

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: AFR 54/082/2004**

**08 July 2004**

**Further Information on UA 41/04 (AFR 54/011/2004, 04 February 2004) - Fear for safety and new concern: health concern**

**SUDAN** **Saleh Mahmud Osman (m), lawyer**

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Human rights lawyer Saleh Mahmud Osman, who has been detained incommunicado without trial since 1 February, began a hunger strike in protest on 30 June. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for his health: he suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes, and the hunger strike may put his life in danger.

Saleh Mahmud Osman, who works in Nyala, in Darfur, has provided legal aid to detainees, those facing capital punishment and victims of human rights abuses during the conflict in Darfur. He was arrested in Wad Medani in Gezira State by members of the National Security Agency on 1 February 2004 and has not been charged with any offence. His wife has not been able to visit him since April.

Scores of people from Darfur, including lawyers and human rights activists, have been arrested since January 2004, in Darfur, the capital, Khartoum and other parts of the country in connection with the internal armed conflict in Darfur, where government-backed militias known as the *Janjawid* are attacking farming communities and destroying their villages.

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

- expressing concerns for Saleh Mahmud Osman's health, as he has been on hunger strike since 30 June;
- calling for him to be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful pursuit of his lawful occupation;
- urging the authorities to allow him immediate and unrestricted access to his family, legal counsel and any medical aid he may need;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that human rights activists are not harassed or detained, and to respect their obligations under international law.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha  
First Vice-President  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax :** + 249 11 771651 / 779977  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax:** + 249 11 771479  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax :** + 249 11 779383  
**Salutation:** Dear Minister

**COPIES TO:**

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed  
Advisory Council for Human Rights  
PO Box 302  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax:** + 249 11 779173 / 770883

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 19 August 2004.