



Press conference SDU and its branches U.K. and Ireland

Monday 18/02/2018

Statement delivered by Mr A Hassan senior clinical fellow in Neurosurgery and vice secretary general of SDU U.K.

We, the Sudan Doctors Syndicate in Sudan and its branches: Sudan doctors union-UK and Sudan doctors union-Ireland are deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan.

A nation-wide uprising started on the 19th of December 2018 demanding the immediate and unconditional departure of President Al Bashir and his regime.

The Regime responded aggressively with brutality and violence against peaceful protesters rather than any attempt to address people's legitimate concerns.

Doctors have been at the front of this popular uprising with other Sudanese Professionals. There is an ongoing strike by doctors all over Sudan in its second month now which makes it the longest in the country's history . This excludes emergency services, neonatology, paediatric, obstetrics, critical care services and renal dialysis units.

We are extremely worried at the significant escalation in intensity of violence towards doctors. On the 30th of December, doctors were attacked at Alubaid hospital. They were beaten with sticks and subjected to physical punishment, detention harassment.

This was followed a week later by a more violent attack at Omdurman hospital on the 9th of January with the militia forces using live ammunition within Hospital premises and tear gas in the emergency department affecting patients and health workers .

Doctor were also attacked when organising peaceful demonstrations in front of their hospitals in solidarity with their people at Ibrahim Malik Hospital in Khartoum where some doctors were arrested and cell phones were confiscated. Every held poster was taken and doctors were forced to end their demonstration.

Dr Babiker Abdel-Hameed, 27 years was treating injuries protestors and saving lives when he was killed on the the 17th of January. He was shot at the chest in cold blood by the Regime's security

forces when he announced that he is a doctor. This was a clear message from Sudan regime to doctors.

There remains a large number of doctors organisations leaders in detention for almost two months with over 3000 detained peaceful protesters and activists.

There are worrying numbers of confirmed acute renal failure cases reported in people released from detention due to dehydration and brutal torture causing rhabdomyolysis a serious condition arises from breakdown of muscle cells causing harm to kidneys.

The central committee of Sudan doctors CCSD and Sudan medical syndicate continue to provide first aid to peaceful protesters. Doctors on strike continue to provide emergency care in hospitals whilst being pressured with threats of legal actions against them by the ministry of health. The Sudan national medical specialisation board which is an academic body that regulates doctors training in Sudan has been used as a tool to threaten doctors and force them to withdraw from strike. Provided a translated version of the pledge letter distributed to medical trainees for signature to stop their strike. These measures by specialisation board were met with great refusal by scientific speciality societies, the bodies directly involved in training doctors in Sudan. Most of scientific societies produced public statements supporting their trainees right in strike and asking the specialisation board to respect trainees wishes.

Even outside Sudan, several members of the SDU-UK and SDU-I standing in solidarity with colleagues in Sudan, have been targeted with cyber bullying and threats that were considered serious by U.K. police.

We have witnessed the breakdown of the healthcare, education and economic systems, this hindering any type of development. Sudan transport systems have completely broken down. All attempts at progress have completely stopped. In summary there is no hope for reform progress or sustainable development under this regime. Democratic change is what people of Sudan call for.

As we meet today, the Regime's militia forces are cruising around residential areas across all of Sudan in cars that do not have licence plates and wearing face masks. This in itself demonstrates lawlessness and a regime fearful of taking responsibility for its actions and being accountable. They continue to frighten civilians, breaking into homes, using tear-gas within confined spaces (harming elderly people and young children), beating women on the streets and in detention centres and ignoring the nationwide calls for Freedom, Peace and Justice.

The continuous oppressive use of live ammunition, tear gas, torture, illegal detentions and raiding of hospitals, schools, universities and mosques has not succeeded in silencing Sudan's brave and peaceful protesters.

We call for the support of health professionals/ International media/ policy makers to stand in solidarity with people in Sudan to expose the real story of Sudan Uprising - a peaceful resistance with legitimate demands.

Press Conference – SDUI/SDU-UK

Monday 18th February 2019

Delivered by Mr W Mohammed elected SDU I president and consultant neurosurgeon

Sudan doctors continue their strike which commenced in December 2018 core to widespread escalation measures called by Sudanese Professionals Association. The strike exempts emergency, intensive care and renal dialysis services and highlights poor governance of Sudan current regime. This strike is a part of civil industrial act recognised and protected by Sudanese constitution and labour law.

We are alarmed by the rise in new trends of violence against civil protestors by the security forces and government militia.

According to Amnesty latest records;

- Over 45 individuals were killed since December 2018, other human rights monitors reported that over 50 individuals were killed.
- At least 180 individuals confirmed to be injured.
- Estimate the number that still in detention is more than 1500 protestors, human rights activists, and opposition leaders. (List of medical staff detainees)
- 47 Darfuri students the government maliciously accused them as saboteurs and causing violence during the protests.
- Several hospitals were attacked by tear-gas and live ammunition, and the government continue to censor the media and detain journalists.

Firstly, Sudan Doctors Unions of Ireland and the United Kingdom are concerned by the horrific rise in barbaric tactics against civilians.

The regime has been operating “Shoot to Kill” policy evident by direct live ammunition injuries to head, neck and chest and aiming of tear gas bomb as a potentially deadly missile directly at protestors bodies (especially towards the head and chest) resulted in; loss of an eye (three cases), rib fractures (four cases), skull fractures (three cases), various abdominal injuries leading to internal bleeding, in addition to three cases of fractured legs (tibia and fibula) and burns/loss of limbs.

Secondly, we are troubled by the ongoing torture of detainees, which has culminated in death of least four detainees lost their lives as a direct result of torture in National Intelligence and Security Service detention centres.

- Four Cases of acute renal failures in people released from detention due to dehydration and brutal torture causing rhabdomyolysis a serious condition arises from breakdown of muscle cells causing harm to kidneys.
- Four verified deaths due to torture in detention including a school teacher Ahmed Al-Khair.
- Beating to death with bare fists, pipes and ends of shotguns during protests has caused the death of two students
- Cases of acute renal failures in people released from detention due to dehydration and brutal torture causing rhabdomyolysis a serious condition arises from breakdown of muscle cells causing harm to kidneys.

Finally, Sudan Doctors have reported number of ruthless assaults on medical staffing and institutes;

1-Brutal raid of Omdurman teaching hospital where tear gas was used inside the emergency department and life ammunition fired inside hospital premises.

2- Raid of Alubaid hospital where doctors were attacked with sticks and subjected to physical punishment, detention harassment.

3- Killing of Dr. Babiker Abdelhamid while treating injured protestors in Khartoum.

4- Medical student Hassan Omer was left quadriplegic after being shot through the neck on 25th December during a protest, passed away two weeks later.

5-Mahjoub Ibrahim, a second-year student at the Faculty of Medicine at Al-Razi University was killed by security forces while being tortured.

6- Psychological harassment targeting females particularly (doctors among other professions)

Sudanese Doctors Union urge the European Union to show collective political leadership, in line with the EU mandate to promote peace and to protect of human rights. Given your roles within the EU system, we urge you to include the above-mentioned issues at the heart of your discussion and media coverage.