

# URGENT ACTION

## SUDANESE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RELEASED

**On 25 January, Sudanese human rights defender Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam was released from prison. He spent more than one month in detention, solely in relation to his human rights work. The charges against him have not been dropped, and he could face further harassment and imprisonment.**

**Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam**, former director of the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO), is determined to appeal the charges against him, which might put him at risk of further harassment or even imprisonment.

On 22 December 2010, Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam was sentenced to one year imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 Sudanese pounds (USD 1,250) for financial mismanagement. The charges were brought against him by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), and followed a series of audits in 2008 and 2009, which did not demonstrate any unlawful activity by Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam. In March 2009, Dr. Mudawi appeared in court for the same charges, and was acquitted due to lack of evidence. However the HAC appealed against the court's decision. The Court of Appeal ordered the Court of First Instance to review the case. On 22 December, the same judge who had acquitted him found him guilty this time, without reviewing any further evidence. Dr. Mudawi was immediately taken to Kober prison, after which he was transferred to Soba prison, and then Gereif prison.

On 25 January, prior to Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam's release, a document was presented to the prison, stating that the appeal court upheld his conviction, but he had served a sufficient prison sentence and could be immediately released. The appeal decision was issued in the absence of Dr. Mudawi and his lawyers, hence denying him the right to defend his case in court. Dr. Mudawi is yet to receive a copy of the appeal court's sentence but intends to appeal against its decision and take his case to the high court.

### **PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- Calling on the authorities to immediately drop all charges against Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam
- Calling on the authorities to immediately end the harassment and detention of human rights activists who are peacefully exercising their work and their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 MARCH 2011 TO:**

#### President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir  
Office of the President  
People's Palace PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan  
Fax: +249 183 782 541

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Minister of Justice

Mohammed Bushara Dousa  
Ministry of Justice, PO Box 302  
Al Nil Avenue  
Khartoum, Sudan  
Fax: +249 183 764 168

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### **And copies to:**

Minister of Interior  
Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

This is the first update of UA 266/10. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/040/2010/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUDO is an organization that was promoting human rights and social development and was one of the NGOs closed down by HAC in 2009 following the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against President Al Bashir, when the government closed down three national humanitarian and human rights organizations and expelled 13 international humanitarian organizations. SUDO filed an appeal against its closure by the HAC commissioner. On 21 April 2010, SUDO won the appeal on the grounds that the HAC commissioner had no authority to dissolve SUDO. The organization has not however resumed its activities.

Human rights defenders, civil society activists, journalists and members of the opposition continue to be targeted by the security forces in Sudan in relation to their work. A large number of human rights defenders were forced to flee the country following the arrest warrant against President Al Bashir, while those who remain have been silenced and prosecuted in relation to their work.

Four journalists were prosecuted in 2010 in relation to their work which was seen as critical of the government, and a number of individuals, including activists, journalists and a lawyer remain in detention since 30 October in relation to their work.

The Humanitarian Aid Commission limits the work of human rights and humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan, particularly in Darfur, and were responsible for closing down a number of organizations and expelling their staff members.

Further information on UA: 266/10 Index: AFR 54/004/2011 Issue Date: 27 January 2011

