

# Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

*NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*  
Promoting human rights by protecting those who defend them

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March 24, 2014

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir  
Office of the President  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

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

Your Excellencies:

**Re: Detention of Students and Lawyers**

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC) is a committee of lawyers and academics who campaign internationally for advocacy rights, advocates in danger, and on rule of law issues and engage in legal research and education about international human rights law. I am a lawyer and a partner of a law firm in Canada, Cohen Highley LLP. I am writing, as a member of LRWC, in response to information obtained from Amnesty International.

Hamdan Abdallah, Ashraf Mohamed Osman, Ghazi El Rayeh Elsanhori, Abdelmoniem Adam Mohamed, Abdelaziz Eltoum Ibrahim, Eisa Salih Ibrahim, Elzaoubir Abdelmajeed, Mohamed Idris Jido, Ibrahim Salih Ibrahim, El Radi Ali Ibrahim and Mohammed Salah Abdelrahman are students, activists and lawyers from Darfur but living in Khartoum. We are advised through Amnesty International that these eleven people were arrested on 11 March 2014 without charge, are being held incommunicado in an undisclosed location and are therefore at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

LRWC express their deepest concern at these arrests and incommunicado detentions which seem directed at inhibiting human rights activities and the legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of expression as protected by Article 19 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, ratified by Sudan 18 June 1986. We therefore call on the authorities to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of these eleven people, and release them immediately and unconditionally as their detention is arbitrary.

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada urges the authorities of Sudan to:

- i. either immediately release these detainees, and all students arrested in connection with the protest on March 11<sup>th</sup>, or charge them with recognizable crimes and grant pre-trial release;
- ii. guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of the detainees;
- iii. reveal their location and give them access to lawyers of their choosing, to medical treatment and to their families;

- iv. ensure that the detainees are not subject to torture or any ill-treatment;
- v. conform with the provisions of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the UN *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, in particular its Article 3, which states that “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”; its article 5 which provides that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”; and its Article 20 (1) which provides that “everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association”; and,
- vi. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by Sudan.

We are hopeful you will investigate promptly the allegations outlined above and implement the relief requested. Your confirmation of receipt of this correspondence and actions to be taken would be appreciated.

Yours Very Truly,



signature electronically affixed

Joe Hoffer  
Sudan Monitor  
Lawyers Rights Watch Canada

cc: Mr Musa Abdelrahim Mohamed Adam  
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Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed  
Ministry of Interior  
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