

Situation in Khartoum and Omdurman

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Explanatory Note

This report presents country of origin information (COI) on Sudan up to 18th August 2015 on issues of relevance in refugee status determination for Sudanese regarding the living conditions and treatment of those persons who habitually reside in Khartoum or Omdurman but who are not originally from there.

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 to conduct source assessments. Research focused on sources published since April 2014 (i.e. post the cut off point for research of the publication: Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014) and all sources were accessed in August 2015.

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.

Sources and databases consulted

Databases consulted:

[ECOI.net](#)

[Refworld](#)

[Reliefweb](#)

Sources consulted

[Aegis Trust](#)

[African Arguments](#)

[African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies \(ACJPS\)](#)

[Africa Review](#)

[All Africa](#)

[Amnesty International](#)

[Arry](#)

[Article 19](#)

[Brookings Institution](#)

[Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)

[CHR Michelsen Institute](#)

[Child Rights International Network](#)

[Committee to Protect Journalists](#)

[Enough Project](#)

[Equal Rights Trust](#)

[Eric Reeves, Sudan Research, Analysis, and Advocacy](#)

[Gurtong](#)

[Human Rights Watch](#)

[Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan/Small Arms Survey](#)

[Institute for Economics & Peace – Global Peace Index 2015](#)

[Institute for War and Peace Reporting](#)

[Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#)

[International Crisis Group](#)

[International Federation for Human Rights](#)

[International Office for Migration Sudan Mission](#)

[International Refugee Rights Initiative](#)

[Inter Press Service](#)

[IRIN news](#)

[Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders](#)

[Minority Rights Group International](#)

[Nuba Reports](#)

[Open Society Foundations](#)

[Radio Dabanga](#)

[Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#)

[Reporters Without Borders](#)

[Reuters Africa](#)

[Save the Children](#)

[Rift Valley Institute](#)

[Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa](#)

[Sudan Social Development Organisation](#)

[Sudan Tribune](#)

[Transparency International](#)

[UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#)

[UNAMID](#)

[United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)

[United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)

[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)

[United Nations Human Settlements Programme \(UNHABITAT\)](#)

[United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(UNOCHA\)](#)

[United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#)

[United Nations Population Fund \(UNPFPA\)](#)

[United Nations Women](#)

[United Nations World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#)

[United States Institute of Peace](#)

[Waging Peace](#)

[World Bank](#)

[World Health Organisation](#)

List of Acronyms

ACJPS	African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DRA	Darfur Regional Authority
DSA	Darfur Students Association
GoS	Government of Sudan
HAC	Humanitarian Aid Commission
LJM	Liberation and Justice Movement
NCP	National Congress Party
NISS	National Intelligence and Security Service
NWOI	No to Women's Oppression Initiative
PDF	Popular Defense Forces
POP	Public Order Police
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SCP	Sudanese Congress Party
SLA	Sudanese Liberation Army
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation Movement
SRF	Sudan Revolutionary Forces
UNAMID	African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur

1. Security situation, including evidence of attacks and other forms of ill-treatment of specific groups

1.1. Violence against members of specific groups

Only COI on the physical treatment of persons not originally from Khartoum and Omdurman, or those supporting such persons has been included in this section. For information on the arrest and detention of these profiles see [1.2. Arbitrary arrest and detention](#).

1.1.1. Darfuri

This section should be read against [1.1.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there](#) as COI on violence against Darfuri students and students supporting Darfuris in Khartoum/Omdurman has been included there.

Welcoming a Human Rights Watch report on the 2014 mass rape in Tabit, North Darfur, Radio Dabanga cited Adeela El Zebag, Head of the Sudanese Women Union (SWU) in Khartoum as stating that “the government in Khartoum is using rape as a weapon against the opposition forces in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile state. Even in Khartoum, women and girls from these conflict zones are sexually harassed by government forces”.²

In a June 2014 report REDRESS states with regards to the general treatment of Darfuris (location not specified) that “many of those subjected to whipping appear to belong to marginalised groups, such as impoverished women, tea-sellers, and those from certain backgrounds, including Southern Sudanese and Darfurians, particularly for alcohol related offences or for alleged adultery”.³ The same source further notes that “meetings and demonstrations organised by Darfur IDPs and Darfur students associations around the country have been met with excessive force”.⁴

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Evidence of ill-treatment of Darfuris in Khartoum*

1.1.2. Nuba

This section should be read against [1.1.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there](#) as COI on the treatment of Nuba students and Nuba human rights activists in Khartoum/Omdurman has been included there.

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on physical violence against Nubans was found amongst the sources consulted.

² Radio Dabanga, [Sudan's Women Union, Darfur Centre welcome HRW report](#), 15 February 2015

³ REDRESS, [Sudan's human rights crisis: High time to take article 2 of the Covenant seriously](#), June 2014, paragraph 113

⁴ REDRESS, [Sudan's human rights crisis: High time to take article 2 of the Covenant seriously](#), June 2014, paragraph 61

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Evidence of ill-treatment of Nubans in Khartoum*

1.1.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

An October 2014 Equal Rights Trust report explains that “religious minorities and those promoting moderate versions of Islam experience discrimination on the basis of their religion or belief and severe restriction on their religious freedoms, but their experience is strongly influenced by the political context”.⁵ The same source reports with regards to forcible closures of churches in Khartoum and Omdurman that:

Participants at an Equal Rights Trust focus group meeting with members of the media, held in January 2014, provided a number of examples of closures of churches, religious schools and other institutions in the three years since the secession of South Sudan. Examples included the closure of a Catholic religious school in Omdurman and the Evangelical Cultural Centre in Khartoum immediately after independence in 2011, and the government’s failure to prevent the burning down of a church in south Khartoum in 2012. Reports by Christian campaigning organisations also highlight cases of churches being shut down and in some cases demolished. The organisation Release International reported in January 2013 that the Sudan Pentecostal Church in the Soba Al Aradi district of Khartoum had been “pulled down without warning”. Release International reported that while “officials say the demolitions took place because South Sudanese are there illegally: the suburb was originally a refugee camp for southerners”, Christians saw the action as “further evidence of a government bid to make Sudan purely Islamic”. In addition to the forced closure of Christian religious buildings there are indications that the government does not permit the building of new churches.⁶

Radio Dabanga reports in July 2014 that a Sudanese government force destroyed a church in Khartoum North, a day after authorities had sent a letter saying they would demolish the church.⁷ The same source further explains that “In April 2013, a Sudanese Minister announced that no licenses would be granted to allow for the building of new churches. It was less than two years after the predominantly Christian South Sudan seceded to form an independent country. Sudanese authorities demolished a church building in Omdurman without prior notice in February this year. The church was not a missionary church but an indigenous one, with congregants mainly from the Nuba Mountains. Sudanese Christians also believed it is part of a campaign by President Omar Al Bashir to rid the country of Christianity”.⁸

Reporting on tribal clashes in Khartoum in July 2015, the Sudan Tribune notes that “at least four people were killed following clashes between al-Hawaweer and al-Gamo’iya at an area that lies west of Sudan’s twin capital city of Omdurman in a dispute over land. The interior ministry sent police units to separate the two sides while Khartoum state decided to form a committee to investigate the bloody events during an emergency meeting of the Commission for the Coordination of Security Affairs headed by governor Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein. This follows similar clashes which took

⁵ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Executive Summary p.VI*

⁶ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination against Christians and Other Religious Minorities p.45*

⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Sudan demolishes church in Khartoum](#), 1 July 2014

⁸ Radio Dabanga, [Sudan demolishes church in Khartoum](#), 1 July 2014

place last week which led to the death of one person and injury of several others. Houses were also burned in the battle which saw the use of knives and guns”.⁹

1.1.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

Only COI on the physical treatment of persons not originally from Khartoum and Omdurman, or those supporting such persons has been included. Unless otherwise stated, in cases where the home area and ethnic origin of students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists or those they are supporting has not been identified, such COI has not been included (i.e. information on the treatment of popular protestors or political activists perceived as critical of the government in general or opposing the elections has not been included).

Students

Reporting on the general climate in Sudan (location not specified), an October 2014 submission to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, REDRESS and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) notes that “Student meetings and demonstrations held in or on the issue of Darfur have also been met with excessive force”.¹⁰

The 2014 U.S. Department of State report indicates that “Security forces used excessive force against demonstrators. On March 11, security forces used force and live ammunition to disperse students at the University of Khartoum protesting escalating violence in Darfur. One student, Ali Abakar Musa Idris, died of injuries he sustained during the confrontation with security forces and proregime students”.¹¹ Reporting on the same incident, Amnesty International notes that:

On 11 March 2014, Ali Abakar Musa, an economics student at the University of Khartoum died from gunshot wounds sustained when the security services opened fire during a demonstration at the university. The demonstration took place immediately after the conclusion of a public forum organised by the Darfur Students’ Association concerning escalating violence in South Darfur. Students marched to the main university gate, where they were met by the joint force of the police, the NISS and student militias. The security services reportedly fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition at the students.

Amnesty International spoke to eyewitnesses, including students and journalists, who said at first armed men dressed in civilian clothes, believed to be part of the pro-government student militia, came and started beating the students. Subsequently, the police and the NISS came and used tear gas and live ammunition to disperse the protesters, resulting in the death of Ali Abakar Musa Idris. A medical report obtained by ACJPS stated Ali Abakar Musa had been shot by live ammunition in the chest. The police subsequently issued a statement denying responsibility for his death. Seven other students were injured after being beaten with batons and shot at with rubber bullets.¹²

According to Human Rights Watch, “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

⁹ Sudan Tribune, [Four people killed in tribal clashes in Sudan’s capital](#), 29 July 2015

¹⁰ REDRESS and African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [56th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-Sessional Working Group on Sudan](#), 1 October 2014

¹¹ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.a

¹² Amnesty International, [Excessive and Deadly: The use of force, arbitrary detention and torture against protestors in Sudan](#), September 2014, *UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM PROTESTS IN MARCH 2014* p.18-19

responsibility for the death”.¹³ Radio Dabanga reports that in June 2014 Students attending gatherings at the universities of Shambat and El Nilein in Khartoum were violently dispersed by security forces on Thursday. One of the students told Radio Dabanga that security forces, together with what he called “the students’ gang of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP)” assaulted Darfuri students when they were attending a gathering at the Faculty of Agriculture at Shambat University in Khartoum North”.¹⁴ The same source notes in July 2014 “Security forces in Omdurman beat students and used tear gas to disperse them during their peaceful protest against the tribal conflict in East Darfur, staged in front of the National Assembly on Thursday. Five of the students were arrested”.¹⁵

The U.S Department of State reports that in October 2014:

Security forces and police harassed suspected government opponents. On October 5-6, government security forces arrested 18 Darfuri students who refused to move out of their dormitories at the University of Khartoum. Some of those arrested reported being verbally and sexually harassed by security forces. According to eyewitnesses, security forces claimed the students supported Darfuri rebel groups. The students denied being rebel supporters.¹⁶

Reporting on the same incident Human Rights Watch stated that “The police verbally and physically abused students, those who have been released told Human Rights Watch. Students who were arrested on both days were taken to the National Security and Intelligence Service (NISS) offices, where officers beat and interrogated them about their political affiliations before transferring them to the Omdurman prison for women”.¹⁷ It further cited a student as noting that that “When I was in the room collecting my things six policemen came into the room and beat me with batons on my chest and on my arms and back. [...] I screamed and I ran out and left my things among it precious things like money”.¹⁸ Another student, Hawa Suliman, was so badly beaten during her arrest that she required medical treatment, witnesses who saw her later in detention told Human Rights Watch.¹⁹ According to No to Women’s Oppression Initiative (NWOI), “The female students were “verbally abused by the use of racist and sexual obscenities”, and dragged outside while the government forces were beating them, and “fondling sensitive parts of the body”.²⁰

Reporting further on violence against Darfuri students and those that support Darfuri students in Khartoum the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes that:

The government restricted academic freedom and association at cultural and academic institutions. It determined the curriculum and appointed the vice chancellors responsible for administering public institutions. It continued to arrest student activists, cancel student events, and deny permits for some student events. Youth activists reported that some universities discouraged students from participating in antigovernment rallies and showed favorable treatment towards NCP students. Some professors exercised self-censorship. Security forces used tear gas and other heavy-handed tactics against largely peaceful protests occurring at universities or involving university students. The Public Order Police continued to monitor public gatherings and cultural events, often intimidating women and girls, who feared police would arrest them for “indecent” dress or actions.

¹³ Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

¹⁴ Radio Dabanga, [Students beaten in Sudan’s capital](#), 22 June 2014

¹⁵ Radio Dabanga, [Sudan security disperses students’ protest in Khartoum](#), 18 July 2014

¹⁶ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.c, 1.e, 2a

¹⁷ Human Rights Watch, [Police Beat, Arrest Female Students](#), 15 October 2014

¹⁸ Human Rights Watch, [Police Beat, Arrest Female Students](#), 15 October 2014

¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, [Police Beat, Arrest Female Students](#), 15 October 2014

²⁰ Radio Dabanga, [Women Initiative condemns ‘racist attack’ on Darfur students](#), 9 October 2014

Clashes between student activists and progovernment students at the University of Khartoum led to armed interventions by security forces in March and May. Classes were partially suspended in May and again between May and September. In September the vice chancellor of the University of Khartoum suspended student activities (political, cultural, and social) inside university premises and began requiring preapproval from the dean of students before holding events.²¹

Radio Dabanga also reported in December 2014 that Government forces “raided the Kadaro compound of Bahri University, using batons, metal bars, and tear gas to disperse a political gathering, arranged by the Darfur Students’ Association. A number of students were injured, and dozens were detained”.²²

The May 2015 report of the UN Secretary-General noted with regards to violence clashes involving Darfuri students in Khartoum and Omdurman that:

According to media reports, these were violent clashes between students supporting the National Congress Party (NCP) and students from Darfur in Khartoum, Omdurman and Port Sudan.²³

In May 2015 Hasabelnabi Mahmoud, Secretary-General of the Darfur Students Association (DSA) described a “racist campaign” of attacks against Darfuri students by youth members of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).²⁴ Reportedly attacks “intensified after the death of Mohamed Awad El Karim, a senior member of the NCP student wing at Sharg El Nil College, on 29 April. According to reports, a group of 150 militant NCP students attacked a number of Darfuri students, who were having a meeting of the Darfur Student Association at the campus. In the ensuing clashes, Awad El Karim was killed. In the following weeks, Darfuris studying at universities in Sudan’s capital were assaulted. The security apparatus detained a number of Darfuri students, as well as their relatives. [...] Darfuri student Fawzi Suleiman Abdallah told Radio Dabanga that “until now” 37 students from Darfur have been seriously injured”.²⁵ Radio Dabanga further notes that “In the following weeks, Darfuris studying at universities in Sudan’s capital were assaulted. The security apparatus detained a number of them, as well as their relatives. According to the Darfur Students Association, about 815 Darfuri students were evicted from dormitories in Khartoum, and Dongola, northern Sudan, in May”.²⁶ A May 2015 Sudan Tribune article cited a Darfuri student as stating “We are selectively being targeted because we are Dafurians. Security people just look at your color and then you are brutally assaulted”.²⁷

Amnesty International similarly reported at the end of May 2015 that “Amnesty International has received numerous reports since the end of Sudan’s general elections in April 2015 that the NISS crackdown on activities of political opposition groups and civil society has intensified. In recent weeks more than 221 students from Darfur were arrested by NISS and the police after violent clashes between the National Congress Party student supporters and students from Darfur in five universities in Khartoum. 157 were released on bail after having been charged with various crimes. 37 students were injured”.²⁸ Reporting on clashes on 21 May 2015 Radio Dabanga noted that “Students in a discussion corner in Omdurman El Ahliya University came under attack by other

²¹ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, *Section 1.c, 1.e, 2a*

²² Radio Dabanga, [More than 30 Bahri University students detained in Sudan](#), 24 December 2014

²³ UN, [Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur](#), 26 May 2015, *paragraph 16*

²⁴ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Sudan 'in dangerous situation'](#), 20 May 2015

²⁵ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Sudan 'in dangerous situation'](#), 20 May 2015

²⁶ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students to court, Ansar students attacked in Sudan](#), 5 June 2015

²⁷ Sudan Tribune, [Sudan gov't beats genocide drums against Darfurians in Khartoum](#), 8 May 2015

²⁸ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action, Activists' whereabouts unknown after arrest](#), 29 May 2015

students on Thursday. At least 11 students, mainly from Darfur, were injured.²⁹ According to Hasabelnabi Mahmoud El Amin, the Secretary-General of the Darfur Students Association at Omdurman El Ahliya University, armed student members of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) “targeted the students with metal bars and machetes, and chased the Darfuri students off the university ground, even on to the streets of Omdurman”.³⁰

In an April 2015 submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation reports with regards to the situation for Nuba students in Khartoum:

Racial aggression and social discrimination have become noticeable in certain parts of Khartoum, and has found its way to some universities. Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation recently documented incidents by NCP students who have attacked Nuba students in Alzaeem Al Azhary University [in Khartoum] during the period from the 11th to the 18th of March 2015. The marginalisation of ethnic and religious minorities in Sudan, including the Nuba peoples, is institutionalized in the media including national TV which does not equally represent or portray Sudan’s diversity.³¹

Journalists

The 2014 U.S. Department of State report indicates that the authorities monitor the personal information of journalists and details the physical treatment of those seen as critical of the government in general:

The government, including the NISS, continued to arrest, harass, intimidate, and torture journalists and vocal critics of the government. The NISS required journalists to provide personal information, such as details on their tribe, political affiliation, and family. [...]

The NISS initiated and continued legal action against journalists for stories critical of the government and security services.³²

Although not specifying its area of operation, in September 2014 Reporters Without Borders stated that “Nuba Reports, a news website specializing in covering the Sudanese war-torn states of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur, is concerned for the safety of its local correspondents after it was the target of a Distributed Denial of Service attack”.³³ It further notes that “The attack comes three days after a paper by Nuba Reports was circulated during the 27th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Entitled “Khartoum’s War on Sudan”, it summarized human rights violations since 2012 in the three regions the website covers”.³⁴

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum and Evidence of ill-treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Omdurman and Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Khartoum and Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Omdurman*.

²⁹ Radio Dabanga, [Students attacked inside university in Khartoum](#), 22 May 2015

³⁰ Radio Dabanga, [Students attacked inside university in Khartoum](#), 22 May 2015

³¹ Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation, [Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\); Review of the Periodic Report of Sudan](#), April 2015, *paragraph 12*

³² U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, *Section 2.a*

³³ Reporters Without Borders, [Hackers attack website that covers Sudan’s war-torn regions](#), 19 September 2014

³⁴ Reporters Without Borders, [Hackers attack website that covers Sudan’s war-torn regions](#), 19 September 2014

1.1.5. IDPs

The following section addresses the situation for IDPs in general, whose ethnicity is not identified. For information specific to the situation for Darfuri IDPs or Nuba IDPs in Khartoum or Omdurman see the preceding sections.

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office reported in its update of 30 September 2014 that “Reports of rape by armed combatants in Darfur remain widespread, as do allegations of incidents within IDP camps on the outskirts of Khartoum”.³⁵

In December 2014 Radio Dabanga reported that “Two women were raped and more than 20 people sustained injuries during an attack by elements of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on displaced people living at the outskirts of Khartoum’s sister-city of Omdurman”³⁶ It further noted that “The source said that eight of the wounded had to be transferred to a hospital for treatment. The police of El Fateh 1 district refused to document the complaints about the rape cases. The majority of residents of the five districts, El Fateh 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, located west and northwest of Omdurman, are displaced who fled the violence in the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan, and Darfur”.³⁷

1.1.6. Returnees

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on physical violence against returnees was found amongst the sources consulted.

1.2. Arbitrary arrest and detention

This section should be read against [1.3. Prison conditions](#).

Only COI on the arrest and detention of persons not originally from Khartoum and Omdurman, or those supporting such persons has been included in this section. For information on the physical treatment of these profiles see [1.1. Violence against members of specific groups](#).

1.2.1. Darfuri

This section should be read against [1.2.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there](#) as COI on the arrest and detention of Darfuri students, human rights activists, journalists and political activists and those supporting Darfuris in Khartoum/Omdurman has been included there.

The arrest of Darfuri returnees is dealt with below in section [1.2.6. Returnees](#).

³⁵ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Sudan - Country of Concern: latest update](#), 30 September 2014, 16 October 2014

³⁶ Radio Dabanga, [Sudan: Two raped, 20 wounded in militia attack on Omdurman district](#), 1 December 2014

³⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Sudan: Two raped, 20 wounded in militia attack on Omdurman district](#), 1 December 2014

Although not specifying location, as noted by the Equal Rights Trust in an October 2014 report, “Dr Adam, Director of the Sudanese Social Development Organisation “confirmed that members of ethnic minorities are vulnerable to arrest and prolonged detention due to their perceived association with rebel movements in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. He further stated that there are many such cases, though estimating total numbers is difficult because of the lack of official records on the activities of the NISS”.³⁸

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum and Evidence of ill-treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Omdurman*

1.2.2. Nuba

This section should be read against [1.2.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there](#) as COI on the treatment of Nuba human rights activists and those supporting Nubans in Khartoum/Omdurman has been included there.

This section should also be read alongside the subsequent section [1.2.3. Other ethnic and/ or religious minorities](#) which documents the arrest and detention of Christians originally from the Nuba mountains in South Kordofan.

Although reporting on the population of South Kordofan State, it should be noted that the International Refugee Rights Initiative reports with regards to the ethnic identity of the Nuba that “The state is populated by multiple different identity groups, generally described as Arab and African. The African groups, often called the “Nuba”, are composed of more than 80 communities. These communities do not necessarily share the same faith or language, and Sudanese Arabic is the lingua franca. Indeed, the construction of a “Nuba people” has been very much defined by outsiders, and has been reinforced at a local level as a result of a common experience of repression and discrimination by Khartoum”.³⁹

Although not specifying location, as noted by the Equal Rights Trust in an October 2014 report, “Dr Adam, Director of the Sudanese Social Development Organisation “confirmed that members of ethnic minorities are vulnerable to arrest and prolonged detention due to their perceived association with rebel movements in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. He further stated that there are many such cases, though estimating total numbers is difficult because of the lack of official records on the activities of the NISS”.⁴⁰

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) reports that “On the night of 22 June [2014] police in the Almolazmeen area of Khartoum’s twin city Omdurman arrested 40 individuals of Nuba ethnicity, beating those arrested and using racist and discriminatory language against them. According to eye-witness accounts, at least 40 police were deployed to the area and targeted people

³⁸ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination by the Army, Security and Police Forces* p.72

³⁹ International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI), ["We just want a rest from war." Civilian perspectives on the conflict in Sudan's Southern Kordofan State](#), April 2015

⁴⁰ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination by the Army, Security and Police Forces* p.72

based on their Nuba ethnicity in apparent retaliation for the beating of a police officer accused of raping a woman of Nuba ethnicity along with two other police officers earlier that night. The 40 detainees, including at least 14 children and the woman who was reportedly gang-raped by police officers prior to her arrest, were taken to Omdurman central police station”.⁴¹ The same source further notes that:

34 individuals were released the same night without charge. Four men and two women, including the woman who was reportedly gang-raped, were detained overnight and released on bail on the following day, 23 June. The group was charged under article 69 (disturbance of public peace) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. Many of those released reported being subjected to beatings, verbal abuse including racist language, and threats of sexual violence whilst in detention.⁴²

Human Rights Watch notes in an April 2015 article documenting the crackdown on opposition party members, students, and political activists, in the lead up to, during, and after national election that “In Khartoum, a lawyer who was arrested in his office by national security agents on April 12 told Human Rights Watch that he had been blindfolded and beaten with pipes, and could barely move because of his injuries. “My body is broken,” he said by telephone on April 20. He and four other men detained with him, all ethnic Nuba, were released on April 15”.⁴³

In the days building up to the April 2015 elections ACJPS reported that “Members of the Nuba ethnic group also appear to have been targeted, possibly on the grounds of their presumed political affiliations to armed movements. Four members of the Nuba ethnic group in Khartoum were arrested by the NISS and held for three days on suspicion of being members of the SPLM-N. They were released onto a street in Khartoum blindfolded. All four individuals reported being subjected to torture and ill-treatment, including being beaten with water pipes, whilst in NISS custody”.⁴⁴

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Khartoum and Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Omdurman*

1.2.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

The 2014 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report notes that “Government pressure on Christians in Sudan continued during 2013. In this reporting period, the National Intelligence Security Services (NISS) raided the New Life Church in Omdurman Town on March 2; raided the offices of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church on June 25; confiscated the Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church on October 5; and bulldozed the Sudanese Church of Christ building also in Omdurman on February 17, 2014. NISS officers also continued to arrest and deport Nuba and South Sudanese Christians”.⁴⁵

⁴¹ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Police violence and mass arrests in Omdurman following reported gang-rape of Nuba woman by police officers](#), 8 July 2014

⁴² African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Police violence and mass arrests in Omdurman following reported gang-rape of Nuba woman by police officers](#), 8 July 2014

⁴³ Human Rights Watch, [Surge in Detention, Beatings, Around Elections](#), 29 April 2015

⁴⁴ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan's electoral period marred by arrests and incommunicado detention; insecurity in Darfur](#), 17 April 2015

⁴⁵ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [USCIRF Annual Report 2014 - Countries of Particular Concern: Sudan](#), 30 April 2014

The Equal Rights Trust reported in an October 2014 report that “Recent reports indicate that Christians are also vulnerable to harassment, arrest and abuse by state actors which religious freedom. In April 2013, Christian Solidarity Worldwide stated that since December 2012, there had been an “increase in arrests, detentions and deportations of Christians and of those suspected of having links to them, particularly in Khartoum and Omdurman, Sudan’s largest cities”.⁴⁶ The same source further notes that it “also heard allegations that Shia and Baha’i minorities are also persecuted: in Khartoum, ten Baha’i persons were arrested in 2013. [...] The Sufi community in Omdurman is also sometimes harassed, even though their weekly dervish dancing ceremony is one of the city’s tourist attractions. A newspaper journalist told the Trust: “Sufi people in Omdurman were arrested over a land dispute – I reported on this and was arrested”.⁴⁷

Although not providing further details, Nuba Reports considers in an October 2014 article that “In Khartoum, President Omar al Bashir promises holy war against rebels and civilians alike. The country operates under Islamic law, and Christians in Khartoum have often faced persecution”.⁴⁸

Although not detailing the origin of the victims, the 2014 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report further notes that “Hundreds of Muslim and Christian women and girls in Khartoum annually are flogged for indecent dress that violates the Public Order Regime. What constitutes indecent dress is not defined by law, but is left to the discretion of arresting officers and prosecuting judges”.⁴⁹ The Equal Rights Trust notes in an October 2014 report that “from its conversations with various respondents, the Equal Rights Trust found that dress code restrictions are applied much more rigorously in certain settings, where women are at a higher risk of being arrested for indecent dress: in the ethno-regional periphery, in certain poor urban areas, and in universities, but not, for example, in company offices or in more affluent areas of Khartoum”.⁵⁰

The 2015 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report notes that “Throughout this reporting period, the government of Sudan continued efforts to confiscate church property. In 2014 and early 2015, both the Bahri Evangelical Church and an Anglican church in Khartoum continued legal battles to maintain ownership of their churches and the land they occupy. On December 2, Sudanese authorities partially destroyed the Bahri Evangelical Church and arrested 37 congregants protesting the action. They were later released”.⁵¹

Amnesty International reported that in June 2015, the Public Order Police (POP) arrested 12 female Christian students originally from the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan in front of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Khartoum North, where they had attended a ceremony, and took them to a local police station in Khartoum North.⁵² It explains that “Ten of them were charged with “indecent dress”, under Article 152 of Sudan’s 1991 Criminal Act, while the other two were released. The POP subjected the students to degrading treatment and humiliating verbal abuse during their detention. Article 152 of the 1991 Criminal Act gives POP extensive powers to arrest any person for “indecent dress” and the punishment if found guilty is 40 lashes, or a fine, or with both. In practice the law is

⁴⁶ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination against Christians and Other Religious Minorities* p.47

⁴⁷ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination against Christians and Other Religious Minorities* p.49

⁴⁸ Nuba Reports, [Two Brothers, Two Religions](#), 21 October 2014

⁴⁹ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [USCIRF Annual Report 2014 - Countries of Particular Concern: Sudan](#), 30 April 2014

⁵⁰ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Legal provisions which discriminate against women* p.120

⁵¹ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [USCIRF Annual Report 2015 - Tier 1 CPCs designated by the State Department and recommended by USCIRF: Sudan](#), 1 May 2015

⁵² Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Women risk flogging for ‘indecent’ clothing](#), 9 July 2015

used exclusively against women. [...] At the time of their arrest, some were wearing trousers and others skirts”.⁵³

1.2.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

Only COI on the arrest and detention of persons not originally from Khartoum and Omdurman, or those supporting such persons has been included. Unless otherwise stated, in cases where the home area and ethnic origin of students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists or those they are supporting has not been identified, such COI has not been included (i.e. the report does not document the treatment of popular protestors or political activists perceived as critical of the government in general or opposing the elections).

Students

Amnesty International documents the arrest and detention of students following the authorities' use of force at the March 2014 student demonstration protesting against violence in Darfur which resulted in the death of a student noting that:

The death of Ali Abakar Mussa Idris sparked protests the following day in Khartoum. His funeral, attended by around 1,000 people, was broken up by the security services using tear gas after mourners began to shout anti-government slogans. In the days following this protest and Ali Abakar Mussa Idris' funeral, the NISS carried out a wave of arbitrary arrests across Khartoum of students that had participated in the protests. [...]

Many protestors were arrested the day of the protest and the following day. Amnesty International and ACJPS documented the arrests and detention, sometimes without charge, of students, human rights defenders, political activists and lawyers. Many of those detained were originally from Darfur but resident in Khartoum.

Abdelaziz Eltoum Ibrahim, a lawyer with the Darfur Bar Association, went missing on 12 March 2014 during dispersal of the funeral. His family were contacted on 17 March 2014 by the NISS, who confirmed he was in detention. The following day, a series of raids across Khartoum resulted in further detentions, including that of Abdelmoniem Adam Mohamed, a lawyer who had been visiting police stations to search for any student arrested during the protest. He was arrested at his office in downtown Khartoum on 13 March 2014. On March 20 2014, Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, a recent graduate of the University of Khartoum who spoke at the funeral of Ali Abakar Mussa Idris, was detained at Khartoum Airport while attempting to fly to Tunisia to attend a workshop.

They were all freed on 8 April 2014. However, Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman was re-arrested on 12 May 2014 with two youth group members, Taj Elsir Jaafar and Moammer Musa Mohammed by NISS officials near the University of Khartoum. The three were known for their participation in the campaigns protesting the killing of Ali Abakar Musa Idris on 11 May 2014. Moamar Musa Mohamed was taken to Kober prison, while Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Elsir Jaafar were held in the NISS detention facility in Bahri, Khartoum. During their detention, both Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Elsir Jaafar reported being subjected to ill-treatment. They reported being held in cells known as 'the fridges,' kept deliberately cold to make detainees feel uncomfortable. Both were also reportedly beaten, resulting in bruises on their bodies and faces. In late June 2014, Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Elsir Jaafar began a hunger strike, which, according to their parents, lasted three days before they were taken to a nearby

⁵³ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Women risk flogging for 'indecent' clothing](#), 9 July 2015

hospital. At no point during their detention were Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, Moamar Musa Mohamed or Taj Alsir Jaafar charged or granted access to a lawyer.⁵⁴

According to Human Rights Watch reporting on the same incident “Sudanese officials have accused the students of links to rebel groups and denied responsibility for the death”.⁵⁵

Reporting on the arrest of Darfuri students and those that support Darfuri students in Khartoum the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes that:

On May 12, NISS officials arrested Mohammed Salah, Taj Elsir Jaafar, and Moammer Musa Mohammed near the University of Khartoum. The three had protested the killing of a Darfuri student, Ali Abakar Musa Idris, by government security forces at Khartoum University on March 11. The government initially denied any access to the students despite international pressure. Family members, who were eventually allowed to visit the students, reported they showed signs of torture and mistreatment. Authorities released the three youths on July 11. [...]

Security forces and police harassed suspected government opponents. On October 5-6, government security forces arrested 18 Darfuri students who refused to move out of their dormitories at the University of Khartoum. Some of those arrested reported being verbally and sexually harassed by security forces. According to eyewitnesses, security forces claimed the students supported Darfuri rebel groups. The students denied being rebel supporters. [...]

In December security forces arbitrarily arrested and charged 77 Darfuri students from Bahri University following a confrontation between students and school authorities over school fees, from which students from Darfur are legally exempt. The government alleged the students were responsible for the destruction of university property. Students from other regions of the country were not arrested. In January a court dismissed the charges against 76 of the students. [...]

The government restricted academic freedom and association at cultural and academic institutions. It determined the curriculum and appointed the vice chancellors responsible for administering public institutions. It continued to arrest student activists, cancel student events, and deny permits for some student events. Youth activists reported that some universities discouraged students from participating in antigovernment rallies and showed favorable treatment towards NCP students. Some professors exercised self-censorship. Security forces used tear gas and other heavy-handed tactics against largely peaceful protests occurring at universities or involving university students. The Public Order Police continued to monitor public gatherings and cultural events, often intimidating women and girls, who feared police would arrest them for “indecent” dress or actions.⁵⁶

Radio Dabanga reports that on 23 May 2014 “Security forces abducted two students of the Darfur Students Association from inside the Omdurman Islamic University on Monday, and tortured them for three continuous hours. [...] One of the kidnapped Darfuri in Omdurman, Amin Abdel Rahim Abdullah, is the secretary of the Students Association's financial affairs at the Faculty of Education. He told Radio Dabanga that about 12 elements of the security forces had kidnapped his colleague Adam Mohamed Adam, Secretary General of the association, and him while they were in the El Shigla campus of the El Fetehab District. The two were on their way to deliver a memorandum on the exemption of student fees for Darfuri students, to the office of the Chancellor of the University”.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Amnesty International, [Excessive and Deadly: The use of force, arbitrary detention and torture against protestors in Sudan](#), September 2014, *UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM PROTESTS IN MARCH 2014* p.18-19

⁵⁵ Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, *Section 1.c, 1.e, 2a*

⁵⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Security 'kidnaps, tortures' students in Omdurman and West Darfur](#), 23 May 2014

Radio Dabanga notes in July 2014 that “Security forces in Omdurman beat students and used tear gas to disperse them during their peaceful protest against the tribal conflict in East Darfur, staged in front of the National Assembly on Thursday. Five of the students were arrested”.⁵⁸

Radio Dabanga also reported in December 2014 that Government forces “raided the Kadaro compound of Bahri University, using batons, metal bars, and tear gas to disperse a political gathering, arranged by the Darfur Students’ Association. A number of students were injured, and dozens were detained”.⁵⁹

Although not detailing the ethnic origin or home area of the student involved, Human Rights Watch notes that “Security forces in Sudan arrested dozens of opposition party members, students, and political activists, in the lead up to, during, and after national elections, April 13 to 16, 2015. [...] In one case on April 19 [2015], a group of security officials and pro-government students abducted and beat a student leader at Khartoum University. The attackers blindfolded the student leader, tied his hands, and took him to the NISS offices near the Shendi bus station in Khartoum. They beat him with batons for several hours and interrogated him about his links to opposition political parties, then released him after ordering him not to report what had happened”.⁶⁰

Reporting in June 2015 on the same numerous cases of arrest and detention of Darfuri students as illustrated above, a Radio Dabanga article states that “Darfuri students at Sudanese universities have been increasingly subjected to discrimination, assaults, and detention since last year”.⁶¹ The same article further notes that:

Students told Radio Dabanga from Khartoum that security forces also began to search buses for young people of Darfuri origin. “Any young person suspected to come from the western part of the country, is picked out, and detained.” They described the detention campaign “based on colour and identity” as the “fiercest one since 2008, when rebel forces of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) raided Omdurman”.

The “hate campaign” against Darfuri students intensified after an NCP student died during clashes at Sharg El Nil College in Khartoum on 29 April [2015]. In the following weeks, hundreds of Darfuris studying at universities in the capital were assaulted, beaten, and detained by security agents.⁶²

On 20 May 2015 the Darfur Students Association (DSA) reported that 28 Darfuri students were currently being held in detention centres of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) in Khartoum.⁶³ The same source further notes with regards to violence and arrest of Darfuri students that:

At a press conference at the headquarters of the National Umma Party in Omdurman this (Tuesday) morning, Hasabelnabi Mahmoud, Secretary-General of the DSA branch of the Ahliya University in Omdurman, described the situation of Darfuri students at Sudanese universities these days as “dangerous”.

He said that militant student members of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), supported by elements of the security apparatus, are still denying Darfuri students at the Ahliya University in Omdurman access to the campus. “Darfuris who want to enter the campus are beaten, after which they are detained by security agents.”

⁵⁸ Radio Dabanga, [Sudan security disperses students' protest in Khartoum](#), 18 July 2014

⁵⁹ Radio Dabanga, [More than 30 Bahri University students detained in Sudan](#), 24 December 2014

⁶⁰ Human Rights Watch, [Surge in Detention, Beatings, Around Elections](#), 29 April 2015

⁶¹ Radio Dabanga, [‘Radical solution needed for Darfuri students’: lawyer](#), 29 June 2015

⁶² Radio Dabanga, [‘Radical solution needed for Darfuri students’: lawyer](#), 29 June 2015

⁶³ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Sudan 'in dangerous situation'](#), 20 May 2015

“About one third of the Darfuri students in the Sudanese capital have been subjected to beatings the last couple of weeks,” he reported. The number of Darfuri students who were wounded in attacks at Khartoum universities has risen to 221.”⁶⁴

A May 2015 Nuba Reports article similarly notes that ““The regime is desperate; the racist targeting is escalating,” Ahmed Hussain Adam, a Visiting Fellow at Cornell University’s Institute for African Development, said of the crackdown. “The government is setting the stage and creating an environment of fear, hate and racism in the universities. Darfuri students are experiencing [an] unprecedented racist bloody campaign by the ruling party’s student wing militias as well as the National Intelligence and Security Service””.⁶⁵ It further notes that “The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) discussion of targeting Darfurians is ominously similar to the way language has been used to incite ethnic violence in other conflicts. The NCP student wing told supporters in a press conference that no Darfuri students should be allowed to enter universities, assemble or organize, and that all should be evicted by any means necessary or “be burnt in his or her room”. Islamist students were allegedly told to retaliate against “any movement’s political agenda or demands””.⁶⁶

In June 2015 Radio Dabanga reported that of the seven Darfuri students studying at the El Ahliya University in Omdurman that had been arrested, four were sentenced to twenty whippings and fines and three others were acquitted.⁶⁷

Amnesty International similarly reported at the end of May 2015 that “Amnesty International has received numerous reports since the end of Sudan’s general elections in April 2015 that the NISS crackdown on activities of political opposition groups and civil society has intensified. In recent weeks more than 221 students from Darfur were arrested by NISS and the police after violent clashes between the National Congress Party student supporters and students from Darfur in five universities in Khartoum. 157 were released on bail after having been charged with various crimes. 37 students were injured”.⁶⁸

Human rights activists

Reporting on the treatment of civil society activists in general (location and mandate not specified), the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes that:

The government was uncooperative with, and unresponsive to, domestic human rights groups. It restricted and harassed workers of both domestic and international human rights organizations. According to international NGOs, government agents consistently monitored, threatened, prosecuted, and occasionally physically assaulted civil society activists.⁶⁹

Although not specifying the mandate of the human rights organisations affected, indicative of the climate in Khartoum, an October 2014 Equal Rights Trust report notes that “at the end of its research visit in January 2014, the Equal Rights Trust estimated that, of the approximately 60 civil society actors in Khartoum with whom we spoke, only five had not been arrested at some point the in the last three years, in connection with their work”.⁷⁰

⁶⁴ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Sudan 'in dangerous situation'](#), 20 May 2015

⁶⁵ Nuba Reports, [Sudan: Darfuri Students Targeted As Ethnic Violence Continues Across Sudan](#), 15 May 2015

⁶⁶ Nuba Reports, [Sudan: Darfuri Students Targeted As Ethnic Violence Continues Across Sudan](#), 15 May 2015

⁶⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Four Darfuri students sentenced to whipping after clashes with NCP students](#), 17 June 2015

⁶⁸ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action, Activists' whereabouts unknown after arrest](#), 29 May 2015

⁶⁹ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 5

⁷⁰ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discriminatory Denial of Freedoms of Expression, Assembly and Association* p.104

The 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes with regards to the detention of a Darfuri blogger in Khartoum “The government released Darfuri blogger Tajeldin Arjaa on May 14 [2014] after nearly five months in detention. Authorities had arrested Arjaa in December 2013 for criticizing the Sudanese and the Chadian presidents for the conflicts in Darfur”.⁷¹ Amnesty International reports that he was “He was arrested by the NISS in Khartoum on 26 December 2013 after he verbally criticized President Omar al-Bashir and the President of Chad, Idriss Deby, at a joint press conference. He was reportedly tortured while in prison”.⁷² On his release Arja stated that “The period of detention will not stop me from my role in the struggle to defend the rights of the Sudanese people, especially in conflict zones”.⁷³

Reporting on the excessive use of force against demonstrating Darfuri students in Khartoum in March 2014 Human Rights Watch notes that “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”.⁷⁴

REDRESS reports in June 2014 with regards to the arrest of Darfuri human rights defenders in Khartoum that:

In early June 2014, nine youth activists remained detained incommunicado by the NISS in connection with protests that were organised by the Darfur Students’ Association at the University of Khartoum on 11 March 2014. The nine activists who in early June had not had access to their families or lawyers since their arrests, and were detained without charge or judicial review are: Gazi Al-Rayah Al-Sanhouri, (m), youth activist and human rights defender, arrested on the evening of 11 March during an armed raid on his family home in the Al-Taeif neighbourhood of Khartoum; Abdulaziz Altoum, (m), human rights defender, arrested on 11 March; Abdelmonim Adam, (m), human rights defender, arrested on 13 March; Ibrahim Salih Ibrahim Adam, (m), student at Omdurman University and member of the Darfur Students Association, arrested on 18 March; Al Radi Ali Ibrahim, (m), advocate and human rights defender, arrested on 18 March; Mohamed Idris Jedo, (m), the former Chairperson of the Darfur Students Association, arrested on 19 March (Mr. Jedo was previously arrested by the NISS in Khartoum in 2012 and questioned on his involvement with the Darfur Students Association); Mohamed Salah Abdelrahman, (m), activist, arrested by the NISS on 12 May 2014 along with two other youth activists, Taj Alsir Jafar, (m) and Moamar Musa, (m), near Khartoum University. Another activist, Ahmed Ali Ahmed, (m), a student at El Nilein University and member of the Darfur Students’ Association, was detained on 18 March in connection with the University of Khartoum demonstration on 11 March, but released without charge the following day.⁷⁵

Reporting with regards to the treatment of Nuba human rights defenders in Khartoum REDRESS notes in the same June 2014 report that:

Human rights defenders and activists of Nuba ethnicity were also targeted throughout Sudan (see below at 6.3. (i and ii)). Widespread violations, including torture and ill treatment of those

⁷¹ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 2.a

⁷² Amnesty International, [Amnesty International Report 2014/15 - The State of the World's Human Rights - Sudan](#), 25 February 2015

⁷³ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri activist Tajeldin Ahmed Arja released](#), 16 May 2014

⁷⁴ Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

⁷⁵ REDRESS, [Sudan's human rights crisis: High time to take article 2 of the Covenant seriously](#), June 2014, paragraph 131

believed to be affiliated to opposition movements, have continued since 2011. In November 2012 the NISS detained 32 ethnic Nuba women from Southern Kordofan because of their suspected affiliation with the SPLM-N. They were held at El Obeid Prison for between five to eight months without access to lawyers or medical care before their release without charge.

Fighting between the Sudan Revolutionary Forces (SRF), a coalition of armed opposition groups including the SPLM-N, and Government forces in April 2013 near Abu Kershola and Um Berimbata and the spread of conflict to North Kordofan, displaced thousands. After the fighting, authorities in Khartoum arrested and detained dozens of ethnic Nuba and Darfuri activists suspected of ties to the coalition of armed opposition groups such as the Sudan Revolutionary Front and SPLM-N.

Between 1-14 May 2013, ACJPS also documented the detention without charge by the NISS of 21 members of the SPLM-N, including a number of prominent members of the party, in locations throughout the country including Khartoum, Omdurman, Nyala, Wad Medani, Halfa, El Obeid and Kosti. [...]

On 14 March 2012, Jalila Khamis Koko (f) was arbitrarily arrested by the NISS on 14 March 2012 in Khartoum, Sudan. She was arrested and detained on account of her activities as a human rights defender and specifically for the support she provided to IDPs from South Kordofan State/ Nuba Mountains. She was kept in conditions of detention contrary to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and was subjected to death threats amounting to torture and other cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment ('ill-treatment') by NISS officers. Mrs. Jalila Khamis Koko was released after a court hearing on 20 January 2013.⁷⁶

In an April 2015 submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation reports with regards to the situation for Nuba human rights activists in Khartoum (dates of incidents not specified):

The killing of Awadia Agebna, (A woman activist from Nuba mountains), at the door step of her home in Khartoum, an illustration of the treatment reserved to human rights activists from the Nuba Mountains. The Court held a public order police member guilty of murder, but the trial, which went on for two years, is still not fully concluded. A teacher from Nuba Mountains, Named Jalila Khamis Koko was captured at her home at mid night in Khartoum and detained for 15 months before charging her of any offence. Jalila was expressing her opinion about violation of civilians' human rights in South Kordofan during the 2011 attack on Kadugli and campaigning for their humanitarian relief. However, after 15 months of detention, Galila was charged with undermining the Sudan constitutional order, dealing with hostile states and use of military uniform, (articles 50, 52, 60, and 61) of the 1991 criminal Act {8}. A human rights activist, Dr. Bushra Gamar from Nuba Mountains was also detained and tortured and tried under the articles (50,51,53,63,64,65,and 66) of Sudan criminal Act 1991, which include working with hostile organizations.⁷⁷

Reporting generally on the climate for civil society organisations (location and mandate not specified), Amnesty International states in an April 2015 report that:

Amnesty International has received numerous reports since the beginning of 2015 that the NISS crackdown on activities of civil society organizations has intensified. Civil society activists interviewed by Amnesty International have confirmed that at least a dozen civil society offices have come under surveillance by NISS agents. Several civil society organizations have reported receiving threats from the NISS and HAC. The NISS has shut down three civil society organizations.

The current trajectory of suppression of freedom of association and attacks on humanitarian organizations is a reminder of the period before 1997. While such suppression decreased from 2002 to 2009, in particular after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, it has since increased. [...] Al Sadiq Hassan, a member of the Darfur Bar Association, told Amnesty International about the

⁷⁶ REDRESS, [Sudan's human rights crisis: High time to take article 2 of the Covenant seriously](#), June 2014, paragraph 46, 76

⁷⁷ Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation, [Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\); Review of the Periodic Report of Sudan](#), April 2015, paragraph 4

current civil society environment in Sudan. He explained that “this is the worst time for civil society in Sudan; they are facing systematic attack from the regime on their freedom of expression and assembly. After the recent constitutional amendments, the level of harassment has increased.”

Amal (not her real name), a civil society activist, told Amnesty International that “our organization is facing regular harassment from NISS, they search our office, confiscate our computers and documents, now we are unable to work and implement our projects.” The NISS continues to harass the Institute for the Development of the Civil Society (IDCS), a civil society organization that works on capacity building and promotion of democracy and peace building. Most IDCS activities have been suspended since September 2014.

On 21 December 2014, the NISS raided the office of Sudan Human Rights Monitor (SHRM) while it was hosting a meeting to prepare for Sudan’s UPR in 2016. Five computers were seized and one journalist arrested. He was released the same day following interrogation by the NISS. Khalid, (not his real name), told Amnesty International that “they came to our office and confiscated all the computers we had and documents. Now we are facing difficulties working. We cannot even organize simple meetings because of the continuous security surveillance.” SHRM was founded by Dr Amin Mekki Medani, who is currently undergoing trial in Khartoum for capital offence charges under the 1991 Penal Code.⁷⁸

Reporting on harassment of civil society organisations by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) (location and mandate not specified), the same source notes that:

Independent civil society organizations that have not yet been shut down by the government, but that are under pressure from HAC, report repeated interference and micromanagement. According to a civil society activist interviewed by Amnesty International: “Civil society organizations are banned from working on themes such as: peace, democracy, women rights, and human rights.” Hazim (not his real name), told Amnesty International that “we work in the periphery areas around Khartoum and Darfur. We faced many challenges, especially working in Darfur. HAC banned us from implementing projects related to youth empowerment, and sexual and gender-based violence awareness, particularly after Tabit’s incident [on 31 October 2014, 200 women and girls were allegedly raped by SAF and its allied militia, in the North Darfur town of Tabit]. NISS and HAC’s ultimate goal is to stop our works in these areas. Abdel Rahman Al Mahdi, Director of Sudan Development Initiative (SUDIA), which works on good governance, peacebuilding, empowering youth and advancing the role of the media and civil society, told Amnesty International that “the working environment for civil societies has deteriorated compared to the previous year. I think the current harassment and threats to civil society can be understood in the overall attempt of the government to control civil society, in terms of reducing their access to funds and consequently reducing their ability to work.” [...]

Amnesty International was told by civil society activists that at least five other civil society organizations are under imminent threat of closure and suspension. On 9 March 2015, the HAC and NISS visited the office of Justice Africa Sudan, and interrogated all staff about its activities. Many civil society activists believe this is the first step towards closure. These interrogations are usually carried out with verbal abuse and accusations of working with embassies or being spies who work against the interests of the country.⁷⁹

Journalists

Reporting on the general climate for journalists, the 2014 U.S. Department of State report explains that “Individuals who criticized the government publicly or privately were subject to reprisal, including arrest. [...] The interim national constitution provides for freedom of the press, but authorities prevented newspapers from reporting on problems deemed sensitive. [...] The

⁷⁸ Amnesty International, [Sudan: Entrenched repression: Freedom of Expression and Association](#), 2 April 2015, *Suppression of Sudanese civil society* p.6

⁷⁹ Amnesty International, [Sudan: Entrenched repression: Freedom of Expression and Association](#), 2 April 2015, *Additional civil society organizations under threat* p.8-9

government announced “red line” topics that could not be reported on in the press, such as corruption, government security services, and government action in the conflict areas. Authorities ordered the confiscation of newspapers that reported on these topics”.⁸⁰ The Committee to Protect Journalists, reporting in February 2015 on the confiscation of print runs of 14 newspapers notes that the NISS did not explain why it confiscated the editions, according to news reports, however it states that “The NISS has previously demanded that newspapers abstain from covering the International Criminal Court, government corruption, human rights violations, Darfur, the war in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, armed movements, and many other subjects”.⁸¹

Reporters Without Borders reports in September 2014 that:

Two journalists – Abdelrahman Alaagib of the daily newspaper Al-Youm Al-Tali and freelance photographer Eisa Aizain – have been held in an unknown location since 22 September, when the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) arrested them in central Khartoum for reasons that are also unknown.

Reporters Without Borders has been told that, during a TV broadcast, a NISS official accused Alaagib of being involved in the conflict in Darfur, the province he comes from. The official also stressed the fact that Alaagib is a member of the Ma’alia tribe.

“By playing up ethnicity in a bid to disguise its repressive policies, the government is just casting oil on the flames of the conflicts that are wreaking havoc in Sudan,” said Cléa Kahn-Sriber, the head of the Reporters Without Borders Africa desk. “We call for the immediate release of Alaagib and Aizain.”⁸²

Reporters Without Borders documents the arrest of Al-Nur Ahmad Al-Nur in Khartoum, a leading Sudanese journalist who is the London-based pan-Arab newspaper Al-Hayat’s Sudan correspondent in October 2014.⁸³ Although the reason for his arrest was unclear, Reporters Without Borders deputy programme director Virginie Dangles stated “While we do not yet know the reason for Al-Nur’s detention, we do know that he had been in the government’s sights for several months because of his reporting”.⁸⁴

Political activists

The 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes that indicative of general climate for perceived political opponents (location and origin not specified):

The NISS, police, and military intelligence arbitrarily arrested and detained persons. Authorities often detained persons for a few days before releasing them without charge, but many persons were held much longer. The government often targeted political opponents and suspected rebel supporters. [...] There were several reports of individuals detained due to their actual or assumed support of antigovernment forces, such as the SPLM-N. Local NGOs reported that some women were detained because of their association with men suspected of being SPLM-N supporters.⁸⁵

Human Rights Watch reports that “Sadiq al-Mahdi, head of the National Umma Party, was arrested on May 17 [in Khartoum⁸⁶] after publicly criticizing the Rapid Support Forces’ abuses in Darfur. He

⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 2.a.

⁸¹ Committee to Protect Journalists, [Sudan security agents confiscate print runs of 14 newspapers](#), 18 February 2015

⁸² Reporters Without Borders, [Sudan - Two journalists arrested, held in unknown location](#), 24 September 2014

⁸³ Reporters Without Borders, [Intelligence Agency Arrests Leading Sudanese Journalist](#), 24 October 2014

⁸⁴ Reporters Without Borders, [Intelligence Agency Arrests Leading Sudanese Journalist](#), 24 October 2014

⁸⁵ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.d

⁸⁶ Reuters, [Sudan arrests opposition leader al-Mahdi, could face death penalty](#), 17 May 2014

was released after a month in detention”.⁸⁷ Also reporting on the same incident, Amnesty International further notes:

On June 8, Ibrahim al-Sheikh, head of the opposition Sudanese Congress Party, was arrested after he made similar statements about RSF abuses in conflict zones at a seminar in al-Nuhood, Western Kordofan, according to credible reports. Al-Sheikh is facing six charges, including incitement and acting against the constitutional regime. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

In the following days, authorities in al-Nuhood raided the offices of the Congress Party and arrested at least five student members, a journalist, and another young activist in town. One of the detainees, released after one week, said security officials beat him so badly he needed medical treatment.

Sudanese organizations have documented additional cases of the prolonged detention without charge of activists because of their real or perceived political opinions, some have been in detention for over five months.⁸⁸

Amnesty International reports in April 2015 on the enforced disappearance of Sandara Farouq Kadouda, a mother of two, a medical doctor and political activist who was taken by suspected members of the National Intelligence Security Service (NISS) in Omdurman.⁸⁹ It further explains that Sandara Farouq Kadouda was on route to attend an anti-elections event hosted by Sudanese opposition parties at the National Umma Party premises in Omdurman and that she “has also been an active environmental campaigner for several years and member of the Committee against the Kajbar and Dal Dams project in Northern Sudan State. Human rights defenders are concerned that the Kajbar and Dal Dams may submerge over 500 ancient archaeological sites, and may have a detrimental impact on the environment”⁹⁰

In August 2015 Amnesty International reported on the arrest of Khalid Omer Yousif, Magdi Okasha Amed and Widad Abdelrahman Derwish, opposition members of the Sudanese Congress Party (SCP).⁹¹ The same source explains that “The SCP has been holding public gatherings in Khartoum state and North Kordofan state in which they discuss the situation in Sudan including state policies and the armed conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Amnesty International has documented an increase in the daily summoning of individuals by NISS as a tactic to avoiding due process and curtailing their movements”.⁹²

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Khartoum and Evidence of ill-treatment of perceived political Darfuris in Omdurman and Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Khartoum and Treatment of perceived political Nubans in Omdurman*.

⁸⁷ Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2015 - Sudan](#), 29 January 2015

⁸⁸ Amnesty International, [Sudan: End arbitrary detention of activists and investigate torture allegations](#), 25 June 2014

⁸⁹ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Enforced disappearance of political activist](#), 13 April 2015

⁹⁰ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Enforced disappearance of political activist](#), 13 April 2015

⁹¹ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Three opposition members harassed by NISS](#), 17 August 2015

⁹² Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Three opposition members harassed by NISS](#), 17 August 2015

1.2.5. IDPs

The Human Rights and Development Organization reports in its South Kordufan/Nuba Mountains periodic report of May-June 2014 that during the reporting period, the declaration of the Sudanese Defense Ministry of the (Decisive Summer) Military Operation was accompanied by a detention campaign amongst IDPs in Khartoum.⁹³ The same source noted that “IDPs in Khartoum have faced repressive measures” and that “IDPs from conflict areas living in the slums of Ombada and Izba in Khartoum faced force displacement after their homestead were demolished even the Church. They were relocated to far remote areas without providing any life necessities. The authorities claim that they there randomly, however, they are staying with their relatives who have been living there for tens of years [sic]”.⁹⁴

1.2.6. Returnees

Reporting in general on arrest of returnees (location and origin not specified), the 2014 U.S. Department of State report considers that “The government observed the law prohibiting forced exile; however, it warned political opponents of their potential arrest if they returned. Opposition leaders and NGO activists remained in self-imposed exile in northern Africa and Europe, and other activists fled the country during the year”.⁹⁵

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office reported in its update of 30 September 2014 that “Over the reporting period, a number of opposition politicians were either prevented from travelling outside of Sudan or arrested upon their return. Mariam al-Mahdi, the deputy leader of Sudan’s National Umma Party was arrested on her return to Khartoum from Paris on 12 August, and held without charge until 9 September. [...] Dr Hassan Babiker of the National Consensus Forces (NCF) was detained at Khartoum airport on 12 September following talks with the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) in Addis Ababa”.⁹⁶

Reporting on the arrest of Darfuri and Nuban returnees in Sudan, a September 2014 Human Rights Watch report notes that:

Some Sudanese who returned to Sudan have faced persecution. One Sudanese returnee told Human Rights Watch security officials interrogated and tortured him on his return to Sudan about his membership in Darfuri opposition groups while two others said they were interrogated and held for weeks at times in solitary confinement. One man was charged with treason for traveling to Israel and one returnee’s relative said his brother disappeared on return to Khartoum. Four others said they were interrogated and then released. [...] A 36-year-old Sudanese man from Darfur who returned to Khartoum from Israel in August 2013 described how National Security officials tortured him when he returned to Khartoum:

I was in Israel for almost three years but I left because the police arrested me in October 2012, took me to Saharonim and said I would never get out. They put me on a plane to Cairo where I waited for four hours and then I flew to Khartoum.

⁹³ Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO), [South Kordufan / Nuba Mountains Periodic Report \(May – June 2014\)](#), 6 July 2014

⁹⁴ Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO), [South Kordufan / Nuba Mountains Periodic Report \(May – June 2014\)](#), 6 July 2014

⁹⁵ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.c

⁹⁶ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Sudan - Country of Concern: latest update](#), 30 September 2014, 16 October 2014

Security officers checked my passport at passport control. They asked me why I only had an entry stamp for Egypt and no exit stamp. I didn't answer. Then they asked me why I had been to Israel. And then they said 'you are black, so why are you coming back to Sudan?' They took me to another room and some other officers from Interpol asked me questions about Israel. They asked me for the names of Sudanese people in Israel who support the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA). Then they read a list of names and said I should tell them what each of the people was doing exactly to try and overthrow the authorities in Khartoum. Then they took me to National Security Intelligence just outside the airport where they held me for four months. They tortured me during the first ten days. They beat me with big sticks and poured boiling water over me and gave me electric shocks. They shouted abuse at me, saying I was against the government because I was from Darfur and had been to Israel. They asked me repeatedly for the names of Sudanese people in Israel plotting against Khartoum. I think they stopped torturing me when they realized I had nothing to tell them. After four months they released me. They said they would charge me with going to Israel but they have still not given me a court date. For the past four weeks I have had to report every few days to National Security to show them I have not left Khartoum.

A 32 year-old man from Darfur who returned to Khartoum from Israel in February 2014 described his eight-week-long detention and interrogation on returning to Khartoum:

After almost six years in Israel, I decided to leave in February [2014] after the government said they would detain any Sudanese person in Israel who had been there for more than three years. I knew that they would detain me for an unlimited amount of time and that is a form of mental and physical imprisonment.

When I arrived in Khartoum, security officials held 125 of us coming from Israel on the same flight and then handed us over to National Security who took us to their building in Khartoum's Sahafa District. There they interrogated me about my political history in Darfur and my support for one of the groups opposing the government there. They knew I had participated in public protests in Israel and asked me about that. The next day they took me to another National Security office near Khartoum's Shandi bus station, which the officers there called "the hotel." There they threatened to beat me if I didn't tell the truth.

On the third day, they took me to Kober prison in Khartoum and put me in a cell with 28 other people who had also come back from Israel. They held me there for eight weeks including about 20 days in solitary confinement. National Security interrogated me many times in the building they called "the hotel." It was always the same questions about my political views on the conflict in Darfur, which groups I supported there and why I had gone to Israel. At the end of the eight weeks they took me to the prosecutor who charged me with treason for going to Israel. He then released me on bail after my family sold all their land and paid \$ 40,000. They confiscated my passport and banned me from travelling for five years.

Human Rights Watch has previously documented torture in National Security's political headquarters located near the Shandi bus station in Khartoum's Bahri district.

Human Rights Watch also spoke with a man in Khartoum whose brother, from Sudan's Nuba Mountains, spent a number of years in Israel. The man said his brother called him in March 2014 to tell him he was leaving Israel. On the day he left Israel, one of his friends, also in Israel, called the man in Khartoum to say his brother had boarded the flight and that he would land in Khartoum that evening. Since that time, neither the man's brother nor his friend in Israel has had any news.

In January 2014, the Israeli paper Haaretz reported on the fate of relatives of a Sudanese man who returned to Sudan from Israel with his wife and children after he was summoned to the Holot detention center. He told the paper that while he was away from his home in Khartoum, security forces "beat and intimidated" his mother and siblings and that he and his family went into hiding and that he eventually left Sudan again with his wife and children, fearing for their lives.

Human Rights Watch also spoke with four other Sudanese who said security forces interrogated them on their return to Khartoum about their time in Israel and were then released within 72 hours.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ Human Rights Watch, ["Make Their Lives Miserable": Israel's Coercion of Eritrean and Sudanese Asylum Seekers to Leave Israel](#), 9 September 2014, *The Fate of Eritreans and Sudanese Returning Home* p.42-46

According to a September 2014 Waging Peace/Article 1 report, “NISS’s power extends beyond Sudan’s borders into the monitoring of the Diaspora in the UK and elsewhere, disrupting their activities, but also putting at risk those Sudanese who return to Sudan”.⁹⁸ The report is based on testimonies from 11 returnees to Sudan and includes a review of recent publicly available information about the monitoring of Sudanese Diaspora by the Sudanese regime in the UK, Norway, France, Egypt, Uganda, Eritrea and Israel.⁹⁹ The report claims that the testimonies “show that Sudanese from across Sudan and from all sections of society may be at risk because they have spent time outside of Sudan: men and women; the rich and the poor; those from the capital as well as those from Darfur and the Nuba Mountains; politicians as well as farmers”.¹⁰⁰

With regards to arrest of returnees in Sudan the same report notes that “Of those interviewed for the report, four were detained at Khartoum airport on arrival in Sudan and were then taken away to be questioned, three others were detained and questioned at Khartoum airport and one was questioned at Geneina Airport in Darfur sometime after arrival in Sudan. One interviewee was detained at a later time while in Sudan”.¹⁰¹ With further regards to the profiles of the returnees the report notes that “Most of the individuals interviewed returned to Sudan voluntarily, with the exception of three individuals who were involuntarily returned back to Sudan – two of whom had been returned to Sudan from the UK where they had claimed asylum, and the other had been returned from France”.¹⁰² The report provides detailed testimonies of the 11 returnees. It finds that “The testimonies indicate that the interrogators showed great interest in the presence and activities of Sudanese within Europe, especially where the activities were perceived as posing a threat to the Sudanese government. Seeking asylum in itself is viewed as damaging Sudan’s international reputation. Taking part in or being linked to ‘anti-government’ political activity is treated very seriously and is often the focus of interrogations. In some cases it is apparent there has been Sudanese surveillance at meetings and protests about Sudanese political issues which have been held in the UK or Europe”.¹⁰³

An October 2014 article in the UK Telegraph newspaper stated that “Activists claim the regime maintains an active web of spies in London and other British cities that have become centres of opposition to the regime”.¹⁰⁴ The article described the experience of Saira Ahmed [not her real name], who was detained at Khartoum airport by Sudanese officials after a two-week trip to Darfur: “They had photographs of me meeting my friend for coffee opposite Shepherd’s Bush Green,” recalled Mrs Ahmed. “It was such a tight little shop and very dark. I remember having to squint to see the coffee cakes. But the photographs were extremely sharp. I remember thinking how strange it was that I did not notice this person spying on me. He or she must have been very close”.¹⁰⁵ The article detailed Mrs Ahmed’s detention:

She was locked in one of the bedrooms with bars on the window and a hard mattress for a bed. Questioning sessions over the first two days lasted for 12 hours. Then for the next three days, Mrs Ahmed was set a number of arduous physical tasks, cleaning the rambling residence and moving furniture.

⁹⁸ Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Introduction* p.4

⁹⁹ Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Introduction* p.4

¹⁰⁰ Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Introduction* p.4

¹⁰¹ Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Arrest in Sudan* p.15

¹⁰² Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Arrest in Sudan* p.15

¹⁰³ Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Questioning about the UK and Europe* p.24

¹⁰⁴ Telegraph, [The Sudanese ‘Spies’ in London Starbucks](#), 20 October 2014

¹⁰⁵ Telegraph, [The Sudanese ‘Spies’ in London Starbucks](#), 20 October 2014

“I was five months pregnant and they knew this. They had questioned me night and day and given me very little to eat,” she told The Telegraph. “Then they ordered me to start cleaning and stopped asking questions.

“I thought I was going to be a slave for ever. I was terrified and cried all the time. I was so fearful for my baby.”¹⁰⁶

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *What is the situation of political opponents who fled Sudan several (over 10) years ago, upon their return to Sudan?*

1.3. Prison conditions

1.3.1. Darfuri

For COI on the treatment of perceived political Darfuri detainees, see [1.3.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there.](#)

The Equal Rights Trust notes in an October 2014 report that “Discriminatory torture and ill-treatment of people from the periphery also continued in 2014. The Equal Rights Trust received information that “three Darfuri men arrested in March 2014 believed that they had been deliberately infected with Hepatitis C whilst in detention at NISS cells in Bahri near Shendi station in Khartoum”.¹⁰⁷

In an October 2014 submission to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, REDRESS and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) considered with regards to torture and ill treatment of Darfuris 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 IDPs.¹⁰⁸

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) further notes in a June 2015 report that “The use of torture across Sudan is endemic. Sudanese authorities use torture and other forms of ill-treatment to intimidate and silence perceived political opposition to the policies of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). Human rights defenders, political and other social activists, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and students are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment”.¹⁰⁹ It further notes that “Members of ethnic minority groups, including Darfuris and people hailing from Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment. ACJPS has documented threats of sexual violence against male and female detainees, as well as

¹⁰⁶ Telegraph, [The Sudanese ‘Spies’ in London Starbucks](#), 20 October 2014

¹⁰⁷ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination by the Army, Security and Police Forces* p.74

¹⁰⁸ REDRESS and African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [56th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-Sessional Working Group on Sudan](#), 1 October 2014

¹⁰⁹ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan: On the international day in support of torture survivors end torture and repeal enabling legislation](#), 26 June 2015

cases of rape against female detainees in state custody. Detainees have also reported the use of racist verbal abuse”.¹¹⁰ The same source further reports that:

One woman, “A”, 23 years of age, a member of the Zaghawa ethnic group, and a student at Khartoum University, was arrested by the NISS on 5 October 2014 alongside other Darfuri women from the Alzhra Students’ Hostel at Khartoum University. During the arrest, she was groped by plain-clothed security officers before being dragged from her room to a car outside the hostel. She was transferred, blindfolded, to NISS custodies near the Shande Bus Station and interrogated by three NISS officers who beat her on the floor. One officer groped her breasts and told her that, “you Darfuri people destroyed Darfur, and now you want to come and destroy Khartoum”. She was threatened with rape and further sexual assault, beaten on the head with a stick, and kicked in her stomach until she became unconscious. When she regained consciousness she discovered she had been blindfolded again, was handcuffed, and that her ankles had been shackled. She was transferred to Omdurman Women’s Prison on 6 October, where she was beaten after she refused food. She was later transferred on an unknown date to Amel Hospital, a NISS Hospital, and hospitalised until 13 October, when the NISS ordered her release, reportedly owing to concerns that she would die in state custody.¹¹¹

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Torture and prison conditions for Darfuri detainees*

1.3.2. Nuba

Reporting on the March 2014 crackdown against Darfuri students, lawyers, and human rights defenders Human Rights Watch notes that “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”.¹¹²

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) further notes in a June 2015 report that “The use of torture across Sudan is endemic. Sudanese authorities use torture and other forms of ill-treatment to intimidate and silence perceived political opposition to the policies of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). Human rights defenders, political and other social activists, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and students are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment”.¹¹³ It further notes that “Members of ethnic minority groups, including Darfuris and people hailing from Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment. ACJPS has documented threats of sexual violence against male and female detainees, as well as cases of rape against female detainees in state custody. Detainees have also reported the use of racist verbal abuse”.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan: On the international day in support of torture survivors end torture and repeal enabling legislation](#), 26 June 2015

¹¹¹ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan: On the international day in support of torture survivors end torture and repeal enabling legislation](#), 26 June 2015

¹¹² Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

¹¹³ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan: On the international day in support of torture survivors end torture and repeal enabling legislation](#), 26 June 2015

¹¹⁴ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan: On the international day in support of torture survivors end torture and repeal enabling legislation](#), 26 June 2015

The ACJPS, reporting on the June 2014 arrest of 40 individuals of Nuba ethnicity, apparently in retaliation for the beating of a police officer accused of raping a woman of Nuba ethnicity, notes that:

Several released detainees reported being subjected to racist and other verbal abuse during their arrest and whilst in custody, including threats of sexual violence. Male and female detainees were separated at Omdurman Central Police. One female detainee reported being told that “you are all Nuba and don’t have any value, you can only be used for sex; may God kill all you Nuba”. Two female students, aged 14 and 16 and resident in Ombada Wad Albasheer, Omdurman, reported being forced to stand against the wall at the police station whilst one officer in uniform repeatedly called them “whores” and threatened to rape them outside the police station and then detain them again. The officer slapped one of the girls across her face. A police officer responsible for registering detainees also threatened several of the female detainees with rape. Two male detainees suspected of being responsible for beating the police officer at Nile beach were severely beaten in custody.¹¹⁵

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Torture of and prison conditions for Nuban detainees*

1.3.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

Although not detailing the location or origin of detainees, it should be noted that the 2015 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report notes that “Suspected converts to Christianity face societal pressures, and government security personnel intimidate and sometimes torture those suspected of conversion”.¹¹⁶

Although not reporting on the home area of detainees, the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes with regards to religious observance in Omdurman detention facilities that:

Authorities allowed prisoners to take part in religious observances. Prisons had locations for Islamic prayer and some, such as the Women’s Prison in Omdurman, had dedicated areas for Christian observance. Christian clergy held services in prisons, but access was irregular.¹¹⁷

1.3.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

Although not reporting on the origin of detainees, the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes with regards to political prisoners in general in Khartoum detention facilities that:

¹¹⁵ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Police violence and mass arrests in Omdurman following reported gang-rape of Nuba woman by police officers](#), 8 July 2014

¹¹⁶ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [USCIRF Annual Report 2015 - Tier 1 CPCs designated by the State Department and recommended by USCIRF: Sudan](#), 1 May 2015

¹¹⁷ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.c

Political prisoners were held in special sections of prisons. The main prison in Khartoum, Kober Prison, contained separate sections for political prisoners, those convicted of financial crimes, and others.¹¹⁸

Reporting on the detention of students who had protested against the March 2014 killing of a Darfuri student in Khartoum Human Rights Watch notes that:

On May 12 [2014], NISS officials arrested Mohammed Salah, 25, Taj Elsir Jaafar, 26, and Moammer Musa Mohammed, 27, near the University of Khartoum. Authorities detained them without charge at a NISS facility in the suburb of Bahri. The activists, who participated in campaigns protesting the killing of a Darfuri student, Ali Abaker Musa Idris, by government security forces at Khartoum University on March 11, were subjected to ill-treatment and possibly torture; they were released in July.¹¹⁹

Also reporting on student activists arrested outside the University of Khartoum on 12 May 2014 who were protesting the death of a student shot dead by security forces at a demonstration on 11 March 2014, Amnesty International notes that:

After their arrests, Moamar Musa Mohamed was taken to Kober prison, while Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Alsir Jaafar were held in the NISS detention facility in Bahri, Khartoum. Both Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Alsir Jaafar reported being subjected to ill-treatment during their detention. They were held in cells known as “the fridges”, which are kept deliberately cold to make detainees feel uncomfortable. Both were also reportedly beaten, resulting in bruises on their bodies and faces. Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman is still struggling to see through his right eye. In late June Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Alsir Jaafar began a hunger strike, which, according to their parents, lasted three days before they were taken to a nearby hospital.

At no point were Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, Moamar Musa Mohamed or Taj Alsir Jaafar charged or granted access to a lawyer. The NISS rejected four applications by the families of Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman and Taj Alsir Jaafar to visit them in detention, only allowing family members to briefly visit them on 13 June. The NISS twice refused to accept medication that Taj Alsir Jaafar’s family tried to send him via the NISS office. Moamar Musa Mohamed’s family did not manage to visit him while he was in detention.¹²⁰

Although not providing further details, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office similarly noted that “There are continued general reports of torture of those in detention, including severe beatings of people detained following the March [2014] protests”.¹²¹

According to Freedom House’s annual report for 2014, “Human rights groups accuse the NISS of systematically detaining and torturing government opponents, including Darfuri activists, journalists, and members of youth movements such as Girifna and Sudan Change Now”.¹²²

Reporting with regards to political detainees in Khartoum, including Darfuri political detainees the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes:

Throughout the year the government continued to hold political prisoners and detainees, including protesters. Due to a lack of access, the actual numbers of political prisoners and detainees could not be confirmed. Human rights monitors reported political prisoners as being in the hundreds, but the government claimed that it did not have political prisoners.

¹¹⁸ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.c

¹¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2015 - Sudan](#), 29 January 2015

¹²⁰ Amnesty International, [Urgent Action: Three activists released from detention](#), 23 July 2014

¹²¹ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human Rights and Democracy Report 2013: Sudan - Country of Concern update](#), 10 April 2014

¹²² Freedom House, [Freedom in the World 2015 - Sudan](#), 28 January 2015

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. The NISS refused the request of the UN independent expert on the human rights situation in Sudan in June to visit detained student activist Mohammed Salah to ascertain his health.

Security forces detained political opponents incommunicado, without charge, and tortured them. Some political detainees were held in isolation 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. Such detentions were prolonged at times.

On April 6, President Bashir announced all political prisoners who had not committed criminal offenses would be released. Authorities released 24 prisoners following this announcement. Several additional political prisoners, however, were arrested or had their jail terms extended after this declaration.¹²³

Reporting on March 2014 crackdown against Darfuri students, lawyers, and human rights defenders Human Rights Watch notes that "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"¹²⁴ (the September 2013 popular protests in Khartoum followed an announcement by President Omar al-Bashir that the government would lift fuel and other subsidies).¹²⁵

Reporting on the detention of female Darfuri students from the Zahra dormitory in Khartoum in October 2014, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada notes that:

According to Human Rights Watch, the female protestors arrested at the Zahra dormitory were taken to NISS offices, where they were interrogated and beaten by officials (15 Oct. 2014). Sources report that 15 of the women were being held at the Omdurman prison for women and did not have access to their families or legal representation, while the whereabouts of other students was unknown (Human Rights Watch 15 Oct. 2014; Sudan Tribune 18 Oct. 2014).¹²⁶

Reporting on the same incident Radio Dabanga notes that:

One of the Darfuri women students, who were violently evicted by security forces from El Zahra boarding house in Khartoum on 5 October, is suffering severely from injuries sustained during her detention.

"Samia Khamis Tarboush was heavily beaten during her detention," Amal Habani, chairwoman of the No to Women Oppression Initiative (NWOI), told Radio Dabanga.

"After her release, Samia was examined by doctors at El Biraha hospital on Sunday, as she complained of heavy pain in her abdomen, and persistent headaches caused by severe blows to her head," Habani said. "She is in a very bad mental state, and can barely eat because of the pain."¹²⁷

In an October 2014 submission to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, REDRESS and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) considered with regards to torture and ill treatment of Darfuris that:

¹²³ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.e

¹²⁴ Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Renewed Attacks on Civilians in Darfur](#), 21 March 2014

¹²⁵ Human Rights Watch, [Sudan: Dozens Held Without Charge](#), 27 November 2013

¹²⁶ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, [Sudan: Student protests; treatment by government authorities 2013-January 2015 \[SDN105063.E\]](#), 19 February 2015

¹²⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri student suffers after beatings in detention: activist](#), 20 October 2014

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 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.¹²⁸

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Torture and prison conditions for Darfuri detainees* and *Torture of and prison conditions for Nuban detainees*

1.3.5. IDPs

Although not specifically detailing a location within Sudan, in an October 2014 submission to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, REDRESS and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) considered with regards to torture and ill treatment 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 IDPs.¹²⁹

The ACJPS further notes in a June 2015 report that “The use of torture across Sudan is endemic. Sudanese authorities use torture and other forms of ill-treatment to intimidate and silence perceived political opposition to the policies of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). Human rights defenders, political and other social activists, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and students are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment”.¹³⁰

1.3.6. Returnees

A September 2014 Waging Peace/Article 1 report which is based on testimonies of 11 returnees to Sudan explains that “of those interviewed for the report, four were detained at Khartoum airport on arrival in Sudan and were then taken away to be questioned, three others were detained and questioned at Khartoum airport and one was questioned at Geneina Airport in Darfur sometime after arrival in Sudan. One interviewee was detained at a later time while in Sudan”.¹³¹ With regards to their treatment in detention, the report documents:

¹²⁸ REDRESS and African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [56th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-Sessional Working Group on Sudan](#), 1 October 2014

¹²⁹ REDRESS and African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [56th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-Sessional Working Group on Sudan](#), 1 October 2014

¹³⁰ African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [Sudan: On the international day in support of torture survivors end torture and repeal enabling legislation](#), 26 June 2015

¹³¹ Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Arrest in Sudan p.15*

Excerpts from testimony of Mr T

“A group of men, which was a mix of police, military men, and NISS security forces, found me. They didn’t even ask me any questions, and they just started physically abusing me by hitting me on the head and all over my body. They claimed I was a rebel without making any sort of investigation or giving me any chance to defend myself.

They treated me badly instantly, and then they took me to prison where I was accused of being part of a rebel group that was part of the opposition. I was expecting to be given a death sentence. I was held in prison for about five months. While I was in there, they told me they would kill me if I did not admit that I was part of the rebel group that had killed government soldiers. I told them I had not done anything. They wanted me to admit the number of people I had killed from the police and NISS. They also asked me about being Darfurian. I told them that I was from Darfur, from Mahadariya. They replied, “Yes you are, you Darfurians are all militias.”

I was first in the Al Mujalat prison in 2012, from which I escaped. I was captured after three days and then they transferred me to the Al Odaya prison. I had very bizarre treatment while in prison. I was in a cell by myself. I was treated like a traitor, as a spy for Western countries. I was tortured, not given food or water, and they would come and hit me on a regular basis. They kept me hungry and deprived of water. I escaped from the first prison, but they caught me again. I tried to escape because I was told I would be given the death penalty in six weeks’ time. There were no court proceedings, no lawyers, and no legal documents. But I was informed that I would be hanged in six weeks. The second time I escaped, it was from Al Odaya prison in 2012, through the observation tower.”

Excerpts from testimony of Mr W

“When I told the Security officer that the reason for my trip to the UK had been to get my father medical treatment and was not for political reasons, the interviewing officer became aggressive. The officer used abusive and racist language and started slapping me on the face.

After being questioned for some time, I was made to stand outside the building, where different officers approached me, repeatedly asking me who I was and what I was doing there. After about an hour I was taken back inside the house where I was asked further questions. Again the officer who was interviewing me became aggressive, hitting me a number of times. The officer referred to Arabs as being the pure race and said opponents would be demolished.

I was detained, questioned and tortured for a total of three days. The questioning and torture followed a similar pattern to the first day on the two subsequent ones. On the day of my release I was asked to sign a piece of paper but the security officers refused to show or tell me what I was signing. I was then told that I must sign in at a police station at 10am the next morning, which was a Friday.”

Excerpts from testimony of Dr Sigdi Awad Kaballo

“During the 18 days I was detained, I was only able to leave my cell four times. The first time was for them to take photos and fingerprints of me. The second time was to interview me about various topics, including asking me questions about my friends and family. They also asked about my political stance, to which I responded, ‘You are detaining me, and you don’t know what political party I am in?’ I told them I was a member of the Communist Party for the last 50 years. I told them I was 65 years old, and therefore I was an ‘old Communist’. After this they relaxed somewhat, they began asking questions about the Revolutionary Front. I said I had no connection with the Revolutionary Front. They asked me whether I knew if the Revolutionary Front was using force during the demonstrations, and if they were responsible for burning petrol stations. I said I didn’t believe they were, and I said I knew some of the political leaders of this revolutionary front, naming some of the ones I knew personally. They asked me who I thought was responsible then, and I said that NISS [the Sudanese National Intelligence Service] was. The third time I was let out of my cell was to complete the interview, and this was for half an hour. The fourth time was to have a visit with my brother-in-law.

I was detained for eighteen days, and during this time I was subjected to investigations without any clear accusations. I was not allowed to make phone calls. I did not hide any of my political activities, since I know I am a peaceful person who never supported any sort of violent actions against anyone, whether government or anyone else. I was isolated and alone while I was detained.

I think I was arrested because when I arrived in Sudan, there were demonstrations going on, and they didn’t want me to join into the activities, since I was a known human rights activist. I believe that NIS use force, violence and torture because they are not a sophisticated security organisation, and therefore they do not know a better way of getting information from their prisoners.”

Excerpts from testimony of Ms A

“For three days they kept me at this place, hitting me every day, all the time. I can’t explain everything they did to me. I refused to say I did something that I hadn’t done. When I told them I was pregnant, they started to kick me in my stomach. If I asked them for food they would hit me. I was so tired. There were different people hitting me, and sometimes it was one, sometimes two, and sometimes three people. I was hit a lot with something like a long pipe that was similar material to a garden hose. I became unconscious and woke up later.

After one week they suddenly said I could go. They took me to an officer, and he said to me I could go to my home, but I must come back every day to report. Whilst I was in detention I never got to speak to a lawyer and I was again not able to contact any of my family or friends. The next day I had to go back to the same building I had been detained in at seven in the morning, because they had told me that if I didn’t they would do something to me and my children. My husband came with me. When he tried to come in with me, they refused him entrance, and said I must come in by myself. They kept me there from seven in the morning until seven in the evening. They put me in a room and were hitting me. They asked me again what I had been doing in London. Again I said I hadn’t done anything in London that was wrong. I had to go every day for about five or six days. I was barely fed when I was there. I later developed diabetes. I was four months pregnant at this time”.¹³²

1.4. Violence and discrimination against family members of (perceived) political opponents

Amnesty International, in a report documenting the authorities’ use of force at the March 2014 student demonstration protesting against violence in Darfur which resulted in the death of Ali Abakar Musa notes with regards to the harassment of family members in general that:

In many instances where human violations were reportedly committed by the security services, victims and/or their families have faced harassment and intimidation. Most of the people interviewed by Amnesty International and ACJPS were afraid to lodge criminal complaints, but also in some cases, to seek treatment. A number of families who attempted to bring cases were threatened by the security services about making formal complaints regarding the deaths of their family members.

Lawyers told Amnesty International the families of those who have been killed in Al Jazeera have abandoned hopes of obtaining justice and reparation: “It’s difficult for them, they may face harassment and intimidation, but also they don’t believe in the justice system.” [...]

One lawyer told Amnesty International: “People are afraid to go to the police and to lodge complaints. Many of those who are released from detention are often still under surveillance and have to go back for follow ups to NISS offices and as such prefer to avoid further run-ins with them. As for the families of those who have been killed [in September 2013], many of them are afraid to come forward. Those who attempted to received threatening phone calls and were even discouraged by people in their surroundings who support the current Government.”

Amnesty International and ACJPS have also collected testimonies from victims of torture and their families who reported intimidation and harassment at the hands of the NISS. One student detained after the University of Khartoum protest in March 2014 and reportedly ill treated in detention was initially considering lodging a complaint against the NISS. However, fear of reprisal and lack of confidence in the justice system deterred him from doing so.¹³³

Although not reporting on the origin or the location of the protestors, indicative of the climate for family members of perceived political opponents in general the 2014 U.S. Department of State report notes that:

¹³² Waging Peace/Article 1, [The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime](#), 1 September 2014, *Arrest in Sudan* p.15

¹³³ Amnesty International, [Excessive and Deadly: The use of force, arbitrary detention and torture against protestors in Sudan](#), September 2014, *HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION* p.27-28

Between September 20 and September 25, the NISS detained 85 individuals who attempted to commemorate the September 2013 protests. Among those detained were family members of those killed in the protests who planned memorial events. [...]

Defendants in common criminal cases such as theft as well as in more politicized cases were often compelled to confess guilt while in police custody through physical abuse and police intimidation of family members.¹³⁴

In a May 2015 article Radio Dabanga reports that “A number of family members of Darfuri students are reportedly being held in police custody in Omdurman. At least three Darfuri students were detained in front of Bahri University on Wednesday. Speaking to Radio Dabanga from Omdurman, the sister-city of Khartoum, a relative of a student from Darfur reported that he had seen a large number of Darfuri relatives of Sharg El Nil College students being held at the Dar El Salamat police station, south of the Libya market”.¹³⁵ Nuba Reports similarly notes in May 2015 that “This month a university women’s hostel housing mostly Darfurians burned down with no apparent cause. The National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), a government agency under the ruling party’s direction, has collectively raided homes in search of Darfuri university students, beating and detaining students and relatives at large”.¹³⁶

2. Forced recruitment in Omdurman and Khartoum by the Sudanese government

2.1. Darfuri

No information was found on the forced recruitment of Darfuris in Khartoum or Omdurman amongst the sources consulted published during the research period for this report. However, on a related issue, there is COI to indicate that persons recruited from Darfur have been transferred to Khartoum to receive military training. For example Radio Dabanga reports in May 2014:

Radio Dabanga reported earlier that Border Guards Commander, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, better known as Hemeti, had recruited large numbers of young Darfuris in September and October last year, against the backdrop of Sudanese government officials announcement of a “decisive dry season campaign against all rebel forces in Sudan”.

The about 6,000 recruits were trained as paramilitary troops in camps near Khartoum. They were sent to fight in South Kordofan, along with the Sudanese army.

From the end of 2013 onwards, large numbers of these militiamen were stationed in the area near El Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan. After widespread assaults of citizens in El Obeid and surrounding villages, the RSF were expelled from North Kordofan in February 2014 and re-stationed in Darfur “to fight rebel groups”.¹³⁷

2.2. Nuba

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 was found on the forced recruitment of Nubans in Khartoum or Omdurman amongst the sources consulted.

¹³⁴ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.d, 1.e.

¹³⁵ Radio Dabanga, [Relatives of Darfuri students ‘held in police custody’ in Omdurman](#), 7 May 2015

¹³⁶ Nuba Reports, [Sudan: Darfuri Students Targeted As Ethnic Violence Continues Across Sudan](#), 15 May 2015

¹³⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Umma Party leader charged by Sudan security, SPLM-N warns of new militia recruits](#), 14 May 2014

2.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

Reporting on the Sudanese Armed Forces' (SAF) operational tactics in South Kordofan the source Nuba Reports (Nuba Mountains) notes with regards to recruitment in Khartoum that:

SAF's operational approach in South Kordofan mirrors their original approach in Darfur, and is also replicated in Blue Nile. The government forces typically launch offensives with large ground contingents, who gather soldiers and militia or paramilitary groups (often referred as mujahideen, when recruited within religious groups in Khartoum, or Popular Defense Forces (PDF) when recruited from local tribes), which are directly supplied with arms and ammunition by Sudan's intelligence agencies.¹³⁸

2.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

Radio Dabanga reported in June 2015 that "Top officials within the Sudanese government are involved in recruiting young fighters for the Islamic State, says the spokesman for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali El Sadig. His daughter is among at least 18 students who left Sudan for Syria last week".¹³⁹ Radio Dabanga reported that most of the 18 students travelling to Syria through Turkey are coming from the University of Medical Sciences and Technology in Khartoum's El Riyad district.¹⁴⁰ It further noted that "According to El Sadig the travel was an organised event with high officials involved, otherwise it would have been impossible for them to travel without being caught".¹⁴¹

Although not specifically reporting that the recruitment is forced, Freedom House notes in its 2014 'Freedom on the Net' report with regards to recruitment of students to the NISS that:

Government efforts to manipulate the online information landscape have become more concerted and systematic. In response to the Arab Spring events and the proliferation of anti-government protest movements organized on social media sites in 2011, the Sudanese government began deploying a force known as the Cyber Jihadist Unit tasked to conduct "online defense operations" and "crush online dissent." A leaked 2011 document revealed that the Unit employs over 200 individuals divided across different locations who work three shifts to ensure around the clock coverage, particularly during timeframes when internet traffic is highest, such as late at night and during the weekend.⁴⁰ More recent research from 2013 found that the number of recruits has increased, with the NISS recruiting heavily at government universities, especially at the police-owned Al-Ribat University.⁴¹ The Unit seems to have adequate funding for training, and stipends are given to the young recruits who are mostly students or unemployed youth. According to private interviews, the Cyber Jihadists have also received training courses in hacking and online monitoring from India and Malaysia, among other countries.¹⁴²

¹³⁸ Nuba Reports (Nuba Mountains), [Sudan: Face to Face - On the Frontlines of the Country's Civil War](#), 3 November 2014

¹³⁹ Radio Dabanga, [Spokesman: Top officials Sudan involved in sending IS-fighters](#), 29 June 2015

¹⁴⁰ Radio Dabanga, [Spokesman: Top officials Sudan involved in sending IS-fighters](#), 29 June 2015

¹⁴¹ Radio Dabanga, [Spokesman: Top officials Sudan involved in sending IS-fighters](#), 29 June 2015

¹⁴² Freedom House, [Freedom on the Net 2014 - Sudan](#), 4 December 2014

2.5. IDPs

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 was found on the forced recruitment of IDPs in Khartoum or Omdurman amongst the sources consulted.

2.6. Returnees

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 was found on the forced recruitment of returnees in Khartoum or Omdurman amongst the sources consulted.

3. Access to justice, including follow-up by State law enforcement agencies in cases of violence and other abuses against members of specific groups

3.1. Darfuri

Reporting on an increase in the rape of minors in Khartoum's peripheral districts of peripheral districts, particularly in Baraka, El Haj Yousif, Mayo, Mandela, Gabousho, and El Nasr, Radio Dabanga cites a teacher as stating that "the crimes that are reported to the police represent less than five percent of the rape cases. He pointed to the "absence of the police from those areas, where most of [the residents] are displaced people from the war zones of Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile""¹⁴³.

3.2. Nuba

In an April 2015 submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation reports with regards Nuba representation in the security forces:

There is no fair representation of Nuba people in government functions, including central government ministries, local government, the military and police academies, though the majority of police and army personnel are from the Nuba, but never in high placed positions, especially in conflict locations. Sudanese citizens from Northern Sudan and other mainstream regions get the highest share of representation, therefore, the majority of army and police high ranking officers, ministers and state governors are Arab Sudanese.¹⁴⁴

Reporting on an increase in the rape of minors in Khartoum's peripheral districts of peripheral districts, particularly in Baraka, El Haj Yousif, Mayo, Mandela, Gabousho, and El Nasr, Radio Dabanga cites a teacher as stating that "the crimes that are reported to the police represent less than five percent of the rape cases. He pointed to the "absence of the police from those areas, where most of [the residents] are displaced people from the war zones of Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile""¹⁴⁵.

¹⁴³ Radio Dabanga, [School girls raped in Khartoum](#), 24 July 2015

¹⁴⁴ Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation, [Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\); Review of the Periodic Report of Sudan](#), April 2015, paragraph 20

¹⁴⁵ Radio Dabanga, [School girls raped in Khartoum](#), 24 July 2015

3.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

Reporting on the general situation in Sudan 2014 U.S. Department of State report considers that “Migrant workers and some ethnic minorities were unaware of their legal rights, suffered from discrimination, and lacked ready access to judicial remedies”.¹⁴⁶

The Equal Rights Trust reported in an October 2014 report that “In 2014, A., a journalist working for a popular Sudanese newspaper, told the Equal Rights Trust that he had witnessed the aftermath of an arson attack on a church in south Khartoum by religious extremists in December 2012. A. stated that bystanders had informed him that the police did not intervene to prevent the arson attack from taking place”.¹⁴⁷

3.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

Although not specifying the origin of the protestors, reporting in general on access to justice for the 185 reported demonstrator deaths caused in September 2013 when the Sudanese authorities responded with excessive force, including live ammunition, the International Federation for Human Rights reports that:

On the anniversary of the brutal suppression of last year’s protests, the United Nations Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Sudan will present his annual report to the Human Rights Council. In his report made public in advance of the session, the UN expert confirmed that the Sudanese authorities have failed to provide him with any “evidence of a thorough and independent investigation of the human rights violations that occurred during the September demonstrations” and highlighted that it is “unacceptable both morally and legally” that the Sudanese authorities reported “it was difficult to locate any of those who shot and killed so many people in broad daylight”. [...]

Although human rights groups verified 185 deaths, Sudanese authorities acknowledged just 85. A majority of death certificates issued listed cause of death as “mysterious circumstances”, despite a majority of victims having been shot in the head or chest. The mandate, composition and findings of three state commissions of inquiry reportedly established have never been made public, and repeated attempts to access them have been unsuccessful. Out of at least 85 criminal complaints pursued by victims’ families, only one has progressed to court, with the final decision pending. [...]

The September 2013 violent repression of protests and the impunity enjoyed by those responsible illustrates a broader context of serious human rights violations in Sudan, where human rights defenders, independent journalists and political opponents who criticise the government and its actions continue to face arbitrary arrests and detentions, acts of harassment and intimidation and in some cases acts of torture and ill-treatment.¹⁴⁸

Also reporting on access to justice for the victims of the September 2013 demonstrations, in his September 2014 report the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan stated that “During his missions to the Sudan in February and June 2014, the Independent Expert received representations from some of the family members of deceased victims of the September demonstrations, who expressed hopelessness in their quest for justice in respect of their deceased

¹⁴⁶ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 7

¹⁴⁷ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Discrimination against Christians and Other Religious Minorities* p.46

¹⁴⁸ International Federation for Human Rights, [Sudan: One year after the September 2013 bloody repression victims still await truth and justice](#), 22 September 2014

relatives. It is imperative that justice must be seen to be done in this case in order to deter arbitrary violations with impunity of the fundamental right to life".¹⁴⁹ He further considers that:

After careful consideration, the Independent Expert is of the view that the report does not provide evidence of a thorough and independent investigation of the human rights violations that occurred during the September demonstrations. The finding in the report that it was difficult to locate any of those who shot and killed so many people in broad daylight during the demonstrations is unacceptable both morally and legally. While the Government's report put the number of lives lost at 85, there are alternative reports from within the Sudan listing a higher number of deaths and injuries from gunshots during the demonstrations. The report gives no indication of how the shooters would be brought to justice or how the serious human rights violations would be redressed. Considering the high number of lives lost during the demonstrations and the need for accountability, it is both morally and legally imperative that there should be an independent judicial enquiry into the killings and other human rights violations that occurred during the September 2013 demonstrations.¹⁵⁰

Amnesty International, in a report documenting the authorities' use of force at the March 2014 demonstration protesting against violence in Darfur which resulted in the death of Ali Abakar Musa notes with regards to the general lack of accountability and justice that:

Amnesty International and ACJPS have identified widespread problems resulting in the persistence of impunity for violations committed by the security services. Firstly, the GoS has repeatedly failed to ensure prompt, thorough, impartial and effective investigations. Second, access to justice for victims and their families is hampered through immunities for the police, the NISS and other security services, the lack of will to investigate lodged criminal complaints, and the harassment and intimidation of those who try to do so. [...]

Despite consistent reports of killings and injuries committed by the security services during protests, the Minister of Justice has rarely condemned misconduct. Instead, the GoS often denies responsibility for the deaths and injuries, blaming armed political opposition groups for plotting the protests and attributing the violence to them and/or to outlaws.¹⁵¹

Reporting on the April and May 2015 "violent campaign by militant student members of the Sudanese ruling party against Darfuri students in various universities in Khartoum", Radio Dabanga cites a Darfuri student as stating that "Darfuri students who sustained injuries during the attacks last week did not dare to go to a hospital for treatment. As they fear the intervention of security agents stationed at the hospitals, they are being treated in the dormitories, or when they are lucky at their homes".¹⁵²

3.5. IDPs

In an October 2014 submission to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, REDRESS and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) considered with regards to IDPs' access to justice that:

¹⁴⁹ UN, [Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, Mashood A. Baderin*](#), 4 September 2014, paragraph 39

¹⁵⁰ UN, [Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, Mashood A. Baderin*](#), 4 September 2014, paragraph 40

¹⁵¹ Amnesty International, [Excessive and Deadly: The use of force, arbitrary detention and torture against protestors in Sudan](#), September 2014, III - THE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE p.21

¹⁵² Radio Dabanga, ['Darfuri students not able to continue studies in Sudan's capital'](#), 4 May 2015

In addition to concerns over a lack of protection and humanitarian access, IDPs – who live across Sudan, particularly in and around Khartoum – suffer from a weak protection of their rights and their inability to effectively access justice. In a well-known incident, several hundred residents of Soba Aradi, an IDP camp in the South East of Khartoum, were arbitrarily detained by the police in 2005 for over a year following protests in which IDPs had resisted forced relocation. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in its decision of January 2014 in *Abdel Hadi, Ali Radi and Others v Sudan*, found Sudan responsible for the violation of a series of rights, including the prohibition of torture, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial and the obligation to give effect to the Charter rights (article 1 of the African Charter which is similar to article 2(1) and (2) of the Covenant). This includes the failure to effectively investigate complaints of torture, ill-treatment and other violations raised by the complainants in 2006 and to provide reparation. Sudan has yet to take measures to implement the decision.¹⁵³

3.6. Returnees

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on access to justice for returnees in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

4. Freedom of movement

It should be noted that in general, the 2014 U.S. Department of State report considers that “Internal movement was generally unhindered for citizens outside conflict areas”.¹⁵⁴

4.1. Darfuri

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on freedom of movement for Darfuris in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

4.2. Nuba

In an April 2015 submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation reports with regards to freedom of movement for Nubans in general:

Sudanese move freely from one region to another without any problem. However, there are a number of Nuba teachers and civil servants who were relocated against their will out of Nuba Mountains to work elsewhere without returning to their region. There is enforced displacement and assimilation of Nuba communities, evidenced by the mass removal of thousands of Nuba IDPs who chose to settle in Nuba mountains big cities during the civil war 1980's and 1990's. Around 2 million Nuba people, (as reported by UNHCR) are now scattered in small and large communities across Sudan living in poor conditions without access to adequate services.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵³ REDRESS and African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, [56th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-Sessional Working Group on Sudan](#), 1 October 2014

¹⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.c

¹⁵⁵ Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation, [Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\); Review of the Periodic Report of Sudan](#), April 2015, paragraph 15

4.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on freedom of movement for other ethnic/religious minorities in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

4.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on freedom of movement for students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

4.5. IDPs

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on freedom of movement for IDPs in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

4.6. Returnees

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on freedom of movement for returnees in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

5. Living conditions, including: housing; access to basic services (e.g. water and sanitation); education; healthcare; and employment

5.1. Darfuri

In its annual report covering events in 2014 the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office reports that “Individuals from Darfur and the Two Areas have continued to receive discriminatory treatment, particularly with respect to access to education. For example, in October, over 70 Darfuri female students were forcibly evicted from their university dormitories in Khartoum, with at least 16 subsequently detained, in some cases for over a month”.¹⁵⁶ For further information on evictions of Darfuri students in Khartoum, see [5.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there.](#)

A study published in the Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development in April 2014 on ‘Coping strategies of Darfurians displaced women in Khartoum’ which interviewed 90 displaced women found that:

The study findings indicated that the respondents live in extremely poor conditions, characterized by high illiteracy rates, large numbers of dependents and very low income. The displaced women were compelled to accept low paid jobs to meet their household basic needs. Displacement to urban centers does not create improved opportunities for a significant portion of city

¹⁵⁶ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human Rights and Democracy Report 2014- Sudan - Country of Concern](#), 12 March 2015

dwellers living in slums as squatters. The results also revealed that the displaced people in Khartoum live in poverty and have little access to employment in the formal sector. The displaced communities are vulnerable in terms of their physical and social capital. Females headed households such as widows, are at increased risk of abuse, exploitation, coercion and manipulation because of their gender and status. The survival strategies adopted by the respondents include inter alia income generation activities such as street vending, wage labor, buying low price food items and second-hand clothes; and social networking with the displaced people coming from the same tribe and/or origin to cope with their difficult situation.¹⁵⁷

In a September 2014 article Radio Dabanga reports that Khartoum Teaching Hospital refused patients from 'west Sudan', noting that "Medical specialists at the Khartoum Teaching Hospital have categorically rejected to hospitalise a number of cases infected by unknown viruses, coming from "one of the western states". They stated to the press on Sunday that the medical staff "will be genuinely threatened if we would receive these patients, as there are not enough isolation rooms in the hospital""¹⁵⁸.

The Equal Rights Trust considers in an October 2014 report with regards to displaced Darfuris that "those who have settled in the North outside Darfur, in the big cities, in large informal settlements such as the one in Khartoum are not willing to go back as in the North they at least have electricity and other basic goods and are not faced with armed militias. But these internally-displaced persons (IDPs) are victims of continuing discrimination. Being in denial of the ongoing massive displacement, the government has not allowed Darfuris to establish formal camps in the North".¹⁵⁹ The same source further notes that according to Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman, a human rights lawyer and politician from Darfur, Darfuri IDPs in Khartoum living in informal settlements had been victims of the floods that swept the area in the summer months of 2013:

They had been given plots of land in flood areas and, having received absolutely no assistance from the government, thousands of Darfuri people remained homeless. International humanitarian donations that arrived from Arab countries were distributed only among Arabs, never to Darfuri.¹⁶⁰

In November 2014 Radio Dabanga reported that "Police and security forces beat and arrested a number of people in Soba district, southeast of Khartoum, on Sunday morning, against the backdrop of the removal of their houses, a resident said".¹⁶¹ It further notes that:

A number of the injured people told Radio Dabanga that a force consisting of heavily armed police and security in five trucks and three vehicles beat them with crutches and electric batons in El Musalas neighbourhood. The force used tear gas to disperse them, and set fire to several houses. "38 people were arrested, including 25 women," the witnesses said. They added that most of the residents are from Darfur.

Ishag Ahmed Mohamed, who sustained a gunshot wound, revealed that dozens of citizens were injured and arrested. "They were subjected to beatings and racial insults with profane language." He added that the arrested were transported to El Jereif East prison and then to Eilafoun prison.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁷ Abdel Raouf Suleiman Bello, Shadia A. M. Daoud and Mirza B. Baig (Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development), [Coping strategies of Darfurians displaced women in Khartoum](#), Received 7 October, 2013; Accepted 30 April, 2014

¹⁵⁸ Radio Dabanga, [Khartoum Teaching Hospital refuses patients from 'west Sudan'](#), 15 September 2014

¹⁵⁹ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Ethno-regional conflicts as manifestations of ethnic discrimination, Darfur* p.61

¹⁶⁰ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Ethnic discrimination in access to resources, invested and land* p.79

¹⁶¹ Radio Dabanga, [Police beat, arrest Khartoum residents during house raid](#), 9 November 2014

¹⁶² Radio Dabanga, [Police beat, arrest Khartoum residents during house raid](#), 9 November 2014

A January 2015 Radio Dabanga article reporting on the “skyrocketing” prices of charcoal and firewood in Sudan noted that “During the past days, three people died of the cold in El Fateh districts, northwest of Omdurman. The districts are populated by displaced from Darfur and South Kordofan”.¹⁶³

In a February 2015 article Radio Dabanga reports with regards to Darfuri homeless children living in Khartoum that:

There are about 700,000 street children living in Khartoum, according to the Sudanese Homeless Child Association.

On the occasion of the Festival of the Child, Majda Suleiman, the spokeswoman for the Association, told the press in Khartoum that most of the homeless children trying to survive in the Sudanese capital, are from Darfur, South Kordofan and the Blue Nile state. Their families fled the insecurity in these regions and sought refuge in the national capital.

Suleiman criticised the Sudanese authorities for neglecting the children, and urged them to establish child protection centres. She appealed to organisations to provide psychological, social, and material aid to the displaced children.

She added that many street children are “used by criminal groups” for begging and human organs trade.¹⁶⁴

In an April 2015 submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation reports with regards to access to education for Darfuris:

The state is not addressing the social, cultural and development needs of displaced people living around Khartoum. There have been some incidents of churches being destroyed by security forces, as was reported by international media. There are thousands of Nuba, Darfuri and Blue Nile children who are unable to continue their education because of rising school fees and distance they need to travel to school. This situation has forced poor children to quit schools. Some children ended up doing laborious work to earn money.¹⁶⁵

A May 2015 Radio Dabanga article reporting on the lack of basic services in the five El Fatah neighbourhoods of Omdurman mostly populated by displaced from the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan and Darfur cites a local resident as stating that “most of the children who finished basic school are not able to continue their studies because of the absence of secondary schools in the area and the lack of affordable transportation”.¹⁶⁶

A May 2015 Radio Dabanga article reports that “The people living in the outermost parts of Omdurman, the sister-city of Khartoum, are lacking basic services, such as health care, water and electricity supplies, and secondary education facilities. Thousands of poor residents of the five El Fatah neighbourhoods, mostly populated by displaced from the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan and Darfur, and Hamadab, El Ikhlas, El Ameriya, Teibat El Khalawi, El Sadaga, El Mansouri, El Khalifab, and El Galeea districts do not have access to basic services, a resident of El Fatah II told Radio Dabanga”.¹⁶⁷ The resident further noted that “Owing to the lack of water pipes, we pay SDG12 (\$2) for a barrel of water from the wells found in Omdurman. This water is quite salty, and can lead to kidney failure,” he said. “Furthermore, many women die during childbirth because of the absence of

¹⁶³ Radio Dabanga, [Cooking gas shortage: charcoal, firewood prices skyrocket in Sudan](#), 18 January 2015

¹⁶⁴ Radio Dabanga, [‘700,000 street children in Sudan’s capital’](#), 22 February 2015

¹⁶⁵ Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation, [Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\); Review of the Periodic Report of Sudan](#), April 2015, paragraph 8, 13

¹⁶⁶ Radio Dabanga, [Townships near Sudan’s capital lack basic services](#), 17 May 2015

¹⁶⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Townships near Sudan’s capital lack basic services](#), 17 May 2015

hospitals and health centres in the neighbourhood. “There is also no electricity supply,” he added. “We have to make do with torches at night”¹⁶⁸.

In August 2015 Radio Dabanga reported that hundreds of houses and a basic school in the El Kheirat area in Khartoum were demolished by the authorities, under the pretext of their being illegal residences.¹⁶⁹ Reportedly 21 people were arrested and a number of them were beaten in detention and according to a local resident, “Most of the residents come from the Darfur region, after the war broke out”¹⁷⁰. The same source further notes that “On 12 and 13 June, hundreds of residents in Khartoum’s El Gereif East staged a peaceful demonstration to protest that the authorities have deprived owners of their plots. In an attempt to disperse the mass, the police fired live bullets and used tear gas. Three people were killed. Dozens were detained”¹⁷¹.

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Living conditions for Darfuris and urban poor in Khartoum and Living conditions for Darfuris and urban poor in Omdurman*

5.2. Nuba

A January 2015 Radio Dabanga article reporting on the “skyrocketing” prices of charcoal and firewood in Sudan noted that “During the past days, three people died of the cold in El Fateh districts, northwest of Omdurman. The districts are populated by displaced from Darfur and South Kordofan”¹⁷².

In a February 2015 article Radio Dabanga reports with regards to homeless children from the Blue Nile state living in Khartoum that:

There are about 700,000 street children living in Khartoum, according to the Sudanese Homeless Child Association.

On the occasion of the Festival of the Child, Majda Suleiman, the spokeswoman for the Association, told the press in Khartoum that most of the homeless children trying to survive in the Sudanese capital, are from Darfur, South Kordofan and the Blue Nile state. Their families fled the insecurity in these regions and sought refuge in the national capital.

Suleiman criticised the Sudanese authorities for neglecting the children, and urged them to establish child protection centres. She appealed to organisations to provide psychological, social, and material aid to the displaced children.

She added that many street children are “used by criminal groups” for begging and human organs trade.¹⁷³

In an April 2015 submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation reports with regards to the living conditions for Nuba in Khartoum:

¹⁶⁸ Radio Dabanga, [Townships near Sudan’s capital lack basic services](#), 17 May 2015

¹⁶⁹ Radio Dabanga, [Hundreds of houses demolished in Khartoum](#), 25 August 2015

¹⁷⁰ Radio Dabanga, [Hundreds of houses demolished in Khartoum](#), 25 August 2015

¹⁷¹ Radio Dabanga, [Hundreds of houses demolished in Khartoum](#), 25 August 2015

¹⁷² Radio Dabanga, [Cooking gas shortage: charcoal, firewood prices skyrocket in Sudan](#), 18 January 2015

¹⁷³ Radio Dabanga, [700,000 street children in Sudan’s capital](#), 22 February 2015

Women and children internally displaced around the capital Khartoum and other cities in Northern Sudan face extreme poverty and many of them end up working in servitude and face daily inhumane treatment. Thousands of Nuba children ended up homeless in the streets of Khartoum, without access to education, healthcare. The Sudan Ministry of Social Development statistics states that there is a staggering number of 9,350 homeless children. Between 21 - 26 June 2011 71 children were found dead in the streets of Khartoum, and after investigation it was revealed that the children were poisoned as a result of consuming Ethanol. [...]

The state is not addressing the social, cultural and development needs of displaced people living around Khartoum. There have been some incidents of churches being destroyed by security forces, as was reported by international media. There are thousands of Nuba, Darfuri and Blue Nile children who are unable to continue their education because of rising school fees and distance they need to travel to school. This situation has forced poor children to quit schools. Some children ended up doing laborious work to earn money. [...]

Thousands of Nuba people who owned lands and homes around Khartoum had their homes demolished and they were forcibly moved by military police to the outskirts of the city. An eye witness reported to Nuba Mountains people Foundation that the government, who deployed a large number of public order police, moved a large number of Nuba communities who lived in Alezba Bahry, a central suburb in Khartoum Bahry for tens of years to Khojalab area and to Nasser 4 area, Western Omdurman. When the Nuba residents protested, a government official vehemently told them " If you did not like it, go and sue us in Kauda- (the centre of the rebel movement in Nuba Mountains)", as reported in Sudanese Online on 23 June 2014. Two trucks full of Military Police personnel later attacked them at their new settlements at Nasser 4, and incidents of rape and looting of property by the same forces were reported to Nuba Mountains people foundation. However, the victims are too intimidated to pursue legal action, the reporter confirmed. No investigations were carried out to prosecute the perpetrators. The reporter also confirmed that Alezba was a dark place with no electricity and no clean water, but just before the removal took place, electricity and water supply to the area were underway, in preparation for the new settlers who would build their new homes in the area. [...]

Access to education and health care is neither free nor easily attainable by the most vulnerable chunks of the Sudanese population, especially those living in the peripheries of Khartoum.¹⁷⁴

A May 2015 Radio Dabanga article reports that "The people living in the outermost parts of Omdurman, the sister-city of Khartoum, are lacking basic services, such as health care, water and electricity supplies, and secondary education facilities. Thousands of poor residents of the five El Fatah neighbourhoods, mostly populated by displaced from the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan and Darfur, and Hamadab, El Ikhlas, El Ameriya, Teibat El Khalawi, El Sadaga, El Mansouri, El Khalifab, and El Galeea districts do not have access to basic services, a resident of El Fatah II told Radio Dabanga".¹⁷⁵ The resident further noted that "Owing to the lack of water pipes, we pay SDG12 (\$2) for a barrel of water from the wells found in Omdurman. This water is quite salty, and can lead to kidney failure," he said. "Furthermore, many women die during childbirth because of the absence of hospitals and health centres in the neighbourhood. "There is also no electricity supply," he added. "We have to make do with torches at night"¹⁷⁶.

The same May 2015 Radio Dabanga article reporting on the lack of basic services in the five El Fatah neighbourhoods of Omdurman mostly populated by displaced from the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan and Darfur cites a local resident as stating that "most of the children who finished basic school are not able to continue their studies because of the absence of secondary schools in the area and the lack of affordable transportation".¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁴ Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation, [Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\); Review of the Periodic Report of Sudan](#), April 2015, paragraph 8, 17, 18

¹⁷⁵ Radio Dabanga, [Townships near Sudan's capital lack basic services](#), 17 May 2015

¹⁷⁶ Radio Dabanga, [Townships near Sudan's capital lack basic services](#), 17 May 2015

¹⁷⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Townships near Sudan's capital lack basic services](#), 17 May 2015

For information which pre-dates April 2014, see:

- ❖ Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC), [Sudan COI Query Response](#), 11 April 2014, *Living conditions for Nubans and urban poor in Khartoum and Living conditions for Nubans and urban poor in Omdurman*

5.3. Other ethnic and/or religious minorities

Reporting on the general situation in Sudan for ethnic minorities the 2014 U.S. Department of State report considers that “The Muslim majority and the government continued to discriminate against ethnic minorities in almost every aspect of society. Citizens in Arabic-speaking areas who did not speak Arabic experienced discrimination in education, employment, and other areas”.¹⁷⁸ It further notes that “Discrimination in employment and occupation occurred based on gender, religion, and ethnic, tribal, or party affiliation. Ethnic minorities often complained that government hiring practices discriminated against them in favor of “riverine” Arabs from northern Sudan”.¹⁷⁹ Also reporting on the general situation (location and origin not specified) the 2013 U.S. Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom notes that “There were reports of societal abuses and discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice. [...] Employers and school authorities refused to excuse Christian students to perform Christian rites on Sundays. [...] Because of the overlap between ethnicity and religion, it was often difficult to determine whether some abuses were specifically due to religious intolerance”.¹⁸⁰

An October 2014 Equal Rights Trust report explains that “religious minorities and those promoting moderate versions of Islam experience discrimination on the basis of their religion or belief and severe restriction on their religious freedoms, but their experience is strongly influenced by the political context. Furthermore, the regime has clamped down on the freedoms of those who challenge the imposition of an Islamist ideology for purely political reasons, rather than because of religious doctrine. [...] Members of ethnic groups which are, or are perceived to be, in conflict with the regime are subjected to armed violence in their homelands, and to other forms of discrimination when residing elsewhere in the country, again because of the politicisation of race and ethnicity”.¹⁸¹ The same source also reports that “despite the complexity of ethnic identification in a country where aspects of race, ethnicity, tribe and political affiliation are mixed, a significant emphasis is placed on identifying a person’s tribe. It is noteworthy that national identity cards include the names of the father, grand-father and great-grandfather, which is a customary way of identifying a person’s tribe. Even in Khartoum- a city of over 5 million- tribal belonging is frequently the first question people ask of each other when they meet. Accent is also an indicator of a person’s tribe”.¹⁸²

The same source further notes with regards to discrimination in relation to ethnic origin (home area not specified) that “regardless of their fluency in Arabic, ethnic origin is a stand-alone barrier to employment, education and services. There are very few non-Arabs in the civil service, the army, the

¹⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, *Section 6*

¹⁷⁹ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, *Section 7.d.*

¹⁸⁰ United States Department of State, [2013 Report on International Religious Freedom - Sudan](#), 28 July 2014, *Executive Summary*

¹⁸¹ Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *Executive Summary p.VI*

¹⁸² Equal Rights Trust, [In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan](#), October 2014, *The meaning of “race”, “ethnicity”, and “racial/ethnic discrimination” p.52*

police and the security services. Darfuri students are reportedly often discriminated against merely because of their ethnic origin. Unlike Arab students, they do not get any financial assistance with their student fees and when they fail to pay on time, they are excluded from universities”.¹⁸³

5.4. Students, political activists, human rights activists and journalists who are not originally from these cities or who support persons not originally from there

In July 2014 Radio Dabanga reported that the National Students’ Fund had expelled around 450 Darfuri students from boarding houses of the Faculty of Education at the University of Khartoum.¹⁸⁴ Mohaddmed Zein, head of the Darfur Students Union stated that “They had been told to leave the boarding houses during the University’s holidays. Most Darfuri students, however, do not have relatives in Khartoum where they can stay for a while, and they do not have the means to travel to their families in Darfur”.¹⁸⁵

In its annual report covering events in 2014 the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office reports that “in October, over 70 Darfuri female students were forcibly evicted from their university dormitories in Khartoum, with at least 16 subsequently detained, in some cases for over a month”.¹⁸⁶ Radio Dabanga reports that in January 2015, “More than 50 Darfuri women students entered the office of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) in Khartoum and settled there today, in an attempt to pressure the Darfuri officials to find a solution for their housing problems”.¹⁸⁷ The same source further notes that:

In September last year, the National Endowment Fund for Students requested the women students to vacate El Zahra boarding establishment in the Sudanese capital, as the buildings needed renovation. Of the estimated 150 Darfuri students at the dormitory, 70 did not leave, saying they do not have family in Khartoum and cannot afford more expensive accommodation. [...]

In September last year, the National Endowment Fund for Students requested the women students to vacate El Zahra boarding establishment in the Sudanese capital, as the buildings needed renovation. Of the estimated 150 Darfuri students at the dormitory, 70 did not leave, saying they do not have family in Khartoum and cannot afford more expensive accommodation.¹⁸⁸

In May 2015 Hasabelnabi Mahmoud, Secretary-General of the Darfur Students Association (DSA) described a “racist campaign” of attacks against Darfuri students by youth members of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).¹⁸⁹ According to the Darfur Students Association, about 815 Darfuri students were evicted from dormitories in Khartoum, and Dongola, northern Sudan, in May 2015.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸³ Equal Rights Trust, *In Search of Confluence Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Sudan*, October 2014, *Ethnic discrimination in education, employment and political participation* p. 83

¹⁸⁴ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Khartoum expelled from boarding houses](#), 21 July 2014

¹⁸⁵ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Khartoum expelled from boarding houses](#), 21 July 2014

¹⁸⁶ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *Human Rights and Democracy Report 2014- Sudan - Country of Concern*, 12 March 2015

¹⁸⁷ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri women students occupy Khartoum DRA office](#), 26 January 2015

¹⁸⁸ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri women students occupy Khartoum DRA office](#), 26 January 2015

¹⁸⁹ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students in Sudan 'in dangerous situation'](#), 20 May 2015

¹⁹⁰ Radio Dabanga, [Darfuri students to court, Ansar students attacked in Sudan](#), 5 June 2015

5.5. IDPs

The 2014 U.S. Department of State report explains that “As in previous years, the government refused to establish formal IDP or refugee camps in Khartoum or the Two Areas”.¹⁹¹

Although not specifically reporting on the situation for IDPs in Khartoum or Omdurman, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reports in July 2014 with regards to the situation in general for IDPs and the difficulty in accessing data on urban IDPs that:

The UN has estimated that 6.1 million people – 17 per cent of Sudan’s population – require some form of humanitarian assistance in addition to development aid in 2014 (OCHA, June 2014). Among the most vulnerable of this population, IDPs have tremendous needs and are victims of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

The Government of Sudan’s approach to addressing the needs of IDPs in areas under its control has been piecemeal. [...]

With humanitarian attention focused on massive displacement crises in the neighbouring states of South Sudan and the Central African Republic, lack of international attention to Sudan’s equally grave internal displacement crisis and on-going conflicts has resulted in an inadequate funding response. Thus the immediate and long-term needs of IDPs are not being addressed by either the national authorities or the international community. [...]

Collecting good quality data on internal displacement is fraught with difficulties due to lack of, or restricted, access to affected areas, the piecemeal and fragmented nature of data that is collected, differing definitions and methodologies and political manipulation of displacement data by authorities. IDMC, like others, is unable to verify displacement data. [...]

There is little or no data on IDPs living in towns and cities in Sudan. This constitutes a further obstacle to providing a comprehensive view of displacement. This is significant due to large numbers of IDPs fleeing to urban areas during the past decade, contributing to Sudan’s accelerating urbanisation. [...]

The lack of quality data makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of IDPs’ needs. The absence of disaggregated data, except for cases where biometric registration has taken place such as in Darfur, makes protection and vulnerability analysis all but impossible. There is little data with which to evaluate IDPs’ progress towards durable solutions. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is the only agency reporting figures on verified returns but there is no information on failed returns or secondary displacement. Little is known about IDPs who live in informal settlements, with host families or in urban settings. [...]

IDPs affected by Sudan’s multiple conflicts are often very vulnerable as they lack access to basic services and therefore require humanitarian assistance.¹⁹²

The website of SOS Children’s Villages International reports that “In the last decades, there was a massive influx of refugees and internally displaced people who fled to Khartoum, escaping the violence and the fighting in their home regions. As of 2014, there were still over 2.1 million internally displaced people in Sudan alone, as well as almost 241,000 refugees. This rapid population growth put a lot of strain on Khartoum’s infrastructure, and pockets of abject poverty as well as large informal settlements developed all over the city. Many displaced people are now returning to their homelands, but urban poverty remains a serious worry in the capita”.¹⁹³ The same source further reports with regards to conditions for IDPs in Khartoum that:

Illiteracy levels remain high, especially for women. Primary school enrolment is still only at 67 per cent, and only 37 per cent of the urban population attends secondary school. Life in Khartoum

¹⁹¹ U.S. Department of State, [Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 - Sudan](#), 25 June 2015, Section 1.c

¹⁹² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, [Sudan: Other crises distract attention from tremendous needs of IDPs](#), 9 July 2014

¹⁹³ SOS Children’s Villages International, [SOS Children’s Village Khartoum](#), undated [accessed 28 August 2015]

remains incredibly tough, but there is hope for the future of building a peaceful and prosperous society.¹⁹⁴

5.6. Returnees

No COI from April 2014 – August 2015 on living conditions for returnees in Khartoum or Omdurman was found amongst the sources consulted.

¹⁹⁴ SOS Children's Villages International, [SOS Children's Village Khartoum](#), undated [accessed 28 August 2015]