

H.E Omar Hassan Ahmad al- Bashir
The Republic of the Sudan
People's Palace
P.O. Box 281
Khartoum- Sudan
info@presidency.gov.sd

11 May 2018

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Equality Now, an international human rights organization working for the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls worldwide. We appeal to you for clemency on behalf of Noura Hussein, who was sentenced to death on 10 May 2018 for killing her “husband” while defending herself against rape and sexual abuse at his hands.

We understand that Noura Hussein was forcibly married off at the age of 16 years and was subjected to sexual and physical violence by her “husband”. In self-defense, Noura killed her “husband” after he attempted to rape her, yet again after having raped her while she was held down by his relatives.

In many countries victims like Noura would be provided services to ensure that they overcome the trauma of their experiences. Criminalization of Noura for defending herself from assault and in particular a death sentence would violate her rights under the Sudanese Constitution and international law.

Noura suffered both physical and mental abuse at the hands of her “husband” and his family, a violation of Articles 14 (protection of children) and 15 (no marriage without free and full consent) of the Constitution. The Constitution further provides that the “State shall protect women from injustice and promote gender equality,” and that “all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without discrimination, to the equal protection of the law.”

Sudan is also obligated under several international legal instruments, including The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which it is a party, to prevent victims from being criminalized and to ensure that men and women are treated equally in the eyes of the law.

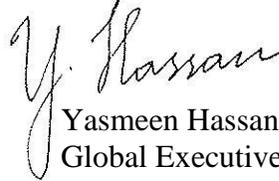
We respectfully urge you, in accordance with Sudan’s international, regional and national legal obligations, to ensure that all victims of violence in Sudan can obtain justice, including by:

- dropping all criminal charges against Noura, and ceasing any further legal action to have her executed;

- reviewing the penal code on rape, including in order to specifically criminalize marital rape, and ensuring that the law complies with Sudan's Constitution and international human rights obligations; and
- enacting laws that protect women and girls from all forms of sexual violence including marital rape and child, early and forced marriage.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Yasmeen Hassan
Global Executive Director
Equality Now

cc: Dr. Idris Ibrahim Jameel, Minister for Justice

In solidarity:

Life Bloom Services International, Kenya
Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child, Ghana
Open Society, Kenya
Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), Nigeria
Masimanyane Women's Rights International, South Africa
Stigamot, Iceland
MEMPROW, Uganda
MS, Republic of South Africa
UKZN, South Africa
Trace Kenya, Kenya
Medicor Foundation, Liechtenstein
Gender Equity Unit, South Africa
Right to Know Campaign, South Africa
Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre, Ghana
Ilitha Labantu, South Africa
Women for Economic Justice, United States of America
Youth Africa Forum
European Network of Migrant Women