



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Sudan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 7 July 2017**

### **Treatment of failed asylum seekers by authorities and society**

In May 2017 the *European Court of Human Rights* points out in a report that:

“In *A.I. v. Switzerland* the Court held in particular that, on account of his political activities in exile, it was possible that the applicant had attracted the attention of the Sudanese intelligence services. It found that there were therefore reasonable grounds for believing that the applicant ran the risk of being detained, interrogated and tortured on his arrival at Khartoum Airport” (European Court of Human Rights (30 May 2017) *Examination of decisions of the Swiss authorities to deport two Sudanese nationals to their country of origin*).

A publication released in January 2017 by *Waging Peace* comments on:

“...recent cases where individuals were ill-treated, tortured and even killed post-deportation, and demonstrate the risks facing those forcibly returned to Sudan having claimed asylum elsewhere, particularly, but not limited to, those individuals who engaged in sur place political activity in the country hosting their asylum claim” (Waging Peace (4 January 2017) *Update - Sudan: Recent cases of post-deportation risk*).

A paper issued by the *United Kingdom Home Office* in August 2016 citing secondary sources includes stating that:

“The British Embassy in Khartoum, in a letter dated 19 February 2015 noted: 'As reported in our letter of April 2013 it remains the case that none of our international partners were aware of any cases of returnees being mistreated on return to Sudan’” (United Kingdom Home Office (10 August 2016) *Country Information and Guidance - Sudan: Failed asylum seekers (August 2016)*).

A document issued in September 2014 by *Waging Peace* states:

“Those Sudanese who are outside Sudan without identification and who are forced to return to Sudan are required to go through a process of re-documentation whereby their nationality is confirmed and they are given documents with which to travel. In 2007 and 2011 Waging Peace and Article 1 produced reports showing significant procedural inadequacies in the re-documentation procedure of Sudanese asylum seekers in the UK. Asylum seekers were re-documented by the UK Border Agency before their right to appeal the refusal of refugee status was exhausted. During this process Sudanese embassy officials asked asylum seekers for personal information which was far in excess of what was required to verify nationality and obtain travel documents, including details about the whereabouts of their family members in Sudan. Asylum seekers felt vulnerable, with insufficient Home Office support and little or no translation services for the Home Office to understand the threats that were being made towards them and their family” (Waging Peace (September 2014) *The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime: How the Sudanese National Intelligence*

and Security Service monitors and threatens Sudanese nationals who leave Sudan, pp.5-6).

This report also states:

“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. 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.” (ibid, p.15)

A report published in November 2013 by *Landinfo* points out that:

“Although there is no concrete evidence to support that forced returnees to Sudan face problems with security forces, Landinfo can see no reason why Sudanese authorities should differentiate between political activities outside and inside Sudan, provided their aim is to change the political situation in Sudan in ways threatening president Umar al-Bashir’s regime” (Landinfo Country of Origin Information Centre (11 November 2013) *Sudan: Handlingsrom for regime-kritisk politisk aktivisme*, p.3).

No further information on any of these issues could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

European Court of Human Rights (30 May 2017) *Examination of decisions of the Swiss authorities to deport two Sudanese nationals to their country of origin*  
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/examination-decisions-swiss-authorities-deport-two-sudanese-nationals-their>

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Waging Peace (September 2014) *The Long Arm of the Sudanese Regime: How the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Service monitors and threatens Sudanese nationals who leave Sudan*

[http://www.wagingpeace.info/images/The\\_Long\\_Arm\\_of\\_the\\_Sudanese\\_Regime\\_-\\_COMPRESSED.pdf](http://www.wagingpeace.info/images/The_Long_Arm_of_the_Sudanese_Regime_-_COMPRESSED.pdf)

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

### **Sources Consulted**

Amnesty International  
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Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
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Online Newspapers  
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library  
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Reliefweb  
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United Kingdom Home Office  
United States Department of State  
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