

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST PUSHING FOR BROTHER'S RELEASE DETAINED

Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun remains in detention at the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) offices after publicly confronting an NISS officer whom he believes tortured him in 2012. His older brother, Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun who has been leading a campaign for his release, was arrested by the NISS on 6 January.

Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun (29 years old), a member of the opposition party, National Umma Party (NUP), and a youth activist, was arrested by the NISS on 6 January in front of his house in Omdurman. Eyewitnesses reported that he was beaten and forced into an NISS vehicle during his arrest. He had been spearheading efforts to have his younger brother, **Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun** (24 years old) released from NISS custody. Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun, a student activist was arrested and detained on 14 December 2015 by the NISS after he publicly confronted an NISS officer whom he believes tortured him in 2012 while he was in detention.

According to Amnesty International's information, family members have been allowed to visit both of them at the NISS office in Khartoum where they are being held. The information also indicates that there are signs of torture on Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun's body.

According to Amnesty International's information, both Emad and Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun are facing six charges under the 1991 Penal Code including those that carry the death penalty. The articles under which the charges fall include article 50 'undermining the constitutional system', article 51 'waging war against the State'; article 65 'establishment of criminal and terrorist organisations'; article 159 'defamation'; article 160 'insult and abuse', article 24 'criminal conspiracy', and article 26 'aiding'. Both Emad and Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun went on a five day hunger strike from 21 January, demanding that authorities either release them or present them before a court of law to answer to the charges against them.

Amnesty International believes that the arrest and prolonged detention without trial of both Emad and Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun and the consequent charges levied against them are due to the peaceful exercise of their rights and freedoms and considers them prisoners of conscience.

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

- Calling on the Sudanese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Emad and Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun and drop all charges against them;
- Urging them to ensure that pending their unconditional release, the brothers are not subjected to further torture or ill-treatment in detention and reports of torture and ill-treatment are investigated;
- Urging them to abolish the death penalty in law and practice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 MARCH 2016 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir

Office of the President

People's Palace

PO Box 281

Khartoum, Sudan

Email: info@presidency.gov.sd

Salutation: **Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice

Awad Al Hassan Alnour

Ministry of Justice

PO Box 302

Al Nil Avenue

Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: **Your Excellency**

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Ismat Abdul Rahman Zain Al-Abdin

Ministry of Interior

PO Box 873

Khartoum, Sudan

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. This is the first update of UA 277/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr54/3097/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The NISS is accorded broad powers of arrest and detention under the National Security Act 2010, which allows suspects to be detained for up to four-and-a-half months without judicial review. Amnesty International has documented several cases where NISS officials use their powers to violate human rights. NISS officials have responded to dissenting voices with excessive force, routinely conduct arbitrarily arrests, subject individuals to prolonged detention and have also subjected individuals to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Under the same Act, NISS agents are provided with immunity from criminal prosecution for any act committed in the 'course of their work'. This has perpetuated a pervasive culture of impunity within the security service. The constitutional amendments passed by Parliament on 5 January 2015, have exacerbated the situation by emboldening the NISS. The constitutional amendments accorded sweeping powers to the agency whose mandate now includes unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues.

Name: Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun and Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun

Gender m/f: m

Further Information on UA: 277/16 Index: AFR 54/3321/2016 Issue Date: 29 January 2016