

URGENT ACTION

RIGHTS DEFENDER AT RISK OF FORCED RETURN

The Egyptian authorities have arrested a Darfuri refugee in Egypt and may forcibly return him to Sudan, apparently for his activism in support of refugees and migrants in Egypt. If returned, he would be in danger of being tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

On 6 May 2012, the security forces arrested refugee rights defender **Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman**, 36, in the Mogamma administrative complex, Tahrir Square, Cairo. Ministry of Interior officials had asked him to go to there to get his passport back after they had taken it from him during a previous arrest in February 2012.

Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman is currently being held in Al-Qanater Prison, north of Cairo, although it is unclear on what legal grounds. His lawyer has said there his client has not been charged, but that he is being held because he considered as a threat to "national security". His lawyer has lodged an appeal against the Ministry of Interior's decision to deport him before an administrative court which is expected to hear the appeal next week.

Amnesty International fears Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman could be forcibly returned to Sudan at any time. Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants from Sub-Saharan countries, such as Sudan and Eritrea, have previously been deported back to their countries without due process and despite ongoing legal challenges to their deportation. Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman has reportedly been granted refugee status by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman is the director of the Sudan Centre for Contemporary Studies and Development, which documents abuses against refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Egypt. He was previously briefly detained by the security forces in January and February 2012. On both occasions the security forces questioned him about his activities in Egypt. Following his arrest in February he was reportedly told that he was no longer welcome in the country.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities not to forcibly return Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman to Sudan where he would be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to immediately and unconditionally release Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman unless he is promptly charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence and given a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Calling on them to uphold their international obligations under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the UN Convention against Torture not to forcibly return anyone to a country where they would be at risk of torture and other serious human rights violations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 JUNE 2012 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Mohamed Ibrahim Youssef Ahmed
Ministry of the Interior
25 El Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +202 279 455 29

Email: moi@idsc.gov.eg

Salutation: Dear Minister

Prosecutor General

Abd El-Megeed Mahmoud
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +202 2 577 4716

Salutation: Dear Counsellor

And copies to:

Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Human Rights

Laila Bahaa Eldin
Human Rights and International
Humanitarian and Social Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +202 2 574 9713

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 January 2012, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated there were over 10,000 Sudanese refugees and over 14,000 Sudanese asylum-seekers in Egypt.

Egypt is party to both the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugee Convention; both require Egypt to provide international protection to refugees. According to a 1954 Memorandum of Understanding between Egypt and UNHCR, the Egyptian authorities are obliged to allow asylum-seekers to meet with UNHCR representatives and to respect UNHCR's assessments of their refugee status.

In recent years and particularly since May 2008 when the Darfur-based armed opposition group Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, Amnesty International has documented many cases of arbitrary and incommunicado detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and extrajudicial executions of Darfuris at the hands of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) in Sudan, on the basis of their ethnicity or suspected political allegiance. In the months that followed the JEM attack on Khartoum, Darfuris from the Zaghawa ethnic group were the main targets of human rights violations committed by the NISS.

Any forcible return of refugees and asylum-seekers to Sudan would clearly breach Egypt's obligation under international law not to return any person to a country where they would be at risk of torture or other serious human rights violations.

Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Egyptian authorities to end abuses against refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants who continue to be killed at Egypt's border with Sudan and Israel or detained or imprisoned and forcibly returned to countries where they are at risk of serious human rights violations.

Name: Abdel Moneim Adam Suleiman
Gender m/f: m

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