

(Translated from Arabic)

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**Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities**

Joint Administrative Directorate

Re: Situation of detainees

Document reference: Letter No. 19347, date 29 August 2019

On 20 February 2019, the Sudanese detainee [REDACTED] was transferred from Achrafieh police station to the General Directorate of Public Security for the offence of not having identity documents, in compliance with the order of the competent public prosecutor's office, which left the final decision concerning his custody to the Director General of Public Security.

The aforementioned Sudanese detainee stated that he was born in Lebanon, to a Sri Lankan mother and a Sudanese father, with whom he lives, and that he has a birth certificate. He was arrested by the Internal Security Forces, as he was not in possession of any identity documents. He said he had worked in a café for four years, had never left Lebanon and did not travel. He asked to be released and for his case to be taken up by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A representative of UNHCR visited and reported that a file had been opened for the Sudanese individual in question and that he would be interviewed on 6 March 2019. A communication from UNHCR dated 2 April 2019 confirmed that [REDACTED]'s application had been rejected.

The Sudanese individual in question was informed of the content of the UNHCR decision regarding his request, and that he should return voluntarily to his country. He argued that he was unable to travel to Sudan because he knew no one there and he had been born in Lebanon and his parents were in Lebanon.

Following a background check into the Sudanese detainee's parents, it emerged that they had violated residency regulations. When his father was contacted, he reported that he had entered Lebanon about 18 years earlier and that his wife had entered Lebanon in 2000 and that they were both self-employed as cleaners.

On 31 May 2019, court decision [REDACTED] was issued, ordering the arrest of Sudanese national [REDACTED] and his Sri Lankan wife, [REDACTED], and their four children ([REDACTED]), in accordance with the order of the competent public prosecutor. On 3 July 2019, the Sudanese national was arrested together with his Sri Lankan wife and their children and they were transferred from the "Martyr Abdel Karim Hodroj" centre to the Investigations Department for the offence of violating residency regulations, in compliance with the public prosecutor's decision on their case. It emerged that Sudanese national [REDACTED] had clandestinely entered Lebanon in 2000, having been deported on 22 August 1998. His Sri Lankan wife's residency permit, sponsored by [REDACTED], had expired on 2 December 1998. None of their children had legal residency on Lebanese territory; they only had birth certificates. The Sudanese national and his wife had never attempted to settle their residency status or that of their children, although they had had the opportunity to regularize their situation several times during their time in Lebanon. They had also worked in several places throughout this period, in violation of residency and labour regulations.

All of the members of the family had asylum applications with UNHCR that expired on 26 November 2015. After review, a UNHCR representative confirmed that their files had been closed.

The Sudanese detainee requested to return to his country voluntarily with his children, while his wife agreed to travel voluntarily to Sri Lanka alone, as she did not have a valid passport and could not obtain an entry visa to Sudan on the basis of a travel



document alone. According to the Sri Lankan embassy, it was not possible for her to obtain a new passport from the embassy in Lebanon.

On 4 July 2019, the Sri Lankan detainee and her sons [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were placed in a Caritas-run shelter.

On 23 July 2019, UNHCR submitted a request to reconsider the deportation of Sudanese national [REDACTED] (father of the aforementioned [REDACTED]) and the members of his family to their country, on the grounds that he had announced his desire to return voluntarily to his country with his four children and requested the deportation of his wife on her own to Sri Lanka. [REDACTED] also agreed to voluntarily return to Sudan.

On 2 August 2019, court decision [REDACTED] was issued, ordering the deportation of Sudanese national [REDACTED] and his children to Sudan and the deportation of his wife to Sri Lanka.

On 4 September 2019, after a number of people came forward offering to regularize the situation of the detainees by sponsoring them, decision [REDACTED] was issued, ordering the release of [REDACTED], under the sponsorship of [REDACTED]. He was duly released. On 6 September 2019, court decision [REDACTED] was issued, ordering the release of Sudanese national [REDACTED], his Sri Lankan wife and their children and the regularization of their situation, under the sponsorship of [REDACTED]. They were duly released.

[Signature]

Director General of Public Security, General Abbas Ibrahim

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