be underemphasised. There was a strongly sinister undertone in which people talked of how they felt that the government was trying to eliminate them on the basis of race. [...] Whether from Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile or Darfur, a similar sentiment was expressed: “We are always hearing the president of Sudan making statements on the TV, saying that we are the black people from Blue Nile, Nuba and Darfur, and we are the ones whose job it is to clean the black nylons of the city.” Indeed, there was frequent reference to public speeches made by President Bashir.<sup>6</sup>

A May 2012 report from the International Refugee Rights Initiative and Darfur Refugees Association in Uganda discusses how the war in Darfur has torn apart communities, resulting in Darfuris constantly having to “re-negotiate and re-invent their allegiances in order to best ensure access to safety and physical survival”.<sup>7</sup> It further reports:

How has Darfuri sense of belonging as a group being shaped, destroyed or reinforced as a result of war? What are the implications for finding places in which they can be accepted, where they can legitimately belong, either as migrants passing through or as people trying to create new roots of belonging? And to whom do they express their allegiance both politically and socially? [...] Many people wanted to reject a broader Sudanese identity that linked them in any way to the Khartoum government and identified themselves as Darfuri as a way of distancing themselves from it. [...] Total alienation from the state was further enforced by stories of harassment and torture by security agents and of nepotism/discrimination by those who had tried living in Khartoum. These stories tell of the marginalisation of Darfurians in the current political configuration. They are not just second-class citizens, they are almost non-citizens. One young man now living in Juba talked of how he was arrested, jailed and tortured as a university student in Khartoum. This is the basis on which people are rejecting their Sudanese identity: the rejection of an oppressive government.<sup>8</sup>

In March 2013 Radio Dabanga reported that a large fire broke out at the dormitories of Khartoum University with the Darfur Student Association accusing militias of setting them alight as they were mostly occupied by people from Darfur or from the Nuba Mountains.<sup>9</sup> The Enough Project reporting in December 2012 notes that “At the University of Khartoum, Darfuri girls have consistently been harassed by state security forces”.<sup>10</sup> The report did not detail whether this harassment was owing to their perceived ethnicity or perceived political activity. Radio Dabanga reports that in December 2012 Sudanese national security services arrested scores of students from Darfur enrolled in various universities in Khartoum and Atbara and on 23 December 2012 at least 7 students from Darfur were arrested in Khartoum.<sup>11</sup> It reports that they were “taken to the offices of the security forces where

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<sup>6</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Exclusion on the basis of culture or race*

<sup>7</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative and Darfur Refugees Association in Uganda, [Darfurians in South Sudan: Negotiating belonging in two Sudans](#), 7 May 2012, *Evolving forms of identification*

<sup>8</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative and Darfur Refugees Association in Uganda, [Darfurians in South Sudan: Negotiating belonging in two Sudans](#), 7 May 2012, *Evolving forms of identification*

<sup>9</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Darfur students blame Sudan militias for fire at Khartoum University](#), 28 March 2013

<sup>10</sup> Enough Project, [Sudan: How the Death of Four Students Inspired a Nation Once Again](#), 19 December 2012

<sup>11</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Wave of arrests of Darfur students in Khartoum and Atbara](#), 25th December 2012



they were interrogated. During the questioning they were reportedly beaten and some of them were severely tortured, the Darfur lawyers explained. One student, Abdelsalaam Nurein, sustained severe physical and psychological traumas after hours of continuous torture. The Darfur Bar Association says the nationwide hunt for Darfur students is undermining the unity of Sudan, since it is focused on a certain ethnicity".<sup>12</sup>The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies reports that "On 17 February [2012] over 300 students from the University of Khartoum were detained after police and security forces raided the University of Khartoum student residence. They were given a few minutes to collect their personal belongings before being rounded up and forced into police trucks. [...]The arrested students were sent to 11 different police stations in Khartoum and were released later in the day. In a press conference the arrested students spoke of the degrading treatment, verbal abuse and racist remarks they suffered from police officers. The majority of these students are from Darfur, South Kordofan and Southern Sudan".<sup>13</sup>For additional information on the treatment of Darfuri students perceived to be critical of the government or perceived to support rebel groups see the subsequent section on [Treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum](#).

### **Treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum**

The COI in this sub-section addresses the situation for perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum, not the treatment of known Darfuri members of opposition parties or rebel groups.

Human Rights Watch reports in its annual report covering events in 2013 that "Sudanese security forces continued to arrest and detain activists, opposition party members, and people suspected of links to rebel groups".<sup>14</sup>In its annual report covering 2013 the U.S. Department of State notes that "Government security forces continued to torture, beat, and harass suspected political opponents and others" and that "Individuals who criticized the government publicly or privately were subject to reprisal, including arrest".<sup>15</sup>Similarly, Amnesty International together with 19 other organisations noted in a September 2013 submission to the UN Human Rights Council that "The government, through the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), continues to arbitrarily arrest perceived opponents of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in violation of Sudanese and international human rights standards".<sup>16</sup>

The following non-exhaustive COI is illustrative of the treatment of perceived political Darfuris (presented in reverse chronological order).

Human Rights Watch reported in March 2014 that the government has cracked down on Darfuri students in Khartoum peacefully protesting the violence in Darfur, resulting in the death of one and the detention of many protesters and activists.<sup>17</sup> It further notes that:

On March 11 [2014], Sudanese police and national security forces used excessive lethal force at Khartoum University to disperse Darfuri students protesting the recent attacks against civilians in Darfur. The security forces, joined by armed men in civilian clothes, fired tear gas, rubber bullets, and

<sup>12</sup> Radio Dabanga, ["Wave of arrests of Darfur students in Khartoum and Atbara"](#), 25th December 2012

<sup>13</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor](#) February-March 2012

<sup>14</sup> Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2014: Sudan](#), 21 January 2014

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2013 - Sudan](#), 27 February 2014, Section 1c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Section 2a. Freedom of Speech and Press

<sup>16</sup> Amnesty International, [Renewal and strengthening of the special procedure mandate on the situation of human rights in Sudan, UN Human Rights Council 24th session \(9-27 September 2013\) \[AFR 54/017/2013\]](#), 9 September 2013

<sup>17</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

live ammunition at the largely peaceful protesters, witnesses told Human Rights Watch. One student, Ali Abakr Musa Idris, died from a gunshot wound, and several others were injured from rubber bullets and beatings. [...] Since the crackdown, the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) has detained Darfuri students, lawyers, and human rights defenders without charge. On March 12 and 13, security forces arrested an activist, Ghazi al-Rayan al-Sanhouri, and a lawyer, Abdelmonim Adam, who had been providing legal aid to protesters, and another lawyer, sources told Human Rights Watch. On March 18, security officials arrested four other people, including students, and detained another activist, Mohamed Salah Abdelrahman, on March 20. NISS is holding the detained activists in various facilities around Khartoum without apparent access to lawyers or family members, Human Rights Watch said. The NISS has a long history of subjecting political detainees to ill-treatment and torture, particularly those from Darfur and other conflict zones. During protests in September 2013, Human Rights Watch documented particularly harsh treatment of Darfuri detainees.<sup>18</sup>

Amnesty International reporting on the same arrests of the (mainly) Darfuri students, activists and lawyers living in Khartoum states that “there are credible fears that these eleven individuals, who are being detained in an undisclosed location, may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment”.<sup>19</sup>

The Enough Project similarly reports that on March 11 2014, “state security forces ambushed a peaceful meeting of Darfuri students who were seeking to raise the profile of escalating violence in Darfur. Disturbingly, state security forces reportedly systematically rounding up and arresting Darfuri students”.<sup>20</sup> According to a 14 March 2014 Radio Dabanga report, 100 Darfuri students were arrested in Khartoum.<sup>21</sup> Radio Dabanga further reports in March 2014 that the President of the Darfur Association of Students, Muhamed Idris Gedo, “has revealed the severe torture he endured during his detention by the National Intelligence and Security Service in Khartoum. He was detained in January [2014] after taking part in a demonstration in solidarity with displaced Manasir students at the University of Khartoum”.<sup>22</sup> The African Centre for Peace and Justice Studies reporting on the same incident also notes that the Government of Sudan “has traditionally been hostile to Darfuri student associations organising at universities”.<sup>23</sup>

Amnesty International reports that in December 2013 Tajeldin Ahmed Arja, a Darfuri student and blogger, was arrested during a conference in Khartoum, where he openly criticized President Deby of Chad and President Bashir of Sudan, holding them responsible for the atrocities committed in Darfur.<sup>24</sup> He was immediately arrested by the presidential guards and according to Amnesty International reporting in January 2014 was being held in incommunicado detention and at risk of torture and ill-treatment.<sup>25</sup>

Human Rights Watch reports that in September 2013 popular protests broke out in Khartoum and other towns following an announcement by President Omar al-Bashir that the government would lift fuel and other subsidies.<sup>26</sup> It further notes that “In the lead up to, during, and after the protests, security forces arrested known political activists, opposition party members, and protesters – more than 800 people, according to Sudanese rights groups. Although most were released within days, the National Security and Intelligence Service (NISS) detained many for weeks, either in NISS detention centers or in regular prisons. Despite the release of many detainees during and after Eid holidays in

<sup>18</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

<sup>19</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Students and lawyers at risk of torture](#), 21 March 2014

<sup>20</sup> Enough Project, [Sudanese Torture Survivor Told "You No Longer Exist"](#), 12 March 2014

<sup>21</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Khartoum security arrests 110 Darfuri students, attacks protesters](#), 14 March 2014

<sup>22</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Released Darfuri student describes torture](#), 23 March 2014

<sup>23</sup> African Centre for Peace and Justice Studies, [One person dead and 7 critically injured after Sudanese forces open fire on University of Khartoum students](#), 12 March 2014

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Sudanese student at risk of torture: Tajeldin Ahmed Arja](#), 14 January 2014

<sup>25</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Sudanese student at risk of torture: Tajeldin Ahmed Arja](#), 14 January 2014

<sup>26</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Dozens Held Without Charge](#), 28 November 2013

October, dozens remain in detention, without charge or access to lawyers or family visits, because of their presumed political views. Detainees held by NISS are at risk of ill-treatment and torture”.<sup>27</sup> It further notes that “at least six Darfuri university students, presumed to have links to the pro-rebel student group United Popular Front, were arrested in September and October” and as of the end of November 2013 were still detained at NISS offices in Bahri, Khartoum.<sup>28</sup> Radio Dabanga notes that President of Sudan, Omar al Bashir likened the demonstrators with the “armed groups in Darfur and some other regions.”<sup>29</sup>

The Guardian newspaper reports that in response to the protests NISS fired live rounds “They shot us like mice,” said Auob, an activist, who counted 19 dead in the run-down district of Mayo<sup>30</sup> – a district populated mainly by Darfurian refugees – on 25 September, the first day of protests. The next day, he said, he saw Niss using mounted machine guns to shoot two men queuing outside a local hospital to see relatives injured the day before”.<sup>31</sup>

Following an April 2013 attack by the Sudan Revolutionary Forces (SRF) in the towns of Um Rawaba in North Kordofan state, and Abu Kershola, in South Kordofan state, national security agents arrested more than 26 people in Khartoum, including seven Darfuri civilians accused of supporting the Sudan Revolutionary Forces<sup>32</sup>, a coalition of Sudanese rebel groups.<sup>33</sup> Human Rights Watch further notes that “in a separate pattern of arrests following the rebel attacks, Intelligence Service authorities detained at least 12 Darfuri students in June [2013]. These arrests occurred after the higher education minister on May 30 banned student groups affiliated with the rebel coalition from conducting political activities”.<sup>34</sup>

In April 2013, Human Rights Watch, the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, and the Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO) reported that Sudan has released 24 civilian political prisoners following president Omar al-Bashir’s recent pledge to “free all political detainees,” but at least 100 remained arbitrarily detained without charge, many of them held incommunicado for months in national security detention and military detention.<sup>35</sup> Research by the three organizations showed that the majority of detainees are from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Because of restrictions by the government it is not possible to verify the number of detentions on the basis of presumed political affiliation in Darfur.<sup>36</sup>

In February 2013 Amnesty International called on authorities to stop the execution of Bakri Moussa Mohammed, a Darfuri activist held in a Khartoum prison who had been involved in protests against the repression of displaced people in South Darfur who was jailed in 2010 for his alleged participation in murder and whose sentence was changed from 10 years’ imprisonment to

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<sup>27</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Dozens Held Without Charge](#), 28 November 2013

<sup>28</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Dozens Held Without Charge](#), 28 November 2013

<sup>29</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Al Bashir likens demonstrators to Darfur’s armed groups](#), 21 October 2013

<sup>30</sup> A site of an IDP camp in Khartoum. See Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfurian IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012

<sup>31</sup> The Guardian, [Death and dissent in Sudan as anger spreads to middle classes](#), 10 October 2013

<sup>32</sup> The same Human Rights Watch report explains that “The SRF includes the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-North (SPLA-North), the Sudanese rebel group fighting government forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, and several Darfur groups, including the two main factions of the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)”.

<sup>33</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Wave of Arrests After Rebel Offensive](#), 10 July 2013

<sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Wave of Arrests After Rebel Offensive](#), 10 July 2013

<sup>35</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Despite Pledge, Many Political Prisoners Remain](#), 22 April 2013

<sup>36</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Despite Pledge, Many Political Prisoners Remain](#), 22 April 2013

death.<sup>37</sup> Bakri Moussa Mohammed's family believe he was arrested and sentenced for murder in retaliation for his activism.<sup>38</sup>

Human Rights Watch reports that “on December 7 [2012] that the bodies of three students, Mohamed Younis al-Nil, Adel Mohamed Ahmed, and Alsadiq Abdullah Yagoub, had been found in a sewage canal near Al Jazeera University. The body of a fourth student, Nu’man Ahmed Koreishi, was also found later in the canal. The students were reported missing earlier in the week during protests over the university’s refusal to register Darfuri students unless they paid full tuition. Under the Darfur peace agreements of 2006 and 2010, Darfuri students qualify for a tuition exemption. Sudanese universities have interpreted the provision inconsistently, however, prompting protests by Darfuri students at several campuses in recent years”.<sup>39</sup> Reporting on the same incident the Enough Project notes that “The students’ deaths have come to be a symbol of the Sudanese government's repression. Radio Dabanga reports that thousands of student protesters marched in Khartoum, expressing their solidarity with the students of Wad Madani. Protests spread to other major Sudanese cities. Both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented the Sudanese police’s excessive force in responding to these demonstrations. Witnesses report that the security forces have been targeting and beating protesters who look like they are Darfuri”.<sup>40</sup> Human Rights Watch further notes that “Darfuri students were treated particularly harshly during the protests, former detainees told Human Rights Watch, describing beatings, sleep deprivation, and racist insults”.<sup>41</sup>

The Committee to Protect Journalists reported that a critical Sudanese freelance journalist was found on the side of a road in Khartoum in November 2012 after being reported missing. It further notes that “Somaya Ibrahim Ismail Hundosa had been tortured and her head shaved while she was held captive, the reports said. Hundosa was found in a remote area of the capital, news reports said. Her family said that she had been subjected to "physical torture and beating with whips" and that she had been told her head was shaved because "it looked like the hair of Arabs while she belonged to the slaves in Darfur," according to the pro-democracy group Grifina (We Are Fed Up)”.<sup>42</sup>

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) reports on student protests in June 2012 which started with female students at Khartoum University on 16 June 2012 and spread to Omdurman town and other university campuses in Khartoum, as well as other cities.<sup>43</sup> The ACJPS reports that “The nature of the demonstrations transformed from public discontent over rising prices to anti-regime demonstrations calling for the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to abdicate power and the police and army to join the demonstrators”.<sup>44</sup> It reports that the government response was to arrest and detain torture participants and to use excessive force to disburse the demonstrators.<sup>45</sup> Furthermore “testimonies monitored by ACJPS of released detainees originally from Sudan’s conflict zones of Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile attest to the use of racial abuse and segregation from other detainees, and increased severity in torture methods on account of their ethnicity”.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan must save Darfuri activist from imminent execution](#), 15 February 2013

<sup>38</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan must save Darfuri activist from imminent execution](#), 15 February 2013

<sup>39</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Justice Needed for Student Deaths](#), 10 December 2012

<sup>40</sup> Enough Project, [Sudan: How the Death of Four Students Inspired a Nation Once Again](#), 19 December 2012

<sup>41</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Justice Needed for Student Deaths](#), 10 December 2012

<sup>42</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists, [Sudanese journalist found after being abducted, tortured](#), 5 November 2012

<sup>43</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor Issue 18](#) June-July 2012

<sup>44</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor Issue 18](#) June-July 2012

<sup>45</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor Issue 18](#) June-July 2012

<sup>46</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor Issue 18](#) June-July 2012

In April 2012 Haidar Mahmoud Abderrahman Manis, a Sudanese student activist within the Darfur University Students' Association from El Fashir in North Darfur was arrested in the Setta Haj Youssef market in Khartoum North and held for over a month in detention.<sup>47</sup> According to Amnesty International, he had allegedly given speeches on a number of campuses before his arrest about the situation in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, but the organisation did not have any details on the conditions in which he was held in detention.<sup>48</sup>

### **Ill-treatment of single lone Darfuri women in Khartoum**

A March 2011 Middle East Institute report notes that "IDPs are more likely to live in the poor areas of Khartoum, where unemployment is a serious concern. Many women have turned to illegally selling, putting themselves at risk of arrest. Exposure to crime and gender-based violence, malnourishment, disease, arbitrary arrest, forced eviction, lack of water, and poor access to transportation are problems that IDPs face".<sup>49</sup> According to a November 2013 Nobel Women's Initiative report on sexual violence:

While urban centres such as the capital city of Khartoum are removed from direct fighting, our research shows that systemic gender-based violence, often related to armed conflict happening elsewhere, occurs in these areas as well. Anecdotal evidence and several publicised cases, such as the rape of student activist Safia Ishag by state security forces and the sentencing of two women to lashing, hint at the heavy-handed treatment of women by government forces in Khartoum. [...] Khartoum is also a site of elevated violence against women from marginalized groups or ethnicities, who are often uprooted by conflict in Sudan and surrounding countries and come to the city as internally displaced people or refugees. These women frequently take up jobs within the informal economy selling tea or brewing traditional alcoholic beverages. While working in neighbourhoods throughout the city or while staying in camps for displaced people, they are vulnerable to targeted sexual assaults. The underreported issue of urban youth gangs that actively engage in robberies and rape emerged during a focus group we conducted with local activists working in IDP camps in Khartoum. The formation of such gangs, which have come to be known as the Nigaz or Niga boys, is an indirect result of the conflicts that have displaced young Sudanese men, and some activists hint at the support or complicity of the Sudanese government.<sup>50</sup>

### **Living conditions for Darfuris and urban poor in Khartoum**

According to a July 2012 report from the Enough Project, 4.5 percent of the population of Sudan's capital Khartoum are Darfuri refugees, most of whom live in the massive urban slum "black belt" around the outside of the city.<sup>51</sup> A February 2012 Norwegian Council for Africa report on Darfurian IDPs in Khartoum notes that "Many migrants and IDPs traditionally use relatives as an entry point into Khartoum, as a means of social protection and support to secure employment. Others settle in unfinished buildings and construction sites. IDPs and poor migrants have concentrated in particular areas throughout Khartoum. Four sites – Wad al-Bashir, Dar al-Salam, Jebel Awlia and Mayo Farm

<sup>47</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Further information: Sudanese student activist released: Haidar Mahmoud Abderrahman Manis](#), 24 May 2012

<sup>48</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Further information: Sudanese student activist released: Haidar Mahmoud Abderrahman Manis](#), 24 May 2012

<sup>49</sup> Middle East Institute, [Facing the Unknown: The Continuing Challenge of Assisting the Protracted Displaced in Darfur and Eastern Chad](#), 30 March 2011, *Darfuri IDPs and the Challenge of Urbanization*

<sup>50</sup> Nobel Women's Initiative, [Survivors Speak out- Sexual Violence in Sudan](#), November 2013

<sup>51</sup> Enough Project, [Enough 101: Displaced from Darfur - Refugees in Chad and IDPs in Sudan](#), 24 July 2012

are officially designated as IDP camps, in addition to several unplanned areas which the authorities regard as squatter settlements, such as al-Haj Yousif, Soba, Abu Zeid, al-Fatih City, al-Bugaah and Marzoug".<sup>52</sup> The same source cites Munzoul Assal, Associate Professor of Social Anthropology and the director of Graduates Affairs at the University of Khartoum who has published a case study on urbanization and vulnerability in Sudan as noting that "from the very start, the government has been preventing Darfuri IDPs from settling in official camps, adding that the way the government looks at the Darfur situation is very discouraging".<sup>53</sup> Assal further reports:

For Darfuri IDPs, this has great implications on their living conditions. If they lack recognized housing, NGOs can't locate them and provide them with healthcare and other services. As for employment, hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians are jobless, so it makes sense that IDPs are in a more precarious situation, especially the males. They have virtually no chance of getting jobs. There's a high level of discrimination that can't be tackled in a concrete way, the whole system is based on favouritism and corruption. Even though the law prohibits all sources of discrimination, officials duck behind formal procedures and subject people to discrimination.<sup>54</sup>

In a July 2013 report the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre notes with regards to the situation of IDPs living in Khartoum in general that:

There is a lack of data on the scale of urban displacement and only limited understanding and assessment of urban IDPs' needs. As a result, IDPs not based in camps, and particularly those living in towns and cities, have become all but invisible. [...] There is no overall figure for the number of IDPs in Khartoum. [...] The harassment and social exclusion that both southerners and Sudanese IDPs reportedly face in Khartoum raises questions over the extent to which returns to South Sudan are truly voluntary (International Refugee Rights Initiative, May 2013). Relatively little is known about the situation of IDPs who live outside camps and settlements. There are no standard procedures to identify them or to address their protection and assistance needs, and those who live in urban or semi-urban settings have essentially become invisible (SR on IDPs, May 2013). As is often the case with IDPs in urban areas, those in Sudan tend to have poor tenure security, and as the value of urban land increases, they face a relatively high risk of eviction and secondary displacement. In Khartoum, around 665,000 IDPs were forcibly relocated between 1989 and 2008, most of them from 2004 onwards (Tufts-IDMC, September 2008).

With regards to Darfuri IDPs in urban areas the same source notes:

Urban planning and development projects are likely to continue to heighten the risk of forced evictions and secondary displacement in a country where rapid urbanisation has taken place over the past decade. A study of urbanisation in the context of conflict and displacement in Darfur found that IDPs in urban areas were particularly in need of livelihood support and training. Unable to rely on their usual practices such as farming as a result of their displacement, they turn to other coping mechanisms including casual labour, seasonal employment and small-scale trade. Such strategies, however, are considered unsustainable as they are often short-term, unreliable and insufficient to ensure food security (Young and Jacobsen, January 2013).<sup>55</sup>

The African Centre for Justice and Peace reports on the May 2012 forced eviction in Khartoum of IDP families from Darfur:

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<sup>52</sup> Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfuri IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012

<sup>53</sup> Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfuri IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012

<sup>54</sup> Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfuri IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012

<sup>55</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, [A worsening displacement crisis in need of a comprehensive response](#), 9 July 2013

On 3 May [2012] land authorities in Khartoum forcibly relocated 40,000 families from Suba Alradi to an area in Omdurman called Ajlekhis. During the eviction police were deployed around the camp and in the chaos four children were killed. The people of Suba Alradi come from traditionally marginalised Arab tribes, Darfur, and the Nuba Mountains and have been living in Suba Alradi for over 25 years. The land authorities relocated the community after securing foreign investment opportunities for businesses and companies to develop the land in Suba Alradi. The newly displaced community was given 200 metres of land per family in Omdurman without power and enough water.<sup>56</sup>

A May 2013 International Refugee Rights Initiative report on the experience of people living in Khartoum State who identify themselves as being from one of the conflict-affected areas of Sudan (South Sudan, the (now) five Darfur states, and Southern Kordofan state) notes with regards to the exclusion of persons originating from these areas that:

During the research, in which 117 individuals were interviewed, this exclusion was evidenced in a number of ways: *economically* there is a lack of access to services in the areas where they live, with stories of deliberate diversion of services, of markets being closed down, of jobs being lost and of children being removed from schools; *politically* people talked of their fear of arbitrary arrest, of being refused proper identification and of their inability to express themselves; and *culturally* people talked of a metanarrative of exclusion through public media and statements from official sources that denied their right to stay in Khartoum on the basis of colour or creed or political opinion. These experiences call into question the very basis on which citizenship in Sudan is constructed and experienced. [...]

Sudan has been, and continues to be, a deeply divided territory in which the majority of people have been alienated from a minority central power source that has fought for control not only of political and economic resources, but also of deeper social and cultural forms of belonging – the very basis of Sudanese-ness. Khartoum represents a microcosm of this process of exclusion: those who are from the margins continue to be marginalised on the basis of where they are from; yet ongoing conflicts in many parts of the country mean that many have little choice but to remain in the capital. [...]

The same logic of exclusion that created conflict and displacement continues to apply in Khartoum: people from the peripheries have found it difficult to secure jobs, have been discriminated against with regards to access to services, have struggled to gain access to education, and have often lived in a state of insecurity and fear.<sup>57</sup>

The same International Refugee Rights Initiative report notes with regards to economic marginalisation of these communities in Khartoum that:

One of the most tangible facets of this exclusion was the extent to which “outsiders” living in Khartoum are being marginalised at an economic level. Specifically, people talked of inadequate or non-existent access to services to the areas in which they were living and of the barriers they encounter when applying for jobs. [...] There were numerous stories of markets – including some which are run by people from Darfur – being harassed, closed down, or ownership being handed over to people with connections to the ruling party. [...] Likewise access to work was seen as difficult, if not impossible, if you come from the wrong place or are perceived to have the “wrong” political affiliations. There is, of course, high unemployment generally, but the economic crisis has exacerbated discrimination of the marginalised’ [...] Economic challenges were inseparable from security concerns, which were expressed in many of the interviews – and evident in the research process itself. As a man from Darfur said, “Khartoum is becoming more and more unsafe.” “I don’t want to stay in Khartoum... There is too much political pressure and rising in the prices and lack of job opportunities for us. There is clear discrimination between the Arabs and the blacks: there is no trust

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<sup>56</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor](#) April-May 2012

<sup>57</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Summary, Background, Extension of the logic of exclusion beyond the conflict zones* [original emphasis]

between the Arabs and the Nuba even if you are a Muslim.<sup>58</sup>

A March 2011 report from the Middle East Institute report notes that “IDPs are more likely to live in the poor areas of Khartoum, where unemployment is a serious concern”. The same source further reports that:

In 2005, the UN inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment reported that Darfuri IDPs in Khartoum were living in poorer situations than those in Darfur, and there are no indications that the same does not hold true today. The UN has been accused of not doing enough to help Darfuris in Khartoum; reporting from UNHCR acknowledges a deficit in assistance. Yet, the UN remains the largest contributor to early recovery and humanitarian funds. What concerns UNHCR is that neither the GoS nor international donors and UN agencies are adequately responding to the urban displaced populations. Nonetheless, in the face of many economic and political challenges, the UN and its partners are requesting additional funds, with the main focus of these budget increases being support for education, culture, food security, and health programs, along with protection and human rights.<sup>59</sup>

The February 2012 Norwegian Council for Africa report notes with regard to IDPs camps in Khartoum that “IDPs often find it challenging to eke out a living. Constantly fearing relocation and having no consistent income, some of them are forced to resort to criminal activities ranging from petty thefts, boot legging, extortion and at times, violent crimes”.<sup>60</sup> The same source notes that in 2005, a group of IDPs arrived in Khartoum North and set up a camp known as al-Jazeera (The Island) with houses made out of bamboo sticks, hay and mud, cartons and sugar sacks.<sup>61</sup> 60-year-old Hajja Gisma, an inhabitant of al-Jazeera told her story:

I came here with my two daughters and their children four years ago after my husband and son-in-law were both killed by the Janjaweed in Darfur. When we first arrived in al-Jazeera, we were told there were hundreds of IDPs who lived here before us but the government forced them out without offering them any sort of compensation. Now, we live in constant fear that the same will happen to us.

My daughters look after the children during the day while I’m at work. I don’t have a steady job; every day I go door-to-door and ask home owners if they want any cleaning done. Sometimes, I sweep staircases of apartment buildings and get paid a reasonable amount of money, and other times I go back home empty handed. A week can pass by without us having any food on the table, and the children often go to bed starving. If things get really bad, we send the children out to beg for food.

If the children get sick, we improvise using traditional home remedies like ‘garadh’ (an antibiotic plant commonly used for medical purposes).

We have no electricity or running water, and nor do we have warm clothes or blankets. When winter arrives we freeze through the night, particularly since the Nile is a stone throw away from us. During rainy season, the houses often get flooded and we have to rebuild them using whatever material we can get our hands on.<sup>62</sup>

The 2014 Bertelsmann Foundation report also notes discrimination against Darfuri IDPs, “In geographical terms, the outlying areas of the country have been subject to significant inequality of opportunity. This was a significant factor in Darfur in particular, where many of the younger

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<sup>58</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Excluded from Sudan’s polity, Economic exclusion*

<sup>59</sup> Middle East Institute, [Facing the Unknown: The Continuing Challenge of Assisting the Protracted Displaced in Darfur and Eastern Chad](#), 30 March 2011, *Darfuri IDPs and the Challenge of Urbanization*

<sup>60</sup> Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfurian IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012

<sup>61</sup> Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfurian IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012

<sup>62</sup> Norwegian Council for Africa, [Darfurian IDPs in Khartoum: A Painful Narrative of a Struggle for Survival](#), 29 February 2012



generation saw few prospects in their own region, and felt themselves to be discriminated against when they migrated internally. There are also frequent accusations of ethnic favoritism, especially toward the riverine tribes that are strongly represented in government at all levels.<sup>63</sup>

For earlier information on the situation of the urban poor in Khartoum in general (which includes but does not specifically address Darfur), see: Humanitarian Policy Group, [City limits: urbanisation and vulnerability in Sudan, Khartoum case study](#), January 2011, *Chapter 5 The urban economy and livelihoods and 6.3 Housing provision*.

## **Omdurman**

### **Evidence of ill-treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Omdurman**

Human Rights Watch reports in March 2014 on the use of excessive force against Darfuris attending a funeral of a student in Omdurman who were perceived to have links to rebel groups:

On March 11, Sudanese police and national security forces used excessive lethal force at Khartoum University to disperse Darfuri students protesting the recent attacks against civilians in Darfur. The security forces, joined by armed men in civilian clothes, fired tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition at the largely peaceful protesters, witnesses told Human Rights Watch. One student, Ali Abakr Musa Idris, died from a gunshot wound, and several others were injured from rubber bullets and beatings. Security forces again used excessive force following the funeral for Idris in Omdurman on March 14, beating many students and arresting scores, according to media reports. Sudanese officials have accused the students of links to rebel groups and denied responsibility for the death. The government should ensure a prompt, credible, and impartial investigation into Idris' death and related abuses, Human Rights Watch said.<sup>64</sup>

Reporting on the same incident Radio Dabanga notes that "the security service in Omdurman used tear gas against the demonstrators, and beat them, after they attended the commemoration of the killed student".<sup>65</sup>

Radio Dabanga reports on the 4 June 2013 that "a group of students affiliated to the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) 'arrested' two students and assaulted dozens more with sharp machetes at Omdurman Islamic University in Khartoum".<sup>66</sup> It further notes that "The assault is an apparent reaction to the rejection of Darfuri students at the University of Khartoum of the decision by the Ministry of Higher Education that has banned political activity by affiliates of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front at national universities".<sup>67</sup> Human Rights Watch notes that "On June 16 [2013], intelligence officers arrested five Darfuri student activists at three locations in Khartoum and Omdurman. The five were arrested the day that student supporters of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) at Omdurman's Ahlia University clashed with student members of the United Popular Front (UPF), a group linked to the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army faction led by Abdel Wahid Mohammed el-Nur".<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Bertelsmann Foundation, [BTI 2014: Sudan Country Report](#), 2014, *10 Welfare Regime*

<sup>64</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

<sup>65</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Khartoum security arrests 110 Darfuri students, attacks protesters](#), 14 March 2014

<sup>66</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Student violence at Omdurman Islamic University in Sudan](#), 4 June 2013

<sup>67</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Student violence at Omdurman Islamic University in Sudan](#), 4 June 2013

<sup>68</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Wave of Arrests After Rebel Offensive](#), 10 July 2013

Amnesty International reports that in February 2013 Mohammed Osman Moussa, a Sudanese student from Darfur was detained in Omdurman in December 2012 and had been held incommunicado for nearly two months following his arrest on his way to university.<sup>69</sup> According to Amnesty International he was at risk of torture and other ill-treatment and was “active in drawing attention to human rights issues, notably as media officer for the Darfur Student Association of Eastern Nile University. In late 2012 he was detained for three months, during which he was reportedly ill-treated”.<sup>70</sup>

Radio Dabanga reported that according to the Darfur Student Association, about 140 students were arrested on 11 December 2012 at the Omdurman Islamic University “after protesters clashed with security agents and supporters of the regime. It was reported that dozens of students are missing and that about 180 students were injured as a result of the clashes.”<sup>71</sup> The spokesman of the student association told Radio Dabanga that 450 rooms of Darfuri students were burned down and that security agents had continued to harass students at the university entrance; “the students were searched based on colour and features, which is considered racism; a serious violation of human rights”.<sup>72</sup>

Reporting on the crackdown on popular protests in June 2012, Human Rights Watch notes that it had spoken to “Darfuri students who witnessed plain-clothes security officials arrest two Darfuri activists near their homes in separate locations in Omdurman, even though they had not participated in the protests”.<sup>73</sup>

In February 2012 the activist organisation GIRIFNA (We Are Fed Up) reported with regards to arrests of Darfuri students at Omdurman Islamic University that:

The Darfuri Association of Students reported last month that Darfuri students are constantly targeted by the notorious National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

A few weeks ago, seven students who hail from the embattled region of Darfur, studying at Omdurman Islamic University were arrested by the NISS.

“The National Congress regime has targeted the Darfuri human being since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis in the region, especially the student sector,” began the report circulated by the association via email.

The report states that Darfuri students are attacked inside their dorm rooms and their student unions at Sudanese universities are denied many rights available to other unions.<sup>74</sup>

Also reporting on the arrests of these seven Darfuri students in Omdurman, Radio Dabanga noted that “police stormed the campus firing tear gas and arrested more than 50 students taking them to a holding place in East Omdurman police department. Security elements entered then the police station late at night and took seven Darfuri students to an unknown destination”.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Sudanese student detained, at risk of torture: Mohammed Osman Moussa](#), 8 February 2013

<sup>70</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Sudanese student detained, at risk of torture: Mohammed Osman Moussa](#), 8 February 2013

<sup>71</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Darfur Student Association: 140 students arrested after protests](#), 13 December 2012

<sup>72</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Darfur Student Association: 140 students arrested after protests](#), 13 December 2012

<sup>73</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Violent Crackdown on Protesters](#), 26 June 2012

<sup>74</sup> Girifna, [Targeting of Darfuri students at Sudanese Universities](#), 25 February 2012

<sup>75</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Security forces arrest Darfuri students in Omdurman](#), 26 January 2012

### **Living conditions for Darfurians and urban poor in Omdurman**

Very limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

A May 2013 International Refugee Rights Initiative report on the experience of people living in Khartoum State who identify themselves as being from one of the conflict-affected areas of Sudan (South Sudan, the (now) five Darfur states, and Southern Kordofan state) notes with regards to the economic marginalisation of persons originating from Darfur in Omdurman that:

There were numerous stories of markets – including some which are run by people from Darfur – being harassed, closed down, or ownership being handed over to people with connections to the ruling party. Souk Libya or Libya market in Khartoum provides one example of such policies. The market, which was established in the early 1979s by groups of merchants mainly from Darfur who sold goods imported from Libya, was situated in the far west of the town of Omdurman. An interviewee, originally from Darfur, described how the government closed down many of the traders from Darfur:

The government closed our successful shops with accusation of not paying tax, though we are paying regularly but all of a sudden they increased the tax enormously almost ten times what we usually pay.

They even pushed us to pay on a monthly basis, not annually as usual. They put customs taxes much higher on our imported goods for marketing, while other group of merchants were exempted from customs altogether. How can one compete in this unfair situation? We were unable to pay the new tax and our profit margin reduced sharply, moreover the government put our shops up for auction to cover the due tax. We had to sell our shops for this reason. Now other groups of people to whom we sold out the shops are enjoying good profits because they don't pay high taxes and their imported goods are almost exempted. Now it is hard to see people from Darfur selling at this market<sup>76</sup>

### **Darfuri detainees**

#### **Torture and prison conditions for Darfuri detainees**

The following COI relates to the general detention conditions for Darfuris; sources typically do not specify detention locations. Information specific to detention conditions in Darfur was not included.

Human Rights Watch reports in March 2014 that “The NISS [National Intelligence and Security Services] has a long history of subjecting political detainees to ill-treatment and torture, particularly those from Darfur and other conflict zones. During protests in September 2013, Human Rights Watch documented particularly harsh treatment of Darfuri detainees”.<sup>77</sup> Similarly a joint report from Sudan Human Rights Monitor; REDRESS; African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies; FIDH - International Federation of Human Rights of August 2013 notes that:

A number of well-documented cases show that torture and ill treatment is systemic and has been used predominantly to suppress opposition, to obtain confessions or to discriminate against marginal groups, including Darfurians and Southerners who are often also internally displaced persons (IDPs). Political opponents, students, journalists and human rights defenders have been particularly at risk of

<sup>76</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Excluded from Sudan's polity, Economic exclusion*

<sup>77</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

torture because of their background, (perceived) affiliation, or conduct (or all of these factors taken together). In several instances, individuals are believed to have been tortured to death or tortured before being killed. The cases also show that the authorities have used excessive force during demonstrations that amounted to ill-treatment.<sup>78</sup>

The 2013 U.S. Department of State report notes with regard to Darfuri political detainees that:

The government held hundreds of political prisoners and detainees, including political protesters, but does not allow independent monitoring of prisons and detention facilities. Due to a lack of access, the government, political opposition, and international and domestic NGOs put forth different assertions on the number of political prisoners. The government severely restricted international humanitarian organizations' access to political detainees. The government allowed UNAMID extremely limited access to Darfuri political detainees in Khartoum and Darfur. Some political detainees were held in isolated cells in regular prisons, and many were held without access to family or medical treatment. Human rights organizations asserted the NISS ran "ghost houses," where it detained opposition and human rights figures without acknowledging they were being held. Security forces detained political opponents incommunicado, without charge, and tortured them. Such detentions were prolonged at times.<sup>79</sup>

A February 2014 Radio Dabanga report notes that "Relatives of prisoners detained in Kober prison, Khartoum, have demanded the authorities to stop torturing the detainees and improve their treatment, or to release them. A relative of a detainee told Radio Dabanga that the prisoners in Kober prison, arrested for political reasons related to Darfur, are subjected to all forms of torture. [...] "Recently some prisoners have been released, for political and tribal reasons. Yet all of them were arrested in incidents related to the Darfur cause""<sup>80</sup>

The 2013 U.S. Department of State report notes that lengthy pretrial detention, including of Darfuri detainees, was common:

The large numbers of detainees and judicial inefficiency, such as the failure of judges to appear for court, resulted in trial delays. In cases involving political defendants accused of subverting national security, the accused may be held for as long as one year before being formally charged. On June 6, five Darfuri students were arrested in Khartoum and remained in custody for over one month without charges. On July 7, the prosecutor charged them with crimes against the state. On August 18, a judge found them not guilty due to insufficient evidence and released them.<sup>81</sup>

Freedom House explains that the National Security Act gives the NISS sweeping authority to seize property, conduct surveillance, search premises, and detain suspects for up to four and a half months without judicial review.<sup>82</sup> It further notes that "the police and security forces routinely exceed these broad powers, carrying out arbitrary arrests and holding people at secret locations without access to lawyers or their relatives. Human rights groups accuse the NISS of systematically detaining and torturing opponents of the government, including Darfuri activists, journalists, and members of the youth Girifna movement. Approximately 2,000 people were arrested following anti-

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<sup>78</sup>Sudan Human Rights Monitor; REDRESS; African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies; FIDH - International Federation of Human Rights, [109th Session of the Human Rights Committee - Pre-Sessional Meeting on Sudan](#), August 2013, VI. *Prohibition of torture and ill-treatment: Shortcomings in the legal framework, inadequate safeguards, barriers to accountability and reparation as well as recourse to corporal punishment (article 7 of the Covenant)*

<sup>79</sup> U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2013 - Sudan](#), 27 February 2014, Section 1 e. *Political Prisoners and Detainees*

<sup>80</sup> Radio Dabanga, ['Darfuri detainees in Kober prison tortured': relative](#), 23 February 2014

<sup>81</sup> U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2013 - Sudan](#), 27 February 2014, Section 1 d. *Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Detainees*

<sup>82</sup> Freedom House, [Freedom in the World 2013 - Sudan](#), 24 May 2013

government protests in June 2012. Most were held without charge before being released in August. Some activists were singled out for harsh sentences”.<sup>83</sup>

A September 2012 Waging Peace report which documents the experiences of returnees to Sudan (including refused asylum seekers from Europe and voluntary returnees) notes that men interviewed for the report “were all detained as political prisoners, and as is evident from the testimonies, political detainees are often subject to worse conditions and treatment than those detained for non-political reasons. A theme which emerges from the testimonies is the high number of Darfurians detained as political prisoners, and that Darfurians are singled out for particularly severe and cruel treatment”.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Freedom House, [Freedom in the World 2013 - Sudan](#), 24 May 2013

<sup>84</sup> Waging Peace, [The Danger of Returning Home: The perils facing Sudanese immigrants when they go back to Sudan](#), September 2012 *Treatment of Prisoners*

**1) b) What is the situation of persons of Nuba origin, who, before they fled Sudan, had a place of habitual residence outside Nuba (principally Khartoum and Omdurman)? What are conditions like for Nubans in the major cities, both in terms of a potential IFA analysis (for certain cases with links there) and for those whose well-founded fear would be assessed against these cities as place of habitual residence?**

**Lack of statistics on IDPs living in Khartoum and Omdurman**

Note the COI on this issue presented above in response to [question 1a](#).

**Khartoum**

**Is Khartoum safely, and legally accessible to Nubans?**

Limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

The International Refugee Rights Initiative notes in a May 2013 report that:

Travel and movement has also been restricted in the context of growing tensions. The number of check-points on main roads coming towards Khartoum from South Sudan, Nuba Mountains, eastern Sudan and Darfur has increased. As a result, it has become increasingly necessary for everyone to obtain and carry national identity cards, making anyone unable to obtain one vulnerable. [...]

A new civil registry procedure, required for all residents and citizens, was introduced by legislation in May 2011 and has resulted in impeded access to official entities and services for communities already in vulnerable situations. Under the new law, Sudanese nationals are issued with a national number which they can then use to apply for a national identification card. Accessing these cards is difficult for those in marginalised groups who may find it hard to prove their identity, particularly for those perceived to be of southern origin or from the Nuba Mountains.

To secure a national identification card, you must have a national number. To secure the latter you are required to present a birth/age assessment certificate; a residency certificate; a nationality by birth certificate, ID, or passport; a certificate of blood type or group and an employment letter. The majority of those in displaced populations do not have access to these documents, and presentation of witness evidence can be complex. Furthermore, many do not have clear information about the process and what is required. For those just surviving day-to-day, the costs associated with travelling to registration centres in the centre of Khartoum, which involves the loss of a day's work, makes the process inaccessible. Applicants from the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile, and in particular those who are Christian, are facing specific difficulties in obtaining a national ID number where their names are seen to have a "southern" origin, even when they possess Sudanese nationality documents. It should also be noted that those living in rural areas experience more difficulties with accessing registration centres.<sup>85</sup>

With regards to people from the Nuba Mountains and South Kordofan, the report highlighted the following example of being denied a national identity document:

One man from Nuba Mountains, who had trained as a lawyer, talked of how he had struggled to get his new national identity number.

I found that the authorities in our area had changed our family name to another name that we don't know. When I asked them about it, the head police officer wanted money asked me, 'who gave you the right to ask about who changed it?'... It was the same with my passport – I also faced insults and

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<sup>85</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?; Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Extension of the logic of exclusion beyond the conflict zones p.6 and 7*

extortion in the passport office. When the officer found I was from Southern Kordofan he stood up and IRRRI Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights said 'you are from South Kordofan and a member of one of those rebel groups. You and others like you are going to be deprived of your passports forever.'<sup>86</sup>

### **Evidence of ill-treatment of Nubans in Khartoum**

The COI included in this section focuses on ill-treatment of Nubans based on their perceived ethnic origin, not on ill-treatment experienced owing to their Christian faith.

Limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

A May 2013 International Refugee Rights Initiative report on the experience of people living in Khartoum State who identify themselves as being from one of the conflict-affected areas of Sudan (South Sudan, the (now) five Darfur states, and Southern Kordofan state) notes with regards to their availability of state protection:

The findings also demonstrated that economic exclusion of particular groups and individuals by the Sudanese state was symptomatic of a deeper exclusion from the state's protection. Life in Khartoum was shown to be not only difficult, but unsafe. Economic challenges were inseparable from security concerns, which were expressed in many of the interviews – and evident in the research process itself. As a man from Darfur said, "Khartoum is becoming more and more unsafe." "I don't want to stay in Khartoum... There is too much political pressure and rising in the prices and lack of job opportunities for us. There is clear discrimination between the Arabs and the blacks: there is no trust between the Arabs and the Nuba even if you are a Muslim." [...]

Another man who had recently fled the fighting in the Nuba Mountains described how, when their area received water "by mistake", they were all accused of being SPLM rebels: "We are living scared all the time. We always think the police are going to raid our houses. They sometimes catch the youth and torture them, accusing them of being SPLM."<sup>87</sup>

The same report notes with regards to the marginalisation of persons originating from the Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan:

As a man from the Nuba Mountains said, "The war [in the Nuba Mountains] has affected my being in Khartoum a lot. I am originally from Southern Kordofan and everyone from there is now seen as a fifth column whether in social life or the work place. In other words, black people are no longer welcomed among the Arabs and are seen as slaves. We just live our lives in fear of the security." He later said, "I wish there were development in my home area, Dilling, so that we can go and live there again." As a man who fled the Nuba mountains in 2000 because of war said, "We are just slaves." A woman from Southern Kordofan, who sells tea, said: "blacks are considered lower among Arabs – whether in the work place or in different policies. Arabs think that they are cleverer and superior and that blacks are slaves." [...]

As a man from the Nuba Mountains said, "Generally, the government doesn't want us to exist. It wants to eliminate us. If the international community does not stop them, they will eliminate all of us because they think we are making the country dirty. They have to kill us all to make it clean with only brown people. That is why they are destroying our houses in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur." Another man said, "The government has said it will fight and destroy the Nuba Mountains mountain by mountain." Whether from Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile or Darfur, a similar sentiment was expressed: "We are always hearing the president of Sudan making statements on the TV, saying that

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<sup>86</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Exclusion on the basis of culture or race*, p. 12 and p. 13

<sup>87</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *The insecurity of marginalisation*, p. 9

we are the black people from Blue Nile, Nuba and Darfur, and we are the ones whose job it is to clean the black nylons of the city.”<sup>88</sup>

The report concluded that “These official demonstrations of discrimination on the basis of race suggest official support for a racist narrative that is having a profound effect on the day-to-day relationships and lives of individuals living in Khartoum. It builds on a long-standing history of exclusion and racism that pre-dates secession, but has been exacerbated – or re-enforced – by it. While a change of attitude by the government might reduce such racism, it is important to note that the problems are deeply embedded within society in Khartoum”.<sup>89</sup>

The following non-exhaustive COI is illustrative of the treatment of Nuban civilians by state authorities and their militia in Khartoum (presented in reverse chronological order):

- According to a press release from the organisation Arry<sup>90</sup> in September 2013, “the areas of Akalakla, Hajyousif, Ombada, Mayo, Shambat, Alkadrow, Aldroshab, and many other areas in Khartoum are witnessing major arrest campaign that targeting [sic] youth from age of 14 and up [...] the Sudanese security and government militias are raiding the houses of ordinary families in many areas and arresting young men, taking them to unknown places”.<sup>91</sup> The press release mentioned in particular the detention of Alamein Awad and Ibrahim Botrus Orban, both of Nuba origin and both respectively 19 and 18 years old, who were arrested at their home and whose family members were beaten whilst refusing to hand over their sons.<sup>92</sup> Another young Nuban man, Hassan Aksanosi Hassan has also been reported as being arrested at his home in Hajyousif, whilst the same report mentions Ramadan Mohamed Mandor, a 30 year old Nuban man, as having been “injured-bullet in the knee” in Mayo-Khartoum on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013”.<sup>93</sup> It is unclear from the reporting whether these men were specifically targeted because of their Nuba origin.
- In March 2013 the NGO Arry reported that a man from the Nuba mountains, Alshazaly Hamd Alneil, was released after being detained in November 2012 at his work place, the Khartoum Water Corporation.<sup>94</sup> His family was denied visits, he was prevented from accessing legal representation and was not presented with any charges against him.<sup>95</sup> The article does not specify whether the man was specifically targeted because of his Nuba origin.
- In March 2013 Radio Dabanga reported that fire broke out at the dormitories of Khartoum University with the Darfur Student Association accusing militias of setting them ablaze as the dormitories were mostly occupied by people from Darfur or from the Nuba Mountains.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Exclusion on the basis of culture or race*, p. 11 and p. 12

<sup>89</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Exclusion on the basis of culture or race*, p. 12

<sup>90</sup> On its ‘About Us’ webpage Arry describes itself as an “independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, peace building and development in Sudan, particularly at the conflict areas such as Bule [sic] Nile, Darfur and Nuba Mountains territory”, which was established in 2011 by Sudanese activists inside Sudan and in Diasporas. Arry.org, [About Us](#), Undated [Last accessed: 03/04/2014]

<sup>91</sup> Arry, [Press Release: Sudan: Protesters Denied Medical Treatment.. \[sic\] Mass arrests and House Raids](#), 30 September 2013

<sup>92</sup> Arry, [Press Release: Sudan: Protesters Denied Medical Treatment.. \[sic\] Mass arrests and House Raids](#), 30 September 2013

<sup>93</sup> Arry, [Press Release: Sudan: Protesters Denied Medical Treatment.. \[sic\] Mass arrests and House Raids](#), 30 September 2013

<sup>94</sup> Arry, [Update: Nuba Detainee Released after 4 months in detention](#), 13 March 2013

<sup>95</sup> Arry, [Update: Nuba Detainee Released after 4 months in detention](#), 13 March 2013

<sup>96</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Darfur students blame Sudan militias for fire at Khartoum University](#), 28 March 2013



Amnesty International reported on a “wider trend of harassment and closure of institutions linked to or run by the Nuba ethnic group from Southern Kordofan” in Khartoum.<sup>97</sup> In February 2013, the Moro Language Center in Khartoum, a cultural center working on preserving and teaching the Moro tribe language and culture who are one of the largest tribes of the Nuba Mountains, was raided by Sudanese security agents, its equipment confiscated and its Director arrested for one day and subsequently told to “report everyday to the security office for investigation”.<sup>98</sup> In January 2013, the Kuku Centre for Culture and Heritage (KUCCH), a Centre established with the purpose of helping people from Southern Kordofan in preserving their cultural heritage through writing and developing their languages, and the NINU Centre for Languages and Computer Science, a UNESCO club, were shut down by the National Security Service (NSS).<sup>99</sup>

### **Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Khartoum**

The COI in this sub-section addresses the situation for perceived political Nubans in Khartoum, not the treatment of known Nuba members of opposition parties or rebel groups.

Limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

Human Rights Watch reports in its annual report covering events in 2013 that “Sudanese security forces continued to arrest and detain activists, opposition party members, and people suspected of links to rebel groups”.<sup>100</sup> Similarly, Amnesty International together with 19 other organisations noted in a September 2013 submission to the UN Human Rights Council that “The government, through the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), continues to arbitrarily arrest perceived opponents of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in violation of Sudanese and international human rights standards”.<sup>101</sup>

The following non-exhaustive COI is illustrative of the treatment of perceived political Nubans in Khartoum (presented in reverse chronological order):

- In May 2013 the NGO Arry<sup>102</sup> reported on a “campaign” to arrest Nuba activists, especially Nuba Christians in Khartoum and in Southern and North Kordofan.<sup>103</sup> Of 27 detainees documented, 21 were listed as being detained in Khartoum with some having their professions noted as ‘translator in the church, teacher, clerk in the judiciary, lawyer, farmer, worker, merchant, government clerk and tribal leader of Moro tribe’ or simply ‘member of the Nuba Mountains Bar Association’, ‘activist’ or ‘student’.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Civilians caught in unending crisis in Southern Kordofan](#), April 2013, *Closure of Nuba Organizations in Khartoum*, p. 20

<sup>98</sup> Arry, [Urgent Action: Closure and harassment of Nuba NGO and HRD](#), 21 February 2013

<sup>99</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan: Civilians caught in unending crisis in Southern Kordofan](#), April 2013, *Closure of Nuba Organizations in Khartoum*, p. 20

<sup>100</sup> Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2014: Sudan](#), 21 January 2014

<sup>101</sup> Amnesty International, [Renewal and strengthening of the special procedure mandate on the situation of human rights in Sudan, UN Human Rights Council 24th session \(9-27 September 2013\) \[AFR 54/017/2013\]](#), 9 September 2013

<sup>102</sup> On its ‘About Us’ webpage Arry describes itself as an “independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, peace building and development in Sudan, particularly at the conflict areas such as Bule [sic] Nile, Darfur and Nuba Mountains territory”, which was established in 2011 by Sudanese activists inside Sudan and in Diasporas. Arry.org, [About Us](#), Undated [Last accessed: 03/04/2014]

<sup>103</sup> Arry, [Update: New arrests of Nuba activist – updated list](#), 7 May 2013

<sup>104</sup> Arry, [Update: New arrests of Nuba activist – updated list](#), 7 May 2013

- Following an April 2013 attack by the Sudan Revolutionary Forces (SRF) in the towns of Um Rawaba in North Kordofan state, and Abu Kershola, in South Kordofan state, national security agents arrested more than 26 people in Khartoum, including “at least seven Darfuri and Nuba civilians accused of supporting a coalition of Sudanese rebel groups”.<sup>105</sup>
- In April 2013 Human Rights Watch reported on the release of three detainees of Nuba ethnicity who had been detained by security authorities in Khartoum without charge or access to their lawyers or families on suspicion of affiliation with the SPLM-North rebel group.<sup>106</sup>

According to Freedom House’s annual report covering the period May 2012 to April 2013, reporting about events in Southern Kordofan and the Nuba Mountains can lead to arrest and harassment: “Numerous bloggers and online journalists were arrested or harassed for their involvement with the June 2012 protests, while a number of activists were prosecuted for their coverage of the conflict areas in Southern Kordofan and the Nuba Mountains”.<sup>107</sup> However the report did not specify whether such treatment took place in Khartoum. In July 2013 Radio Dabanga reported the raiding of the headquarters of Nuba Mountains Observatory of Human Rights in Khartoum by “elements of the security apparatus”.<sup>108</sup> According to the same article, the Director General of the organisation, Saeed Nohora, “has been arrested several times and subjected to torture and beatings”.<sup>109</sup> In August 2013 the organisation Arry reported with regards to Nuban women living in Khartoum and other cities that

Nuba women who live in Khartoum and other northern cities has been affected by the war especially women activists. Nuba women activists in various fields either politics, law, human rights, media or social media, education, and peace, has been targeted and viciously attacked by the Sudanese government and its security forces. Nuba women activists, were detained for the longest terms for detention for women in Sudan. Moreover, they were raped, tortured physically and psychologically, threatened to be killed, and their families were threatened too.<sup>110</sup>

At the end of 2013 the Sudanese Interior Ministry’s Humanitarian Affairs Commission (HAC) ordered the shutdown of Arry, a group that promotes human rights in the Nuba Mountains, according to Human Rights Watch reporting.<sup>111</sup> Arry staff told Human Rights Watch that “security officials had attempted to arrest several members of the group in Khartoum in October and November [2012]” and in December 2012 “interrogated four staff members, threatened their families, and ordered them to stop the group’s activities, citing alleged foreign links”.<sup>112</sup> The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) reported in August 2012 about the release of 17 human rights defenders, including Mr. Mohamed Salah Mohamed, President of the Nubian Student Association, who were all arbitrarily arrested between June and July 2012 in Khartoum in the “context of popular mass

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<sup>105</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Wave of Arrests After Rebel offensive: Release or Charge Detainees; Reveal Whereabouts](#), 10 July 2013

<sup>106</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Despite Pledge, Many Political Prisoners Remain: Charge or Release All Detainees, Reform Repressive Security Laws](#), 22 April 2013

<sup>107</sup> Freedom House, [Freedom on the Net 2013: Sudan](#), 3 October 2013

<sup>108</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Sudanese ‘security apparatus’ ransacks human rights office](#), 18 July 2013

<sup>109</sup> Radio Dabanga, [Sudanese ‘security apparatus’ ransacks human rights office](#), 18 July 2013

<sup>110</sup> Arry, [New Report: Victims and Heroes: Nuba Women Struggle in Two Years of War](#), 13 August 2013

<sup>111</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: End Crackdown on Civil Society: Donors, Diplomats Should Insist on Respect for Free Speech, Association](#), 13 January 2013

<sup>112</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: End Crackdown on Civil Society: Donors, Diplomats Should Insist on Respect for Free Speech, Association](#), 13 January 2013

protests calling for regime change, peace and justice”.<sup>113</sup> Mr. Mohamed was held in detention for several weeks with no access to a lawyer.<sup>114</sup>

### **Ill-treatment of single lone Nuban women in Khartoum**

Very limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

The Sudan Tribune reported in May 2013 on women working in Khartoum’s informal market as tea ladies, dressmakers, or as street vendors being “vulnerable to exploitation and harassment along gender and ethnicity lines”.<sup>115</sup> A November 2013 report by Nobel Women’s Initiative focusing on sexual violence in Sudan interviewed Sudanese women’s organisation Vision Association’s Executive Director Zeinab Blandia who reported that Nuban girls in Khartoum face “high levels of sexual violence where they live or work. For example, many Nuba girls who work as domestic workers in Khartoum have gotten raped by their employers, and at times gotten pregnant as a result. They face more stigma than those raped in the war zones and may be seen to have brought [it] on themselves”.<sup>116</sup> The same report also noted that:

While urban centres such as the capital city of Khartoum are removed from direct fighting, our research shows that systemic gender-based violence, often related to armed conflict happening elsewhere, occurs in these areas as well. Anecdotal evidence and several publicised cases, such as the rape of student activist Safia Ishag by state security forces and the sentencing of two women to lashing, hint at the heavy-handed treatment of women by government forces in Khartoum. [...] Khartoum is also a site of elevated violence against women from marginalized groups or ethnicities, who are often uprooted by conflict in Sudan and surrounding countries and come to the city as internally displaced people or refugees. These women frequently take up jobs within the informal economy selling tea or brewing traditional alcoholic beverages. While working in neighbourhoods throughout the city or while staying in camps for displaced people, they are vulnerable to targeted sexual assaults. The underreported issue of urban youth gangs that actively engage in robberies and rape emerged during a focus group we conducted with local activists working in IDP camps in Khartoum. The formation of such gangs, which have come to be known as the Nigaz or Niga boys, is an indirect result of the conflicts that have displaced young Sudanese men, and some activists hint at the support or complicity of the Sudanese government.<sup>117</sup>

A March 2011 Middle East Institute report notes that “IDPs are more likely to live in the poor areas of Khartoum, where unemployment is a serious concern. Many women have turned to illegally selling, putting themselves at risk of arrest. Exposure to crime and gender-based violence, malnourishment, disease, arbitrary arrest, forced eviction, lack of water, and poor access to transportation are problems that IDPs face”.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>113</sup>International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), [Sudan: releases of defenders but judicial harassment has to stop](#), 20 August 2012

<sup>114</sup>International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), [Sudan: releases of defenders but judicial harassment has to stop](#), 20 August 2012

<sup>115</sup>Sudan Tribune, [Feature: Women in Khartoum’s informal job market face struggle for rights](#), 26 May 2013

<sup>116</sup> Nobel Women’s Initiative, [Survivors speak out: Sexual Violence in Sudan](#), November 2013, *Community Responses*, p.15

<sup>117</sup> Nobel Women’s Initiative, [Survivors Speak out- Sexual Violence in Sudan](#), November 2013, *Khartoum & Surrounding Areas*, p.11

<sup>118</sup> Middle East Institute, [Facing the Unknown: The Continuing Challenge of Assisting the Protracted Displaced in Darfur and Eastern Chad](#), 30 March 2011, *Darfuri IDPs and the Challenge of Urbanization*

## **Living conditions for Nubans and urban poor in Khartoum**

Limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

In a July 2013 report the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre notes with regards to the general situation of IDPs living in Khartoum that:

There is a lack of data on the scale of urban displacement and only limited understanding and assessment of urban IDPs' needs. As a result, IDPs not based in camps, and particularly those living in towns and cities, have become all but invisible. [...] There is no overall figure for the number of IDPs in Khartoum. [...] The harassment and social exclusion that both southerners and Sudanese IDPs reportedly face in Khartoum raises questions over the extent to which returns to South Sudan are truly voluntary (International Refugee Rights Initiative, May 2013). Relatively little is known about the situation of IDPs who live outside camps and settlements. There are no standard procedures to identify them or to address their protection and assistance needs, and those who live in urban or semi-urban settings have essentially become invisible (SR on IDPs, May 2013). As is often the case with IDPs in urban areas, those in Sudan tend to have poor tenure security, and as the value of urban land increases, they face a relatively high risk of eviction and secondary displacement. In Khartoum, around 665,000 IDPs were forcibly relocated between 1989 and 2008, most of them from 2004 onwards (Tufts-IDMC, September 2008). [...] Urban planning and development projects are likely to continue to heighten the risk of forced evictions and secondary displacement in a country where rapid urbanisation has taken place over the past decade.<sup>119</sup>

A May 2013 International Refugee Rights Initiative report on the experience of people living in Khartoum State who identify themselves as being from one of the conflict-affected areas of Sudan (South Sudan, the (now) five Darfur states, and Southern Kordofan state) notes with regards to their living conditions that:

These conflicts have forced millions of people to move to Khartoum in search of both safety and access to services. However, as noted above, the same logic of exclusion that created conflict and displacement continues to apply in Khartoum: people from the peripheries have found it difficult to secure jobs, have been discriminated against with regards to access to services, have struggled to gain access to education, and have often lived in a state of insecurity and fear. This trajectory of marginalisation appears to have only increased with the independence of the South.<sup>120</sup>

With regards to exclusion to services as experienced by Nubans in Khartoum including water, the same report notes:

A man from the Nuba Mountains talked of how his water supply was re-directed: "the [local government] made the decision to close the main water line to our area and direct it to serve another place, saying that we belonged to the conflict area." Another man described not having services: "for three years we have had no electricity and water. We are just having to buy water from tanks brought by donkeys. It is such a humiliation." As another interviewee said, "There are many difficulties in getting services, especially for those who are not registered as National Congress [the ruling party, the NCP]. They ask you first about your political affiliation and tribe before you even register your name to get these basic services." It seems clear that specific groups of people, and areas of Khartoum, are being targeted. [...]

Likewise a man from the Nuba Mountains talked about how he is treated when he tries to access services: "They are always telling us Sudan is an Arab country. There is always pressure against us the

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<sup>119</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, [A worsening displacement crisis in need of a comprehensive response](#), 9 July 2013

<sup>120</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Extension of the logic of exclusion beyond the conflict zones*, p. 6

Nuba from the security because of our identity...Even when I went to register at the university, the official told me to wait for my brothers, meaning the Southerners.”<sup>121</sup>

Access to employment was also mentioned in the same report as “difficult”:

Likewise access to work was seen as difficult, if not impossible, if you come from the wrong place or are perceived to have the “wrong” political affiliations. There is, of course, high unemployment generally, but the economic crisis has exacerbated discrimination of the marginalised. A qualified lawyer from the Nuba Mountains talked of how he was unable to get work using his qualifications “because I am related to a specific tribe and region and they say I am not worthy of such jobs.”<sup>122</sup>

The same report also highlighted that the situation had worsened since secession:

As a man from the Nuba Mountains said: “the secession has truly affected my life in Khartoum because we Nubas are seen as the coming threat, so you can’t be comfortable in such conditions.” Such feelings were summed up by a young man from the Nuba Mountains, who has a university degree but was let go from his job after secession: “because of the secession we have lost everything and become nobody.”<sup>123</sup>

The African Centre for Justice and Peace reports on the May 2012 forced eviction in Khartoum of IDP families from the Nuba mountains:

On 3 May [2012] land authorities in Khartoum forcibly relocated 40,000 families from Suba Alradi to an area in Omdurman called Ajlekhis. During the eviction police were deployed around the camp and in the chaos four children were killed. The people of Suba Alradi come from traditionally marginalised Arab tribes, Darfur, and the Nuba Mountains and have been living in Suba Alradi for over 25 years. The land authorities relocated the community after securing foreign investment opportunities for businesses and companies to develop the land in Suba Alradi. The newly displaced community was given 200 metres of land per family in Omdurman without power and enough water.<sup>124</sup>

For earlier information on the situation of the urban poor in Khartoum in general (which includes but does not specifically address Darfuris), see: Humanitarian Policy Group, [City limits: urbanisation and vulnerability in Sudan, Khartoum case study](#), January 2011, *Chapter 5 The urban economy and livelihoods and 6.3 Housing provision*.

## **Omdurman**

### **Evidence of ill-treatment of Nubans in Omdurman**

The COI included in this section focuses on ill-treatment of Nubans based on their perceived ethnic origin, not on ill-treatment experienced owing to their Christian faith.

Very limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

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<sup>121</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Economic exclusion*, p. 8

<sup>122</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Economic exclusion*, p. 8

<sup>123</sup> International Refugee Rights Initiative, [The Disappearance of Sudan?: Life in Khartoum for citizens without rights](#), May 2013, *Secession: deepening the division*, p. 14

<sup>124</sup> African Centre for Justice and Peace, [Sudan Human Rights Monitor](#) April-May 2012

The following non-exhaustive COI is illustrative of the treatment of Nuban civilians by state authorities in Omdurman (presented in reverse chronological order):

- According to a press release from the organisation Arry<sup>125</sup> in September 2013, “the areas of Akalakla, Hajyousif, Ombada, Mayo, Shambat, Alkadrow, Aldroshab, and many other areas in Khartoum are witnessing major arrest campaign that targeting [sic] you from age of 14 and up [...] the Sudanese security and government militias are raiding the houses of ordinary families in many areas and arresting young men, taking them to unknown places”.<sup>126</sup> The press release mentioned in particular the detention of Sabir Osman Toll, a young man from the Nuba Mountains and arrested at his home in Althawra-Omdurman and Abdein Atia, another young Nuban man, detained from the Jabarona IDP camp outside Omdurman and “presented to trial”.<sup>127</sup> It is unclear from the reporting whether these men were specifically targeted because of their Nuba origin.

### **Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Omdurman**

The COI in this sub-section addresses the situation for perceived political Nubans in Omdurman, not the treatment of known Nuba members of opposition parties or rebel groups.

Very limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

Human Rights Watch reports in its annual report covering events in 2013 that “Sudanese security forces continued to arrest and detain activists, opposition party members, and people suspected of links to rebel groups”.<sup>128</sup> Similarly, Amnesty International together with 19 other organisations noted in a September 2013 submission to the UN Human Rights Council that “The government, through the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), continues to arbitrarily arrest perceived opponents of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in violation of Sudanese and international human rights standards”.<sup>129</sup>

The following non-exhaustive COI is illustrative of the treatment of perceived political Nubans in Omdurman (presented in reverse chronological order):

- At the end of April 2013 at least 14 men of Nuba ethnicity, ten of which were from the Moro sub-group of the Nuba ethnic group, including traditional leaders, shopkeepers, and teachers were arrested in Omdurman following a rebel alliance attack against towns in North and South Kordofan states reported Human Rights Watch in July 2013.<sup>130</sup>
- In May 2013 the Sudan Tribune reported about the arrest of three Nuban civilians belonging to the Tagali ethnic group in South Kordofan by agents of the National Intelligence and Security

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<sup>125</sup>On its ‘About Us’ webpage Arry describes itself as an “independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, peace building and development in Sudan, particularly at the conflict areas such as Bule [sic] Nile , Darfur and Nuba Mountains territory”, which was established in 2011 by Sudanese activists inside Sudan and in Diasporas. Arry.org, [About Us](#), Undated [Last accessed: 03/04/2014]

<sup>126</sup>Arry, [Press Release: Sudan: Protesters Denied Medical Treatment.. \[sic\] Mass arrests and House Raids](#), 30 September 2013

<sup>127</sup>Arry, [Press Release: Sudan: Protesters Denied Medical Treatment.. \[sic\] Mass arrests and House Raids](#), 30 September 2013

<sup>128</sup>Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2014: Sudan](#), 21 January 2014

<sup>129</sup>Amnesty International, [Renewal and strengthening of the special procedure mandate on the situation of human rights in Sudan, UN Human Rights Council 24th session \(9-27 September 2013\) \[AFR 54/017/2013\]](#), 9 September 2013

<sup>130</sup>Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Wave of Arrests After Rebel offensive: Release or Charge Detainees; Reveal Whereabouts](#), 10 July 2013

Services (NISS) who were reportedly arrested in connection with attacks on a South Kordofan town by rebels from the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF).<sup>131</sup> According to the same article, they were being held without charge, denied access to lawyers, their whereabouts remained unknown and their families were not informed about their wellbeing.<sup>132</sup>

- In May 2013 the NGO Arry<sup>133</sup> reported on the arrest of 61 Nuban from the Moro tribe accused of helping and supporting the SPLM in its recent attacks in North Kordofan.<sup>134</sup> The same article reported also on the arrest of 11 Nuba Christians who were held incommunicado.<sup>135</sup>
- By June 2012, Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma, an X-ray technician and founder of the Human Rights and Development Organization in Southern Kordofan, was still being held in Kober prison in Khartoum with no access to a lawyer or his family after being arrested by the NSS in Omdurman in June 2011, released in mid-July 2011 and re-arrested immediately.<sup>136</sup> He worked for the SPLM in 2008 but has not been an active member since.<sup>137</sup>

### **Living conditions for Nubans and urban poor in Omdurman**

Very limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

Agence France-Presse reported in December 2012 on the “poverty-stricken Nuba and South Sudanese of Jaborona”, a settlement which grew out of the desert near Omdurman during Sudan’s 1983-2005 civil war, who live in mud-brick houses and engage in casual jobs.<sup>138</sup>

### **Nuban detainees**

#### **Torture of and prison conditions for Nuban detainees**

The following COI relates to the general detention conditions for Nubans; sources typically do not specify detention locations. Information specific to detention conditions in the Nuba Mountains or South Kordofan was not included.

Limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

Human Rights Watch reports in March 2014 that “The NISS [National Intelligence and Security Services] has a long history of subjecting political detainees to ill-treatment and torture, particularly those from Darfur and other conflict zones”.<sup>139</sup> Similarly a joint report from Sudan Human Rights

<sup>131</sup>Sudan Tribune, [Civilians arrested in connection with SRF attacks](#), 27 May 2013

<sup>132</sup>Sudan Tribune, [Civilians arrested in connection with SRF attacks](#), 27 May 2013

<sup>133</sup>On its ‘About Us’ webpage Arry describes itself as an “independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, peace building and development in Sudan, particularly at the conflict areas such as Bule [sic] Nile , Darfur and Nuba Mountains territory”, which was established in 2011 by Sudanese activists inside Sudan and in Diasporas. Arry.org, [About Us](#), Undated [Last accessed: 03/04/2014]

<sup>134</sup>Arry, [Urgent Action: New crackdown on Nuba Christians: 70+ arrested in one day](#), 4 May 2013

<sup>135</sup>Arry, [Urgent Action: New crackdown on Nuba Christians: 70+ arrested in one day](#), 4 May 2013

<sup>136</sup>Amnesty International, [“We can run away from bombs, but not from hunger”: Sudan’s refugees in South Sudan](#), June 2012, *Arrests and Detention*, p. 13

<sup>137</sup>Amnesty International, [“We can run away from bombs, but not from hunger”: Sudan’s refugees in South Sudan](#), June 2012, *Arrests and Detention*, p. 13

<sup>138</sup>Agence France-Presse, [Sudan displaced await Christmas with smiles, tears](#), 24 December 2012

<sup>139</sup>Human Rights Watch, [Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

Monitor; REDRESS; African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies; FIDH - International Federation of Human Rights of August 2013 notes that:

A number of well-documented cases show that torture and ill treatment is systemic and has been used predominantly to suppress opposition, to obtain confessions or to discriminate against marginal groups, including Darfurians and Southerners who are often also internally displaced persons (IDPs). Political opponents, students, journalists and human rights defenders have been particularly at risk of torture because of their background, (perceived) affiliation, or conduct (or all of these factors taken together). In several instances, individuals are believed to have been tortured to death or tortured before being killed. The cases also show that the authorities have used excessive force during demonstrations that amounted to ill-treatment.<sup>140</sup>

In April 2013, Human Rights Watch, the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, and the Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO) reported that Sudan has released 24 civilian political prisoners following president Omar al-Bashir's recent pledge to "free all political detainees," but at least 100 remained arbitrarily detained without charge, many of them held incommunicado for months in national security detention and military detention.<sup>141</sup> Research by the three organisations showed that the majority of detainees are from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, including a group of 32 ethnic Nuba women from Southern Kordofan who have been detained since November 2012 on the basis of their suspected affiliation with the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North).<sup>142</sup> Amnesty International reported in June 2013 about the release of 14 of these women<sup>143</sup> who were held in El Obeid Prison, in Sudan's Northern Kordofan State.<sup>144</sup> According to the same report "It is believed that five of those who were released had been detained with their young children ranging in age from six months to 18 months, while the other nine had suffered from health problems while in detention. None of the women have been charged with a crime or were given access to lawyers or medical care [...] The 20 women still detained without charge in El Obeid prison do not have access to lawyers, or any medical care they may require".<sup>145</sup>

In July 2012 Radio Miraya reported on the release of Egyptian journalist Shima Addil who was arrested whilst covering the protests in Khartoum in July 2012.<sup>146</sup> She reportedly stated that she met women from the Nuba Mountains in detention who were alleged members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North.<sup>147</sup> She further described the conditions inside the prison as "appalling; saying that many detainees are in a bad psychological state. She says the detainees who are sick are denied proper medical treatment".<sup>148</sup> In May 2012, Amnesty International reported on the continuous detention of a Sudanese activist of Nuba origin, Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma, since June 2011 and specifically highlighted that despite being in poor and deteriorating health he

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<sup>140</sup>Sudan Human Rights Monitor; REDRESS; African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies; FIDH - International Federation of Human Rights, [109th Session of the Human Rights Committee - Pre-Sessional Meeting on Sudan](#), August 2013, VI. *Prohibition of torture and ill-treatment: Shortcomings in the legal framework, inadequate safeguards, barriers to accountability and reparation as well as recourse to corporal punishment (article 7 of the Covenant)*

<sup>141</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Despite Pledge, Many Political Prisoners Remain](#), 22 April 2013

<sup>142</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Despite Pledge, Many Political Prisoners Remain](#), 22 April 2013

<sup>143</sup>Please note that the Amnesty International article mentions that **34 Nuban** women were arrested in November 2012 compared to 32 reported by Human Rights Watch. See Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: 14 Women Released, 20 Still Detained in Sudan](#), 14 June 2013 and Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Despite Pledge, Many Political Prisoners Remain](#), 22 April 2013

<sup>144</sup> Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: 14 Women Released, 20 Still Detained in Sudan](#), 14 June 2013

<sup>145</sup> Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: 14 Women Released, 20 Still Detained in Sudan](#), 14 June 2013

<sup>146</sup> Radio Miraya, [South Sudanese detained in Sudanese prison](#), July 2012

<sup>147</sup> Radio Miraya, [South Sudanese detained in Sudanese prison](#), July 2012

<sup>148</sup> Radio Miraya, [South Sudanese detained in Sudanese prison](#), July 2012



continues to be denied access to a doctor.<sup>149</sup> According to the same article he has reportedly been tortured and suffered from other forms of ill-treatment during his detention.<sup>150</sup>

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<sup>149</sup> Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Health Concerns for Detained Activist](#), 11 May 2012

<sup>150</sup> Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Health Concerns for Detained Activist](#), 11 May 2012

## **2) What is the situation of political opponents who fled Sudan several (over 10) years ago, upon their return to Sudan?**

Very limited information was found on this issue amongst the sources consulted that were published between 2012 and March 2014, the research period of this query response.

In April 2013 the NGO Arry<sup>151</sup> reported on a case of a returnee to Sudan after living for 15 years in Eritrea:

The Sudanese Security arrested Tijany Alhaj Abdu Alrahman from the Khartoum airport, as he was coming back from Eritria [sic] after living in exile there for 15 years. Tijany is a human rights defender democracy advocate and writer.

He left Sudan more than 15 years ago after he was living in exile and decided to return to Sudan to visit his family. The whereabouts of Tijany remained unknown, and he is in danger of torture and ill treatment in the security detentions.<sup>152</sup>

Reporting on the situation for forced returnees to Sudan, the summary<sup>153</sup> of a November 2013 Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre(Landinfo) report states that:

The scope of political activity critical of the regime is restricted in Sudan, especially for parties and groups working for a more pluralistic society. Conditions for oppositional activists have deteriorated since South Sudan got its independence in July 2011. Sudanese security forces have used brutal means to stop waves of popular demonstrations in June-July and September-October 2012, and in September-October 2013. The main instrument of political oppression is the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), which uses a range of forceful means to restrict political activity and freedom of speech. Political activity inside Sudan is not the sole focus of the Sudanese regime, which also tries to limit such activity among Sudanese abroad through monitoring exile communities. Although there is no concrete evidence to support that forced returnees to Sudan face problems with security forces, Landinfo can see no reason why Sudanese authorities should differentiate between political activities outside and inside Sudan, provided their aim is to change the political situation in Sudan in ways threatening president Umar al-Bashir's regime.<sup>154</sup>

Additional sources also report that the Sudanese regime has the capability to monitor the politically activity of its citizens abroad, specifically in Egypt and the UK.<sup>155</sup>

It is reported that perceived political opponents are arrested on return to Khartoum airport, having spent time abroad, but after much shorter time periods. Non-exhaustive illustrative examples (presented in reverse chronological order) include:

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<sup>151</sup>On its 'About Us' webpage Arry describes itself as an "independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, peace building and development in Sudan, particularly at the conflict areas such as Bule [sic] Nile , Darfur and Nuba Mountains territory", which was established in 2011 by Sudanese activists inside Sudan and in Diasporas. Arry.org, [About Us](#), Undated [Last accessed: 03/04/2014]

<sup>152</sup> Arry, [Urgent Action: Sudanese HRDs Detained at Risk of Torture](#), 25 April 2013

<sup>153</sup> Only the summary of the report is translated in to English

<sup>154</sup> Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre (Landinfo), [Sudan: Handlingsrom for regime-kritisk politisk aktivisme](#), 11 November 2013

<sup>155</sup> For non-exhaustive, illustrative COI see:

Amnesty International, [Repression still stalks Sudanese activists who sought safety in Egypt](#), 18 January 2013

The Telegraph, [Sudanese 'diplomats spying for agents that torture in Khartoum'](#), 9 January 2013

Arry, URGENT ACTION: [The Sudanese Regime threatening Nuba Activists Inside and out Side Sudan](#), 4 June 2012

Although outside the research period for this query response, also note the following report on this issue:

Waging Peace, [The Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Service](#), 4 August 2011

- The Sudan Tribune reports that in October 2013 “Security authorities at Khartoum airport arrested an activist who is also the deputy general coordinator of Sudan's Tamarud (rebellion) campaign, Mohamed Hashim, in the middle of this month and seized his passport upon his return from Cairo to spend Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) holiday with his family. Hashim was interrogated and questioned about his role in Tamarud, his Facebook posts critical of the government and his links with the rebel Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF). Afterwards, he was transferred to the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) headquarters for further questioning”.<sup>156</sup>
- Amnesty International reports that “On 27 September [2013], the NISS arrested Dr Sidgi Kabbalo, a member of the Central Committee of Sudan’s Communist Party, shortly after he returned from the UK. Family members attempted to visit him on 30 September, but were told to return in 15 days. The NISS would not disclose the detained doctor’s whereabouts to his family. The 64-year-old doctor holds dual Sudanese and British nationality. He suffers from Type 1 Diabetes and his family are concerned that he is not receiving adequate care in detention”.<sup>157</sup> Information was not provided on the length of time he had been outside of Sudan.
- Human Rights Watch reports that on February 14 2013, “NISS agents arrested Youssef al-Kauda, the leader of the Moderate Islamic Party, an Islamist opposition group, at the Khartoum airport upon his return from a trip to Kampala and Cairo. He reportedly signed a separate document with representatives of Sudanese rebel groups”.<sup>158</sup>
- Five Sudanese politicians and activists were arrested on arrival from Uganda at Khartoum airport in January 2013.<sup>159</sup> Whilst in Uganda they had signed the 'New Dawn Charter', under which they “agreed to overthrow the government of President Omar al-Bashir and institute a federal system of government based on democracy, pluralism and the separation of religion and the state”.<sup>160</sup> Information was not provided on how long they had been in Uganda for, although it appears the negotiations in Kampala, Uganda were from January 2 to January 5 2013.<sup>161</sup>
- Radio Dabanga reported on the arrest of 25 students from Darfur at Khartoum airport in January 2013, following their return from Amman, Jordan noting that “A source who works at the airport said that a large number of security forces were waiting for the students at the airport’s arrival hall, where they were detained”.<sup>162</sup> Information was not provided on the reason for the arrest or the length of time they had spent outside of Sudan.

In September 2012 Waging Peace published ‘The Danger of Returning Home’ which “documents the disturbing experiences of Sudanese individuals who have spent time in Europe and who have been subjected to varying levels of interrogation, detention, and ill-treatment on their return to Sudan. Under interrogation returnees were explicitly questioned by the Sudanese authorities about their activities and experiences in Europe, and it appears they were targeted because of the time they spent overseas”.<sup>163</sup> The report is based on the testimony of six individuals (three of whom had claimed asylum in Europe), all of whom had returned to Sudan before 2012.<sup>164</sup> The report states with regards to the questioning and interrogation experienced in Sudan by those interviewed that:

The testimonies reveal the interrogators’ strong interest in the presence and activities of Sudanese within Europe; particularly where the activities were perceived as posing a threat to the Sudanese government. Seeking asylum seems in itself to be treated with hostility and is seen as damaging

<sup>156</sup> Sudan Tribune, [Sudan: Authorities Arrest Official in Youth Movement At Airport](#), 26 October 2013

<sup>157</sup> Amnesty International, [Sudan escalates mass arrests of activists amid protest crackdown](#), 2 October 2013

<sup>158</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Crackdown on Political Opposition](#), 26 January 2013

<sup>159</sup> IRIN news, [Sudan continues crackdown on opposition groups](#), 15 January 2013

<sup>160</sup> IRIN news, [Sudan continues crackdown on opposition groups](#), 15 January 2013

<sup>161</sup> Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Crackdown on Political Opposition](#), 26 January 2013

<sup>162</sup> Radio Dabanga, [25 Darfur students arrested at Khartoum airport](#), 21 January 2013

<sup>163</sup> Waging Peace, [The Danger of Returning Home](#), September 2012, *Introduction*

<sup>164</sup> Waging Peace, [The Danger of Returning Home](#), September 2012, *Asylum Seekers*

Sudan's international reputation. Engagement in or affiliation to 'anti-governmental' political activity is treated particularly seriously, and as the excerpts highlight, can become a central theme during interrogation. In some cases it is evident there has been Sudanese surveillance at meetings and protests about Sudanese political issues held in the UK.<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>165</sup>Waging Peace, [The Danger of Returning Home](#), September 2012, *Interrogation*