

URGENT ACTION

SUDANESE LAWYER HELD INCOMMUNICADO

Magdi Saleem, has been detained in an undisclosed location without charge by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) following his arrest in Wad Medani, Sudan, on 24 September. Magdi Saleem was demonstrating against the government and exercising his right to peaceful assembly. He is being held incommunicado and is at risk of torture or other forms of ill treatment.

Magdi Saleem, a 67-year-old lawyer and human rights activist, was arrested in Wad Medani on 24 September after taking part in demonstrations against the rising cost of living in Sudan. According to a source he was being held in Al Sariya, a detention centre south west of Wad Medani but his wife was later informed that he had been moved to an undisclosed location.

Magdi Saleem has not been charged and was denied visits from his family when he was detained in Al Sariya. He suffers from diabetes and it is not known whether he has been given access to the medication he needs. His current location is not known and he remains at risk of torture or other forms of ill treatment. He has previously been arrested and detained without charge as a result of his human rights work. In 1990, he was held for six months in Kober prison in Khartoum. Amnesty International considers Magdi Saleem a prisoner of conscience, being held solely for exercising his right to peaceful assembly.

Magdi Saleem is only one of hundreds of activists and demonstrators detained by national security officials in Sudan during the demonstrations. Amnesty International is concerned that all those detained could be held incommunicado, and are at risk of torture or other forms of ill-treatment.

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

- Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Magdi Saleem;
- Call on the authorities to immediately reveal Magdi Saleem's current location and to give him access to his lawyer, family and the medical treatment he requires;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Magdi Saleem is not subjected to torture or any ill treatment;
- Call on the Sudanese government to release activists and demonstrators solely expressing their right to peaceful assembly, or charge them with a recognised criminal offence.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 NOVEMBER 2013 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan
Email: info@sudan.gov.sd

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Mohamed Bushara Dousa
Minister of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan

Email: mb.dosa@gmail.com

Salutation: Excellency

And copies to:

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

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

There have been protests across Sudan since 23 September following an announcement by the government they were lifting petrol subsidies. Police and the NISS have reportedly detained hundreds of activists and demonstrators, including known members of political opposition parties, students and other activists. Sudanese security forces have also reportedly killed at least 50 protesters with shots to the head or chest - activists place the death toll much higher. Schools and government offices have been closed in Khartoum, and national access to the internet was reportedly cut off for several hours on 25 September.

Amnesty International documented the widespread use of prolonged incommunicado detention, torture and ill-treatment by Sudanese Security Forces against protesters, activists and perceived political opponents during anti-government demonstrations in June last year.

Name: Magdi Saleem

Gender m/f: m

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