

# URGENT ACTION

## SUDANESE WOMEN HELD WITHOUT TRIAL

**More than 30 Sudanese women have been detained arbitrarily without access to a lawyer since 12 November 2012. They are being held in Al-Obeid prison in central Sudan following their transfer from Kadugli, Southern Kordofan. Their access to medical care is inadequate and the lives of several of the women may be at risk.**

On 5 November 2012 the National Security Services (NSS) in Kadugli began summoning women from the Nuba community who were residing in town. They women were accused of spying on behalf of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM–N), a banned opposition party whose armed wing is fighting government forces in the state.

On 12 November, 32 women were detained incommunicado in Kadugli prison. They were transferred to Al-Obeid prison on 27 December 2012. While they have since been allowed to receive family visits, they have not been charged and the authorities continue to deny them access to a lawyer.

In addition, the women are reportedly not receiving adequate medical care. One woman suffers from seizures and sustained loss of consciousness, but has been denied treatment in Al-Obeid. Another woman suffered a spinal injury in detention. She was transferred to a hospital in Khartoum on 6 February, but is yet to receive medical treatment. Two other women also reportedly suffer from seizures and another one from diabetes.

**Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- Calling on the Sudanese government to immediately charge the women detained in Al-Obeid with recognizable criminal offenses or release them without delay;
- Asking that the authorities grant the women access to a lawyer;
- Calling on the Sudanese government to grant immediate medical care to the women who require it.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 APRIL 2013 TO:**

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir  
Office of the President  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan  
Email: [info@sudan.gov.sd](mailto:info@sudan.gov.sd)

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice

Mohamed Bushara Dousa  
Ministry of Justice,  
PO Box 302  
Al Nil Avenue  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**And copies to:**

Minister of Interior  
Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In June 2011, a conflict broke out in the state of Southern Kordofan between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army – North, the military wing of the SPLM–N. Fighting expanded to the state of Blue Nile in September 2011. Indiscriminate aerial bombardments by the Sudanese Armed Forces on SPLM-N controlled areas, coupled with the blocking of humanitarian assistance to the conflict-affected areas since the conflict began, has led to deaths and injuries of civilians, looting, and the destruction of property. Tens of thousands of people are being driven from their homes, with over 200,000 refugees currently based in Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The Sudanese authorities have arrested numerous real or perceived SPLM–N activists across the country since the conflict began in Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile. Many have been detained on the basis of their ethnicity, often without charge, and without access to lawyers or their families.

The 2010 National Security Act provides the NSS powers to search and seize assets and to arrest and detain people for up to four-and-a-half months without judicial oversight. Under the same act, NSS agents are provided with immunity from prosecution for any act committed in the course of their work. The provisions in the Act do not ensure that detainees held by the NSS have access to judicial review and other human rights. The Act does not comply with international norms of fair trial and other human rights standards.

Name: 32 Sudanese women detained in Al-Obeid prison

Gender m/f: f

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**INTERNATIONAL**

