

Brussels, 28 NOV. 2018  
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Ms Ana Gomes MEP  
European Parliament  
Brussels

*Dear Ana,*

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2018 concerning the detention of ten Sudanese citizens from Darfur.

I fully share your concerns regarding the arrest and detention of these Sudanese citizens from Darfur on the grounds of their religious beliefs. We consider this a clear violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief.

The EU Delegation to Sudan has been closely monitoring and also raising the specific cases at hand with the Sudanese authorities. On 22 October, nine Darfuris, namely Alfadhil Ismael Alnil, Ahmed Mohamed Hassan Daldoum, Nasr Aldin Osman, Shamen Ahmed Shamen, Abubakr Biri, Kamal Yahaya Adam, Mutasim Ali Mutasim, Abdallah and Mojahid Abdelmunim Ibrahim were released. In addition, Tajadin Idris Yousef was released on 23 October. However, we have reason to believe that the releases occurred only once the detainees were coerced by the authorities to reconvert to Islam, including by use of torture, a charge that the Sudanese side has denied. On 5 November, the National Human Rights Commission of Sudan assured EU Delegation colleagues that all charges against the aforementioned individuals had been dropped. We are continuing to monitor these cases and verify the information received from the authorities.

The protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief, are at the core of EU's engagement with Sudan in line with the 2013 EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion and belief<sup>1</sup> and the second Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019)<sup>2</sup>. Consequently, the EU continues to call upon the Government of Sudan to fully respect, promote, and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedom, conduct independent and evidence-based investigations into human rights violations and abuses, guarantee the right to a fair trial and due process, the right to effective and appropriate remedies, and to end impunity.

Please rest assured that the EU will continue to closely follow the human rights situation in Sudan in close coordination with EU Member States and other partners.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/sites/ceas/files/137585.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/action-plan-on-human-rights-and-democracy-2015-2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/action-plan-on-human-rights-and-democracy-2015-2019_en.pdf)