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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



23 September 2011
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**UN Human Rights Council
Eighteenth session, 12 – 30 September 2011**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

SUDAN

Madame President,

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment and unlawful killings of individuals in the custody of the National Intelligence and Security Service in Sudan. Between January and April 2011, following peaceful protests in Khartoum, Darfur and other towns in Sudan, hundreds of activists were arrested, and several were tortured, sexually assaulted or harassed by the National Intelligence and Security Service. Deaths in custody were also reported.

We are disappointed by Sudan's rejection of recommendations made to review the 2010 National Security Act and to reform the National Intelligence and Security Service, in line with its international human rights obligations.¹ The 2010 National Security Act maintains the immunity of National Intelligence and Security Service agents from prosecution and disciplinary action for all acts committed during the course of their work. Although such immunities can be lifted by the Minister of Justice, no such cases have been brought to the attention of Amnesty International.

Madame President,

¹ A/HRC/18/16, recommendations 83.21 (Austria), 83.22 (France), 83.23 (Canada), 83.24 (Ireland), 83.25 (Republic of Korea), 83.26 (Switzerland), 83.27 (United Kingdom).

Amnesty International welcomes Sudan's commitment to amend the 2009 Press and Publications Act, which severely restricts freedom of expression, and to ensure that journalists are protected against intimidation, harassment and arbitrary arrests.² We continue to receive reports of journalists suffering from harassment and other restrictions and of newspapers being closed or facing other forms of censorship.

Finally, we regret Sudan's rejection of recommendations to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.³ While Sudan has accepted recommendations to prohibit the death penalty for persons under 18 years,⁴ we are aware of at least three alleged children and six adults who are in the death row section of Shalla Prison, Darfur, and awaiting re-trial. Amnesty International calls for the death sentences of the nine people to be commuted and for an appeal in accordance with international fair trial standards.

Thank you, Madame President.

² Ibid., recommendations 83.28 (Austria), 83.29 (Canada), and 83.132 (Switzerland).

³ Ibid., recommendations 83.86 (Switzerland), 83.87 (Brazil), 83.88 (Spain), 83.89 (Belgium), 83.90 (Italy), and 83.94 (Uruguay).

⁴ Ibid., recommendations 83.93 (Belgium), 83.94 (Uruguay), 83.95 (Spain), 83.96 (Italy), 83.97 (Brazil), 83.98 (Switzerland), 83.99 (Palestine), 83.100 (France), 83.101 (Slovenia).