

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my grave concern on eight student activists who were arrested at the office of a prominent human rights lawyer, Nabil Adib, in Khartoum on 5 May by NISS agents. Since then, whereabouts of them remains unknown.

The arrested students' names are Bader Aldeen Salah Mohamed, 25, Wifag Mohamed Altayeb Gorashi, 24, Hussien Yahia Haran, 30, Mudathir Tayseer Mudathir, 25, Hamid Omer Hamid Digno, 28, Mai Adil Ibrahim Karar, 24, Mohamed Mahjoub Otaiba, 23, and Hassan Aldai Mohamed Abdalla, 24. They were at the office seeking legal assistance from Nabil Adib to challenge their expulsion and suspension from the university.

According to Nabil Adib, a number of armed men in plainclothes raided his office. They shouted at his clients asking them to sit then stand up again and used violence against them. They presented themselves as NISS agents without producing identity cards or a search warrant. They beat his clients and arrested them.

So I urge you that the Sudanese authorities immediately disclose the whereabouts of the eight students and release them immediately unless they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

I also urge you that the authorities ensure all eight students have prompt access to lawyers, medical treatment and their families.

Lastly I urge you that they protect the students from torture or any other ill-treatment and ensure that any allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are independently investigated.

Your prompt attention to this would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,