

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 239/04 (AFR 54/093/2004, 03 August 2004) Fear of Torture / Prisoners of Conscience

SUDAN

**Abazar Ahmed Abu Al-Bashir (m), aged 42, lawyer
Buthayna Mohamed Ahmed (f), aged 36, human rights defender**

Abazar Ahmed Abu Al-Bashir and Buthayna Mohamed Ahmed, who were arrested reportedly because they had called on Sudanese authorities to put an end to the Darfur conflict, have been released.

Abazar Ahmed Abu Al-Bashir was released on 18 September, two days after an Amnesty International delegation visited him at the National Security Detention Centre in Nyala. He had been detained without charge since 24 July and had been denied access to a lawyer. Despite fears at the time of his arrest that he may have been at risk of torture, Abazar told delegates that he had not been treated badly, had been allowed visits from friends and colleagues, and was allowed medical treatment.

Buthayna Mohamed Ahmed, an activist in the Sudanese Women's Union who was arrested on 29 July, was released during August.

According to the director of the National Security and Intelligence Agency in Nyala, both Abazar Ahmed Abu Al-Bashir and Buthayna Mohamed Ahmed had been arrested on suspicion of passing confidential information regarding the security forces to the armed political groups in Darfur.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation. No further action is required from the Urgent Action network at present.