

URGENT ACTION

POLITICAL ACTIVIST AT RISK OF TORTURE

A Sudanese political activist has been detained without charge in Khartoum, since 23 September after being arrested by security forces. He is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash, a 35-year-old father and owner of a printing company was arrested on 23 September during a raid on his company by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). He was allegedly involved in printing posters that intended to commemorate protestors who were killed during the protests which occurred in September 2013. The NISS confiscated the posters before arresting him. He is currently detained at Kober prison in Khartoum and has been held without charge for over 50 days.

Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash's family and supporters have staged a number of protests outside the NISS headquarters and the Ministry of Justice in Khartoum requesting his immediate release.

Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash was among over 70 political activists arrested by the NISS between 17 and 23 September to prevent events planned to mark the first anniversary of the September 2013 protests. In early October 2014 most of those arrested were released without charge and former detainees reported they had been tortured and ill-treated while in detention.

There are credible fears that Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment. The Sudanese authorities must charge him with a recognizable offence and grant him a fair trial, or immediately release him.

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

- Urging the authorities to ensure that Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash is either charged with a recognizable offence or is immediately and unconditionally released;
- Calling on the authorities to give the detainee access to a lawyer of his own choosing, to medical treatment and to his family;
- Urging them to ensure that the detainee is not subjected to torture or any ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 DECEMBER 2014 TO:

Minister of Justice

Mohamed Bushara Dousa
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302 Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan
Email: moj@moj.gov.sd
Fax: + 249 183 791544

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ali Ahmed Karti
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box: 302, Republic Street
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 772941

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Ismat Abdul-Rahman Zain Al-Abdin
Ministry of Interior, PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan
Email: mut@isoc.sd

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

In September 2013, protests broke out in cities around Sudan after President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir announced cuts to fuel subsidies on 22 September. The following day, thousands of protesters took to the streets in the city of Wad Madani, East of Sudan, followed by the capital Khartoum, and the cities of Omdurman, Port Sudan, Atbara, Gedarif, Nyala, Kosti, and Sinnar. The Sudanese police and NISS officers used disproportionate force – including firing tear gas and live ammunition – to disperse the demonstrations. Between 23 and 28 September 2013, at least 200 protesters were killed, scores more were injured and over 600 were arrested. Amnesty International has called on the Government of Sudan to conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into unlawful killings, especially during the September 2013 protests.

Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash has also been an active environmental campaigner for several years and is the current chairperson of the Nubian Youth Committee against the Kajbar and Dal Dams project in Northern Sudan State. Activists are concerned that the Kajbar and Dal Dams may submerge over 500 ancient archaeological sites, and have a detrimental impact on the environment.

Name: Rashid Shikhaldeen Abash
Gender m/f: m

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