

26 December 2018

JOINT APPEAL

STOP THE CRACKDOWN ON PEACEFUL PROTESTS IN SUDAN



Aproxamately 40 protesters were shot dead, dozens were injured by live fire used as well as tear gas and rubber bullets in Sudan in one week of demonstrations. The protests started on December 19th, in the northern Sudanese city of Atbara, spread to many other cities and reached to the capital Khartoum. Sudanese government response to these protests has been excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and detention.

Chants calling for President Omar Al-Bashir to step down reflect people's voices of frustration for the dire economic and social conditions, social injustices and widespread corruption. The economic reform policies adopted in mid-October, "[to provide citizens with a decent life](#)" as announced by the government turned out to be series of austerity measures that resulted in lifting of subsidies on basic goods and services such as bread, fuel and electricity. The price hikes together with the Sudanese pound deterioration made economic conditions worse in the country, in which [46.5 percent](#) of the population is found to fall below the poverty line, and unemployment rate standing around [19.5%](#) and around [5.5 million people](#) in need of humanitarian assistance.

At [international forums](#) Sudan acknowledges elimination of poverty, achieving inclusive social protection, improving education and health among measures to achieve sustainable development and its engagement with civil society in these measures, yet on the ground, the situation is the opposite with systematic crackdown, violations on freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. As was seen in 2013

and 2016 protests, unlawful use of force, arresting and detaining opposition voices, National Intelligence and Security Service banning press from reporting on protests and demonstrations, blocking access to social media in order to curtail mobilization have been Sudanese authorities' common practice.

With this joint appeal, we call Sudanese authorities to respect, protect and fulfill people's rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression in accordance with international human rights treaties, that Sudan is a state party to, principally to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Revision of economic and social policies should be prioritized in order to address inequalities, ensuring redistribution and social justice and aiming at achieving sustainable development for all. Furthermore:

- Sudanese authorities should immediately stop killing peaceful protesters; halt the use of live fire on protesters, arbitrary detention. All those arbitrarily detained should be released.
- The attempt of censorship and information control through social media shut down must stop.
- Sudanese authorities should conduct immediate and impartial investigations for all cases of killings of protesters to end impunity for perpetrators.

Signatories

1. Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
2. Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR)
3. Arab Institute for human Rights
4. Arab Network for Democratic Elections
5. Political Women Forum in the Arab Region
6. Right to Water Forum in the Arab Region
7. Arab Forum for People with Disability
8. Disabled People International (Arab Chapter)
9. Arab world Democracy and Electoral Monitor
10. Arab Woman Network (ROAA)
11. Third World Network
12. Social Watch
13. Global Policy Forum
14. Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
15. Society for International development (SID)
16. Civicus
17. Region Refocus (USA-NYC)
18. Tunisian Forum for Social and Economic Rights
19. Mourakiboun - Tunis
20. Jordanian Woman Union
21. Phoenix Center – Jordan
22. Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights- Jordan
23. Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development-(ARDD) –Jordan
24. Arab Women Organization of Jordan

25. Human Forum for Women's Rights – Jordan
26. Adalah Center for Human Rights Studies - Jordan
27. Strategy Center for human Rights Training - Jordan
28. Rasheed (Transparency International)- Jordan
29. Bahrain Transparency Association
30. Economist Association (Oman)
31. Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)
32. KAFA (Lebanon)
33. Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disability (LUPPD)
34. NGOs Platform of Saida (Lebanon)
35. The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against woman
36. Coordination Forum of the NGO working with Palestinian Community in Lebanon
37. Palestinian Human Rights Organisation (PHRO)
38. Women's Studies Centre - Palestine
39. Forum Marocain des Alternatives – FMAS
40. Collective Association for Elections Observation – Marocco
41. Yemeni Democracy Watch
42. Iraqi Al Amal Association