



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

*" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "*

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
20<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, 10 to 28 September 2012  
Agenda Item 2, General Debate**

**ICJ Oral Statement in the General Debate under Item 2 – Report of the Secretary-General  
on Cooperation with the United Nations (A/HRC/21/18):  
Impunity for Attacks against Human Rights Defenders in Sudan**

10 September 2012

*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

Impunity has continued in respect of attacks on human rights defenders (HRDs) in Sudan who undertake international justice-related activities, including in the context of cooperation with the United Nations and its mechanisms. This is a matter of serious concern and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) brings to this Council's attention the case of three prominent human rights defenders, Osman Hummeida, Monim Elgagk and Amir Suliman. All three individuals were arbitrary arrested in November 2008, illegally detained until early 2009 and allegedly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment whilst in detention by agents of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). During their detention, they were questioned about their work on justice and accountability in Sudan, particularly their support for and involvement with the work of the International Criminal Court. They were accused of being spies and told they would face espionage charges that carry a potential death sentence. Their organisation was forcibly closed and its bank accounts frozen in March 2009. This has resulted in them living with their families in exile and away from their country.

Despite appeals by procedures of the African Union<sup>1</sup> and the UN Human Rights Council,<sup>2</sup> these incidents have never been investigated and impunity for NISS agents has continued.

The ICJ therefore calls on this Council to urge the Republic of Sudan to:

- Protect the rights of HRDs, including those cooperating with the UN;
- Initiate a prompt, thorough, and independent Investigation into the above-mentioned incidents, hold criminally accountable those responsible and ensure access to a remedy and reparations the victims of such attacks;
- Guarantee the safe return and reintegration in Sudan of the three HRDs; and
- Repeal all laws that describe human rights activities as spying and espionage.

I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur, October 2009, adopted by the Heads of States and Governments in Abuja in 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, *Status of Implementation of the "Compilation of Recommendations of the Experts Group to the Government of the Sudan for the Implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 4/8" pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 6/34, 6/35, 7/16, and 9/17*, UN Doc A/HRC/11/14/Add.1 (2009), recommendations 1.6.1. and 2.1.4.