Embassy of the Republic of Sudan

Via Panama, 48

00198 – Roma

Italia

E-mail: info@sudanembassy.it

Your Excellency,

I respectfully ask you to urge the relevant authorities in Sudan to overturn the sentence of death by stoning delivered to 20 year old Maryam Alsyed Tiyrab for alleged adultery in her hometown of Kosti in White Nile State, where she is being held pending the High Court’s final verdict.

Ms Tiyrab was not informed of the charges nor the penalty she faced. Moreover, she was denied the legal representation which, according to Sudan’s law (Article 135(3) of the Sudanese Criminal Procedure Code 1991), all defendants facing a sentence of more than 10 years imprisonment should have. The procedure at the trial did not meet the high standards required under international law where the death sentence may be imposed.

The application of the death penalty by stoning for the crime of adultery is a grave violation of international law, including the right to life and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Sudan is a State Party. Article 6 of the ICCPR stipulates that, “sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes”.

The cruel and unusual punishment imposed on Ms Tiyrab, if carried out, will greatly damage Sudan’s image abroad.

I respectfully ask to the Sudanese Government to abolish such punishments and indeed place a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with regard to its definitive abolition.

Capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime, can result in an innocent person being executed and denies the condemned an opportunity to reform.

Thank you for your kind attention