

# URGENT ACTION

## SUDANESE ACTIVIST AND POET TORTURED

**On 2 September, Sudanese activist and poet, Abdelmoniem Raham, was arrested in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile state, Sudan. He is being detained by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and has reportedly been tortured.**

After **Abdelmoniem Raham** was arrested on 2 September, he was seen in custody of the NISS in Ed Damazin. He was said to have been tortured. He is at risk of further torture and other ill treatment.

Abdelmoniem Raham is actively involved in Sudanese politics and the arts. In 2010, he was appointed as a government advisor for cultural affairs in Blue Nile, and is a co-founder and administrative director of *Ajrass Alhurriya* (Bells of Freedom) newspaper in Sudan. The newspaper was shut down by the authorities on 8 July 2011.

Abdelmoniem Raham was also an active member of the Sudanese Writers Union during the 1980s and chairperson of *Sudana*, an organization promoting art and literature of marginalized groups in Sudan. Between 2003 and 2005, he was the head of the Arabic section of the Sudan Radio Services network, in Nairobi, Kenya.

On 1 September fighting broke out in Blue Nile, Sudan, bordering South Sudan, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N). On 2 September, Sudanese President al-Bashir declared a state of emergency in Blue Nile and appointed a military governor to the state. The fighting is linked to ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan, where over 150,000 people have been displaced.

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

- Call on the authorities to release Abdelmoniem Raham or charge him with a recognizable criminal offence;
- Call on the authorities to grant Abdelmoniem Raham immediate access to his family, lawyers, and to any medical treatment he might require following allegations of torture;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Abdelmoniem Raham is not subjected to further torture or other ill-treatment;

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 OCTOBER 2011 TO:**

Minister of Justice  
Mr Mohammed Bushara Dousa  
Ministry of Justice, PO Box 302  
Al Nil Avenue  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax: +249 183 764 168**  
**Email: [moj@moj.gov.sd](mailto:moj@moj.gov.sd)**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Interior  
Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**And copies 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**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The fighting in Blue Nile state follows tensions between Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) over security arrangements in the border areas prior to South Sudan's independence on 9 July 2011. Following South Sudan's independence, the SPLM-North, which was previously part of the southern SPLM, was formed in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

On 5 June 2011, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) broke out in Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan, and surrounding areas. Indiscriminate bombings by SAF and ongoing ground attacks by both SAF and SPLA-N have resulted in over 200,000 people displaced in Southern Kordofan alone. Furthermore, Amnesty International received reports of extra-judicial executions and arrests of people affiliated with SPLM-North in Kadugli town.

The number of people displaced or otherwise affected by the recent fighting in Blue Nile is not yet known, because independent observers and aid workers have been prevented from entering the region.

Name: Abdelmoniem Raham

Gender m/f: male

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**INTERNATIONAL**

