

URGENT ACTION

RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE

Yousef Abdallah Abker, 55, a religious scholar was arrested on 14 July by security agents in El Geneina, the capital of Western Darfur state, Sudan, in relation to a sermon he gave in early July. He has been detained since then without any charge.

Yousef Abdallah Abker was arrested on 14 July and interrogated for criticising the government and the deteriorating security situation in Darfur during the Eid Ramadan sermon he gave on 6 July. In his sermon, Yousef Abdallah Abker condemned the government of Sudan for its inability to control the security situation in Darfur and for overlooking abuses committed by pro-government militias, including killings, rape and robbery. He remains detained without charge.

A family member told Amnesty International that they were unable to visit him while he was detained in El Geneina city. They believe that he was transferred to Al-Huda Prison in Omdurman on 18 July, but they have had no contact with him since that date. Yousef Abdallah Abker has been also denied access to his lawyer and medical treatment since his arrest on 14 July.

Yousef Abdallah Abker is a prisoner of conscience, who is being detained solely on the basis of the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. He is at risk of being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the Sudanese authorities to release Yousef Abdallah Abker immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to ensure that he is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during his detention;
- Calling on them to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Yousef Abdallah Abker and ensure that he is granted regular access to his family, medical treatment and a lawyer of his choice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER 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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The security and humanitarian situation in Darfur remains dire, as the armed conflict enters its thirteenth year in 2016, with no progress in getting a peaceful solution. The recent fighting in Jebel Marra has caused the displacement of an estimated 129,000 people since mid-January 2016. An estimated 223,000 people were displaced last year in Darfur. The conflict in Darfur has resulted in over 300,000 people killed, and 2.5 million people displaced since 2003.

From January to June 2016, an estimated 270 people were killed in Darfur as result of the conflict. Inter-communal violence is wide spread. Acts of unlawful killing, rape, kidnapping, robbery and attacks on United Nation peacekeepers persist throughout the region. The rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association are heavily restricted. Arbitrary arrest and, detention; as well as torture and other ill-treatment are pervasive in the region.

Despite that, the government of Sudan continues to repeat its claims that the security situation in Darfur has improved and is “stable”.

In June 2016, the UN Security Council renewed the mandate of the African Union and United Nation Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2017, citing the continuous instability of the security and humanitarian environment in Darfur. The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) would be concluded in July 2016, without progress in accommodating other three major rebel groups in the process, the two Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement.

Name: Yousef Abdallah Abker

Gender m/f: m

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