

PUBLIC

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UA 47/05 **Detention without charge/Fear for safety/Prisoner of conscience/Possible prisoner of conscience**

SUDAN **Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam (m), Chair of the Sudan Development Organisation (SUDO)
Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman (m)**

Human rights defender Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam has been detained without charge since 24 January 2005. He began a hunger strike on 19 February, asking to be charged or released, and is now said to be very weak. He has reportedly not been granted access to medical treatment. His friend Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, who was arrested with him, is being held incommunicado at an unknown location.

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman were arrested at 2am on 24 January by members of the Sudanese National Security and Intelligence Agency, at Dr Mudawi's home in Kondua, North Kordofan state, northern Sudan. They were subsequently transferred to the capital Khartoum, where they have been detained incommunicado. After repeated attempts, the national security and intelligence agency finally granted Dr Mudawi's wife permission to visit him on 23 February. He is apparently being detained in solitary confinement in a private house owned by the national security forces near Kober prison in Khartoum, in a room with no windows. He was briefly transferred to Kober prison, where he met with his wife, before apparently being taken back to the private house. During his transfer to Kober prison he was reportedly hooded so that he could not see where he was being held. His wife has reported that he is very weak because of his hunger strike. He has asked to see a doctor, but the authorities have not yet granted his request. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his peaceful activities to defend human rights in Sudan.

Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman is not being detained with Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam. There has been no news of his whereabouts or condition since his arrest. He may be a prisoner of conscience. No reason was given to the detainees or their relatives for their arrest, although the National Security has reportedly asked Dr Mudawi Ibrahim about his relationship with Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman. Both men had previously been detained for several months and later released without charge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sudanese authorities have a history of harassing, intimidating and detaining human rights activists. Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, a leading human rights activist and chair of the Sudan Development Organisation (SUDO), was previously arrested on 28 December 2003 (see UA 02/04, AFR 54/002/2004, 5 January 2004, and follow-ups, AFR 54/019/2004, 19 February 2004; and AFR 54/100/2004, 10 August 2004). He was later charged with "crimes against the state". The evidence against him included Amnesty International documents found in his possession. Amnesty International believes that the real reason for his arrest was related to the humanitarian and human rights activities of SUDO in the war-torn region of Darfur, western Sudan. All charges against Dr Mudawi were dropped in August 2004.

Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman had also been previously arrested in July 2002 and only released in 2003. He was never informed of the reasons for his detention and never charged. His arrest was believed to have had a connection with his work for local peace initiatives, which involved travel to areas of Bahr El-Ghazal, an area in southern Sudan under Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) control.

In January 2005 a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed to end more than 20 years of conflict between the government of Sudan and the SPLA. However, the Sudanese government has not yet lifted the

state of emergency, put in place in 1999, which allows the government to extend indefinitely detention without charge or trial, sometimes without any access to the outside world.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, who are apparently detained in secret detention centres near Kober Prison in Khartoum North;
- expressing concern for the health of Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, who is on hunger strike, and calling for him to be given immediate access to all necessary medical attention;
- calling for Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam to be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peace and human rights activities;
- calling for Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman to be released immediately and unconditionally unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair trial;
- urging the authorities to reveal the whereabouts of both detainees, and to allow them immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid they may need;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that human rights activists are not harassed or detained, and to respect their commitments to observe international human rights law. Commitments which were reaffirmed in January under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

APPEALS TO:

(If your faxed or emailed appeal does not get through, please either send it by mail or forward it to the diplomatic representative of Sudan in your country and ask them to pass on your appeal to the authorities)

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha

First Vice-President, People's Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 771651 / 779977 / 780796 (Please mark your fax: "For the attention of the First Vice-President")

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin

Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 771479 / 780796 (Please mark your fax "For the attention of the Minister of Justice")

Email: info@sudanjudiciary.org

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 183 777268

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Dr Abdel Moneim Osman Taha

Rapporteur, Advisory Council for Human Rights, Khartoum, Sudan

Email: human_rights_sudan@hotmail.com

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 April 2005.