

URGENT ACTION

THREE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS STILL DETAINED

Five of the eight human rights defenders affiliated with the organization, TRACKS for Training and Human Development (TRACKS) were released on bail between 30 May and 6 June. None of the five was charged. The three other human rights defenders remain arbitrarily detained without charge in Khartoum.

Arwa Elrabie (staff) and Raye Imany Leyla (volunteer) were released on 30 May on 5,000 Sudanese Pounds (approx. USD 820) bail. **Khuzaini Elhadi Rajab (staff), Shazali Ibrahim El Sheikh (staff) and Al Hassan Kheiry (staff)** were also released on bail on 5 and 6 of June. **Khalafalla A. Mukhtar (Director for TRACKS), Mustafa Adam (Visitor from Al Zarqa organisation) and Midhat A. Hamdan (staff)** are still being held at the office of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) prosecutor accused of crimes against the state, but they are yet to be charged. The three have been allowed access to family members. Khalafalla A. Mukhtar who has a heart condition has periodically been allowed to see his doctor. All eight reported to the NISS office in Khartoum on 22 May following summons issued on 19 May by the NISS. They were then transferred to the office of the NISS Prosecutor where they were detained.

Plain clothed NISS officers raided the home of detained TRACKS director Khalafallah A. Mukhtar on 11 June as well as the homes of his brothers Haider al-Afif and Abaqir al-Afif, and that of their mother. They took documents including training manuals for human rights defenders. Haider al-Afif was briefly detained between 5.30-7.00am on 11 June at the NISS office. He was threatened with force by one of the security officers and made to sign a document requiring him to report to the office of the NISS when summoned.

Amnesty International believes that the continued harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention of these human rights defenders is solely related to the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and thus 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 Khalafalla A. Mukhtar, Mustafa Adam and Midhat A. Hamdan;
- Calling on them to refrain from further harassment of all TRACKS staff, their associates and family members;
- Urging them to ensure that all the detainees are allowed unrestricted access to their lawyer, family and allowed access to adequate medical care;
- Urging them to comply with their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights particularly the obligations to respect, protect, promote and fulfill the rights to freedom of association and expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 AUGUST 2016 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister for Justice

Awad Al Hassan Alnour
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation : Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister for 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 128/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/af54/4108/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRACKS for Training and Human Development provides training on a range of themes including: IT, capacity building, human rights training, for the private sector and national organisations. It is registered with the National Training Bureau, a division of the Ministry of Labour. The history of harassment and intimidation of TRACKS staff, volunteers and other individuals affiliated to the organisation by the NISS dates back to 2015.

The NISS raided TRACKS office on 26 March 2015 and interrupted a workshop on social responsibility. The NISS agents confiscated all laptops in the premises and detained Khalafalla A. Mukhtar, director of TRACKS, for one day and Adil Ibrahim Bakheit, a freelance human rights trainer for about a month before releasing him on bail, after charging each of them with seven offences under the 1991 Penal code. These include; "joint acts in execution of criminal conspiracy, undermining the constitutional system, waging war against the state, calling for opposition to public authority by use of violent or criminal force, publication of false news and impersonating a public servant." The offences of waging war against the state and undermining the constitutional system carry the death penalty. The office of the NISS Prosecutor of crimes against the state carried out investigations into TRACKS' activities. The confiscated equipment was sent to the criminal laboratories for forensic investigation. After 11 months, the NISS Prosecutor's office dropped the charges against TRACKS director, Khalafalla A. Mukhtar and returned the confiscated equipment on 24 February 2016.

The raids on the houses of Khalafallah A. Mukhtar, his brothers and their mother would appear to be an effort to gather evidence for the ongoing proceedings as well as to further disrupt the operation of TRACKS, which provides training on a variety of issues including capacity building and human rights.

Name: Khalafalla A. Mukhtar, Arwa Elrabie, Khuzaini Elhadi A. Rajab, Raye Imany Leyla, Shazali Ibrahim El-Shiekh, Midhat A Hamdan, Alhassan Kheiri, Mustafa Adam
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 128/16 Index: AFR 54/4267/2016 Issue Date: 14 July 2016