

URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION LEADER AT RISK OF DEATH PENALTY

Ibrahim El Sheikh, a leading member of the political opposition in Sudan, has been in detention since 8 June. His health is deteriorating and he is at risk of receiving the death penalty.

Ibrahim El Sheikh is the Chairman of the opposition Sudanese Congress Party. He was arrested on 8 June 2014 after a public event in Al Nuhud, West Kordofan, in which he denounced attacks on civilians in Sudan's South Kordofan and Darfur states by the Rapid Support Forces, a militia aligned with the government. He was reportedly arrested early in the morning of 8 June at his home in Al Nuhud by a large group of members of the security forces. Ibrahim El Sheikh faces six charges, including incitement and acting against the constitutional regime, a charge that could carry the death penalty if he is found guilty.

There are reports that Ibrahim El Sheikh's health has deteriorated while in detention, including that he is suffering from a consistent problem with his intestines which caused him to bleed. He was transported to Khartoum Police Hospital on 10 August, where doctors examined him and said he required an operation. Amnesty International was informed that the doctors wanted to do the operation immediately but that Ibrahim El Sheikh had some reservations. These reservations were reportedly construed as a refusal to undergo the operation on his part and Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service decided to return him to another prison in Al Fola, West Kordofan.

Amnesty International considers Ibrahim El Sheikh to be a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs. The Sudanese authorities should immediately release him and end its practice of arbitrarily detaining members of the opposition and political activists.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to drop the charges against Ibrahim El Sheikh and immediately and unconditionally release him, since he has been detained for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to ensure that Ibrahim El Sheikh is granted access to medical care in Khartoum as a matter of priority;
- Urging them to establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to full abolition.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 SEPTEMBER 2014 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir

Office of the President

People's Palace

PO Box 281

Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Mohamed Bushara Dousa

Ministry of Justice

PO Box 302

Al Nil Avenue

Khartoum, Sudan

Email: moj@moj.gov.sd

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamed

Ministry of Interior

PO Box 873

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were formed in late 2013 and have been deployed in the states of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, where conflict is ongoing between government forces and separatist groups. A large number of RSF soldiers are drawn from the former “Janjaweed” militias and are responsible for serious human rights violations including unlawful killings, rape and attacks on civilian property.

In the days following Ibrahim El Sheikh’s detention, authorities in Al Nuhud raided the offices of the Congress Party and arrested at least five student members, a journalist, and another young activist in town. Another leader of an opposition party, El Sadig El Mahdi, was arrested in Khartoum on 17 May and charged with undermining the Constitution after publicly criticizing the RSF. El Sadig El Mahdi is the head of the National Umma Party and the former President of Sudan. He was released on 15 June. His daughter, the deputy leader of the Sudan National Umma Party, Meriam Al-Mahdi, was arrested on 11 August and has been in detention since.

Name: Ibrahim El Sheikh

Gender m/f: m

UA: 206/14 Index: AFR 54/018/2014 Issue Date: 18 August 2014