SUDAN CIVIL SOCIETY WATCH

July – September 2016 (Issue #7)

Produced by the Confederation of Sudanese Civil Society organizations (CSCSOs), Sudan Civil Society Watch is a quarterly bulletin concerned with monitoring and reporting on the space and flux for civil society in Sudan. The bulletin acts as an evidence base and is used to engage with policy and decision-makers to improve and expand the space for Sudanese civil society. Data and information is collected via information and communication technologies through a network of trusted correspondents from civil society activists and organizations throughout the country. Information is also processed and analyzed through focus group discussions and secondary sources. This report presents a summary on the space for civil society, accompanied with charts and a listing of all incoming reports in relation to the space of civil society system for the period 1 July to 30 September 2016.

Summary on the space for civil society during this period

This quarter witnessed a decline in the number of reported violations against the space of civil society. 17 reported violations were received by the Watch this period compared to 14 received in the second quarter of 2016. However, at present, there is no indication that the pressure on civil society is intensifying. Grave violations (detention/closure/confiscation/trial) represented 88% of the reported violations during this quarter, while Legal and procedural issues represented 12% of reported violations.
Detention/closure/confiscation/trial represented 100% of the violations in the grave violations category. From the 15 reported violations received during this quarter, 11 fall under the trial section and 4 under arrests. Under this category of reports involved the arrest of 16 El-Mahas people by NISS following a meeting discussing issues concerning the Nubian Region at the El-Mahas Club in Khartoum.

This quarter also witnessed the continued judicial harassment towards TRACKs Center for Training and Human Development. The case was filed against them by the State Crimes Prosecution Office in August, three months after Khalfallah Al-Arif Mukhtar, the director of TRACKs centre, Midhat Afifaldeen Hamdan, a trainer, and Mustafa Adam, director of another organization were detained. Al-Arif and Afifi are now detained inside Al-Huda prison in Omdurman along with Mustafa Adam, a director of another organization who was just visiting the center at the time of the raid back in February, 2016.

Al-Arif Mukhtar, Afifaldeen and Adam are now being tried along with Arwa Al-Rabie, Administrative Officer, Hassan Kheiry, a trainer at TRACKs and a Cameroonian student and intern, Imany-Leyla Raye, the charges pressed against them are Article 50 - Undermining the Constitutional System, Article 51- Waging War against the State, Article 53 - Espionage, Article 65 - Criminal and Terrorist Organizations. In addition to these charges, Mustafa Adam and Midhat Afifaldeen also face charges related to Information Crimes Law, Article 14.

Legal and procedural issues continued during this period. Organizations continue to face obstacles with the renewal of their annual licenses/registration where this has become an observable tactic by the authorities to obstruct the work of some organizations.
Organization for Peace and Human Rights are still facing difficulties with the renewal of their annual registration with HAC Khartoum.

Key national and international events that have had (or will have) repercussions on civil society and the space during the third quarter of 2016 included:

**The refugee crisis and illegal migration**: In efforts to stop the migration flow of refugees from Africa into Europe through Sudan, which is considered an essential gateway for migrants from Africa, the Sudanese Government and the European Union are strengthening cooperation. The EU has agreed to provide funding to Sudan to help stem migration flows. There is growing concern amongst civil society that this cooperation may reflect negatively on the space of civil society by giving authorities more power to impose tighter restrictions.

**Movements and demands on the dams issues**: with the government proceeding with the construction of Kajbar and Dal Dams in the Northern State, anti-dam campaigns and movements continue to be carried out by the Committee Against Dal & Kajbar Dam Construction. This has led to numerous arrests and violations against activists and civil society.

**US Special Envoy visit to North, West and Central Darfur**: Security authorities in Zalingei, Darfur detained 6 IDP camp leaders in Nirtii town after they met with the US Special Envoy to Sudan, Donald Booth to convey concerns of the humanitarian situation for IDPs. The arrests were made despite the meeting being held with the knowledge of the Sudanese authorities.
Summary of incoming reports

Hereunder is a summary of reports received during the period 1 July to 30 September 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave Issues</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reported Violation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18/7/2016</td>
<td>The trial of Adil Bahkit, Khalif Allah (Director Manager of TRACKs Center) and Arwa Elarbee (Regional Manager of TRACKs) was scheduled for July 18th, 2016 at Khartoum Central Courthouse and postponed to a later date. Claims made against them include undermining the constitution, waging war against the state, and call for public opposition.</td>
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<td>19/7/2016</td>
<td>NISS detained two anti-dam construction activists in Abri, Halfa locality, Northern State. According to a member of the Nubian Anti-dam Committee of Dal dam, security forces in the region arrested Hussein Abdo Hussein (Secretary of Sesab Club) for allowing people to hold a seminar on the dams’ damages and remnants of gold mining in the Northern State. His arrest came immediately after the seminar. Activist, Ahmed Salih Mekkawy was also arrested while visiting Hussein Abdo in the premises of the national security.</td>
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<td>22/7/2016</td>
<td>NISS detained 16 El-Mahas people after a raid on the El-Mahas Club Khartoum. The raid occurred shortly after their meeting discussing issues concerning the Nubian Region at the El-Mahas Club in Khartoum.</td>
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<td>1/8/2016</td>
<td>Trial procedures for three members of the El-Mahas club commenced. The three members were arrested along with 13 other people during a raid by the police on the El-Mahas club following a meeting discussing dam issues and indiscriminate mining in the Northern state. El-Mahas Club was raided by police last July, 2016. 16 members during the raid were arrested including club president, The lawyer Mr. Imad Mirghan. Charges were filed against them including property damage, inciting riots and opposition to authorities.</td>
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<td>9/8/2016</td>
<td>Security authorities continued to arrest 11 leaders and representatives of the IDP camps in Nerttii, Center Darfur. The arrests were made after their meeting with US envoy to Sudan, Donald Booth. During his visit to North, West and Central Darfur late July Booth met with leaders of the IDP camps to observe the humanitarian situation in the camps. Subsequently, NISS arrested a number of Nerttai people without any justification for it.</td>
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<td>14/8/2016</td>
<td>State Crimes Prosecution Office filed charges against Khalaf Allah Afif Mukhtar (Director of TRACKs), Mustafa Adam (Director of Alzarga Organization) and Midhat Eldin Hamdan (Trainer at TRACKs). On August 15, 2016, they were transferred to Al-</td>
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huda prison, northern Omdurman. According to a statement by El-khatim Adlan Center, the charges pressed against them are Article 50 - Undermining the Constitutional System, Article 51- Waging War against the State, Article 53 - Espionage, Article 65 -Criminal and Terrorist Organizations. In addition to these charges, Mustafa Adam and Midhat Afifaldeen also face charges related to Information Crimes Law, Article 14. Article. State security attorney directed the same four charges against Arwa El-rabeei (Administrative Director of Tracks), Amani Leila (Cameroonian intern with Tracks) and Hassan Khairy (Tracks employee).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>17/8/2016</td>
<td>Khartoum Center Court held is first hearing for Dar El-Mahas Club detainees Ramizi Fageer (Committee Secretary), Sayed Ahmed Abdul Jalil and Samir Fadul (members of the club). Charges set against the accused include inciting riots, abuse and criminal damage. The court set another hearing for witnesses on September 7, 2016.</td>
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<td>17/8/2016</td>
<td>Khartoum Center Court acquitted 12 of the accused in the case against Dar El-Mahas Club. Charges included inciting riots, abuse and criminal damage.</td>
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<td>21/8/2016</td>
<td>Hearing trial for the Kahtim Adlan Center was held in Khartoum Administrative Court. Khatim Adlan Center for Enlightenment was closed by HAC in December 2012. In 2013; the center began legal procedures against HAC requesting them to overturn their decision.</td>
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<td>24/8/2016</td>
<td>State security court held hearing session for Khalaf Allah Afif (Director TRACKs Center) and Midhat Afif (trainer) and Mustafa Adam (Alzarga Organization Director) regarding the charges against them that can result in the death penalty. Mustafa's lawyer asked the court to separate the claim against his client as its been ongoing since last May. The judge postponed the trial to August 30, 2016 due to the absence of the investigator responsible for the case.</td>
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<td>01/09/2016</td>
<td>Khartoum criminal court postponed the trial session of TRACKs staff -who face charges punishable by death- to September 4th due to power outage.</td>
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<td>4/9/2016</td>
<td>The trial of TRACKs center staff was held after being postponed due to power outage. Prosecutors presented evidence including an electronic disc and other materials alleged to be from the computers of the accused. The court set another hearing session on 22 September 2016.</td>
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<td>05/9/2016</td>
<td>Security authorities in Zalingei, Darfur arrested 6 IDP camp leaders from Nirtii after they met the US envoy to Sudan, Donald Booth to convey concerns on the humanitarian situation for IDPs. The arrests were made despite the meeting being held with the knowledge Sudanese authorities.</td>
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22/9/2016 The continued trial of 6 staff members from TRACKs center, along with the Director of Alzarga Organization was held at Khartoum Central Court. The session continued for three hours where the prosecution presented evidence including documentary films from the accused laptops, picture of the activists work as well as personal pictures.

29/9/2016 The continued trial of 6 staff members from TRACKs center, along with the director of Alzarga Organization was held at Khartoum Central Courthouse. The prosecution presented evidence of a number of CDs and films alleged to be found in the laptops of the accused.

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<td>12/7/2016</td>
<td>Somiet Organization for Peace and Human Rights continues to face difficulties in the annual renewal of their registration at HAC Khartoum. The organization filed an application for registration six months prior and was scheduled to meet with the HAC General Registrar more than once yet have not been successful.</td>
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<td><strong>Category: Project Authorization (Technical Agreements/ Project Suspension)</strong></td>
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<td>20/7/2016</td>
<td>NISS canceled a press conference scheduled for July 20, 2016 at the Tiba Press Centre. The press conference was organized by the Sudan Shadow Government(^1) and set to reveal an alternative shadow budget to the government budget for the Republic of the Sudan. After all preparation for the conference was finalized, the representative for the Shadow Government was notified by officials that security had canceled the event.</td>
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The Confederation of Sudanese Civil Society Organizations is a coalition of independent civil society organizations working to safeguard its members and strengthen their capacities in realizing a democratic community with good governance in Sudan through innovative approaches to capacity building, advocacy, networking and building knowledge. For any enquiries about this report or for information on how to become a member of the Confederation, please email ccsso.confederation@gmail.com

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\(^1\) Sudan Shadow Government is Civilian body that is not officially registered, composed of a number of activists aimed to monitor the government's performance and provide alternative development proposals.