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Press Release- The Sudanese government must stop using excessive force against peaceful protests at the army HQ in Khartoum

Since December 2018, There have been country -wide mass demonstrations in Sudan . These demonstrations are now focused around the army HQ street in Khartoum, a place that has come to symbolise the 1985 April Revolution. Thousands of people have been camped outside the army HQ since the night of 6th April, despite the use of tear gas and live ammunition by the security services.

The security services, under the command of the Director General of Sudan's National Security and Intelligence Services (NISS), Salah Gosh, have escalated their policy of repression against protesters. In their attempts to disperse the demonstrations, security services have been violently attacking protesters in the early hours of the morning, without warning. The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors reports that 22 people were killed in protests in Sudan between 6th and 9th April, including 5 members of the army. 153 people have been injured, and many remain in a critical condition.

On 7th April alone, there were 90 reported injuries sustained as a result of the excessive use of force, including live bullets, by the security services. These included head injuries, fractures and superficial wounds. In one case, a protester named Ahmed Tbiday was reportedly shot dead by security services near the Ministry of Defence HQ. Another protester, Nazir Abdul-Baki, was shot in the chest by security services on 9th April.

In an attempt to crackdown on demonstrations at the Army HQ, scores of known activists have been arrested by NISS, regardless of their actual involvement in the protests. Security forces have arbitrarily detained hundreds of peaceful protesters, including female protesters who joined the gathering and they have released latter.

The authorities must take immediate and direct action to stop armed attacks against the peaceful protest at the army HQ. The security services must refrain from using firearms against protesters, and the armed militia group being used by the security services must be dismantled.

SHRI calls on the UN Human Rights Council and African union and European Union EU, to take action to protect peaceful protesters in Sudan

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