Date: 11 May 2018

ATT: Commissioner for Social Affairs, Ms. Elfadil Amira Elfadil Mohammed

Your Excellency, Ms. Elfadil Amira Elfadil Mohammed

We are addressing this letter to you as a matter of **critical urgency** in the hope of averting a **gross violation of Human Rights** and a **tragedy for young African women**.

It concerns the case of a 19 y.o. Sudanese female citizen, **Noura Hussein Hammad** - who is a victim of Child Marriage, Forced Marriage, Rape/Marital Rape, Honour Based Violence, Gender Based Violence and Violence against Women & Children and who was **sentenced to death by the OMDURMAN KHARTOUM court, Sudan, on 10 May 2018** (details of Noura's case attached)

As women's rights defenders, and concerned advocates for progress and prosperity in Africa, we monitor impacts on social progress, inclusiveness and equality. We are aware of the progress made in the area of gender equality and women's rights in the region and the commitments achieved, specifically, with regards to **safeguarding women's and children's fundamental rights to life free from violence, coercion and discrimination**.

We commend the efforts and work done by the African Union in promoting the principles and the spirit of the Maputo Protocol, the Charter on the Rights of the Child and, more broadly, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

It is our strong belief that this commitment needs to be substantiated with concrete actions and, in the context of Sudan, the execution of a young female victim of gender based violence is an unacceptable breach of the commitments the AU and the AU Commission has achieved, a regress in the eyes of international and regional lawyers, citizens and activists, and an irreparable damage for Sudan's and perhaps more broadly Africa's reputation.

As women's rights organisations, we appeal to your high-authority **to act urgently and facilitate the prevention of Noura Hammad's execution**. We are aware that the mandate of the Social Affairs Commission of the African Union and your important work with the Chair of the African Union Commission, *His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat*, can all play a decisive role in facilitating a presidential pardon to be issued by the President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir.

We appeal directly to your high-authority with the clear understanding that if the President of Sudan does not immediately and directly intervene in this case, Noura will be executed, as per Sharia law in Sudan. On the contrary, if Mr. Omar al-Bashir does take immediate action, not only the life of a young female victim will be saved, but also the reputation of Sudan and the commitment of the African Union to human rights will be further vindicated.

Following yesterday's verdict on Noura's case, we are taking this case to the international and African media and authorities, to expose the atrocity committed by the state of Sudan against a powerless individual, **first violated as a Girl-Child and then executed as an Adult Female for the very abuse she in fact suffered**.

We seek your full and unconditional support to prevent this pending human rights violation and save this young woman's life.