

ACT NOW

Human rights defenders in Sudan need better protection and the freedom to continue their work. The Delegation of the European Commission to Sudan has a responsibility to support, assist and protect human rights defenders, as set out in the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.

Please write to the Delegation of the European Commission to Sudan calling on it to:

- Implement the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.
- Develop strategies to support, assist and protect human rights defenders in consultation with civil society.

WRITE TO:

Ambassador Carlo de Filippi
Delegation of the European Commission
to Sudan
PO Box 236
Khartoum
Sudan

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Email: Delegation-soudan@ec.europa.eu

Please also write to your own country's ambassador in Sudan, calling on him or her to make protection of human rights defenders a priority. Addresses for embassies in Sudan can be found at: www.embassiesabroad.com

AHMED SARDOP SUDAN

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN EXILE

AMNESTY
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PLEASE HELP HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN SUDAN

‘They leaned me over a chair and held me by my arms and feet while others hit me on the back, legs and arms with something similar to an electric cable... when the men thought I had lost resistance they turned me onto my back on the floor and injected a green fluid into my genitals... someone kicked me in the head and I lost consciousness.’

Ahmed Sardop

In Sudan, human rights defenders work in constant fear of harassment, arrest, detention, and torture and other ill-treatment by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). NISS agents have broad powers of search, seizure, arrest and detention for long periods without judicial oversight. The NISS have used these powers to undermine the work of human rights defenders in Sudan.

Ahmed Sardop, a doctor, (given name Ali Mohamed Osman), was arrested by the NISS on 20 March 2009. He had worked with rape survivors in Darfur and was publicly critical of the government's practices in Darfur.

Ahmed posted an article online criticizing the expulsion and closure of

human rights and humanitarian organizations after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against President Omar Al Bashir. He then began receiving threats and was reportedly followed by NISS agents.

At around 11pm on 20 March 2009, Ahmed was forced into a Toyota pick-up truck at gunpoint outside his apartment. He was taken to an unidentified location and tortured. Ahmed's interrogators referred to his online reports while they beat, kicked and lashed him.

When his interrogators thought he was dead, they drove back to his apartment and dumped his body in the street. Several hours passed before he could move.

Ahmed filed a complaint with the police and a doctor confirmed his allegations of torture. A few days, later Ahmed began receiving death threats and was forced to leave Sudan.

The human rights community within Sudan remains at risk. Since the ICC issued an arrest warrant against President Al Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in March 2009, the government has cracked down on human rights defenders. After elections in April 2010, the NISS further intensified restrictions on freedom of expression, harassing, arresting and reportedly torturing people who did nothing more than peacefully express their opinions.