



### **Eastern Sudan: Businessman who was arrested by General Intelligence Services (GIS) officers in Kasala mysteriously dies in Custody**

The African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) expresses deep concern over the increased targeting of civilians in Kasala by General Intelligence Services (GIS) Officers. We want to echo the residents' voices and demand that the authorities in Kasala hold the perpetrators of these violations accountable and bring them to book. In this release, ACJPS documents several incidents of grave human rights violations committed by GIS officers against civilians in Kasala.

On 30 August 2024, a group of armed men suspected to be officers from the GIS Office (although they were dressed in plain clothes) arrested Mr. Alamin Mohamed Noor, a 40-year-old businessman from his family home in Wad Sharifi located approximately 13 kilometers from Kasala town in Kasala state. Mr. Alamin was taken to the GIS offices in Kasala where he was interrogated and detained. Mr. Alamin belonged to the Bani Amir ethnic group. He owned and operated a local restaurant in Wad Madani town in Aljazeera State before moving to Kasala following the capture and control of Wad Madani by RSF in December 2023. An anonymous source close to Mr. Alamin informed ACJPS that he (Mr. Alamin) had severally been accused of working with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) as an informer and that this could have been the reason for his arrest.

On 31 August 2024, At around 01:00 am, the same group of armed men returned to Mr. Alamin's family home with his body but the family refused to receive the body and demanded that it be taken to the morgue giving them sometime to investigate his cause of death before burial.

Mr. Alamin Noor was later buried on 02 September 2024.

On 31 August and 01 September 2024, following the custodial death of Mr. Alamin, several groups in Kasala including youth groups from Ban Amir, Rashaida, and Habab tribes, lawyers, Resistance Committees, Sudanese Alliance party, Sudanese Congress Party (SCP), Free Lions Party, Freedom for Change Collation (FCC) issued statements calling for accountability for the actions of some

GIS officers in Kasala. Some of these groups went ahead and took legal actions against the notorious officers. Additionally, the youth groups in Kasala proceeded to organize peaceful protests in front of the GIS building. These groups have further called for the closure of the market in Kasala during September 2024, in a bid to exert more pressure on GIS and the authorities in Kasala to respond to the demands of the people for accountability for violations committed.

On 2 September 2024, the GIS office in Kasala shared the names of five officers suspected to have been involved in the death of Mr. Alamin (including a Captain and two lieutenants) to the office of the prosecutor in Kasala for investigation and later prosecution.

### **Other incidents of violations in Kasala**

The lack of accountability by the authorities in Kasala has been fertile ground for the continued violations against civilians in Kasala state. Kasala State has witnessed several incidents of violations since the Transitional period. For example, the continued targeting of peaceful protesters and Bani Amir youth who were protesting against the appointment of a new Bija tribe head, Mohammed Trik, an affiliate of the former National Congress Party (NCP), and the appointment of Mr. Salih Amar, from Bani Amir tribe as a governor. Mr. Salih's appointment further led to disagreements and conflict between sects within the Bani Amir tribe in Kasala and Khasim Algerba village which led to the death of tens of civilians.

The Bani Amir youth have severally been targeted for allegedly working with RSF. For example, on 18 December 2023, five youths working at a bakery in Wad Madani were arrested by a group of military intelligence as they were suspected of being RSF affiliates. Fortunately, they were released with the intervention of the Bani Amir tribal head.

In March 2019, Mr. Ahmed Alkhair a school teacher and human rights activist in Khasum Algerba village located approximately 70 kilometers south of Kasala was arrested by NISS officers. Mr. Ahmed was detained at the national security offices where he was allegedly tortured and sexually violated resulting in his death. A source close to the deceased shared with ACJPS that Mr. Ahmed was targeted for participating in several peaceful protests including the December 2018 protest. With the efforts of some activists and lawyers, at least 15 National intelligence and security services (NISS) officers were tried and sentenced to death for the custodial death of Mr. Ahmed. Unfortunately, all 15 convicts (perpetrators) fled from Kober Prison in Khartoum Bahari in May 2023 shortly after the outbreak of the armed conflict.

### **Background**

In 2019, after the ousting of former president Al-Bashir, the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) body was shutdown and replaced by the General Intelligence Services (GIS). The

powers and immunity enjoyed by the NISS were out-lawed and the new body's only task was investigation. However, in March 2024, in a meeting between the Sudanese Transitional Sovereign Council and the Sudanese Ministers Council, the officials agreed to amend the law which restored the immunity and powers of security officers (including GIS) to arrest and search civilians.