

URGENT ACTION

SUDANESE ACTIVIST RELEASED

Hawa Abdallah, a Sudanese woman who was arrested on 6 May in Darfur, was released on 13 July. She was arrested for 'Christianizing' children and being linked to an armed opposition group.

Hawa Abdallah works as a community activist and a translator for the joint United Nations and African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced people (IDP) in Darfur, western Sudan. On 6 May 2011 she was arrested at her home in Abu Shouk village by armed officers of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

Two days later, an article published on Sudan's state-run news website accused Hawa Abdallah of 'Christianizing' the children at the IDP camps where she works, and of having links to a Darfuri armed opposition group. The article also contained a photo of her looking fatigued and bruised, which increased concerns that she was being ill-treated. During her detention she was not charged, or allowed to see a lawyer or her family.

Previous to Hawa Abdallah's arrest in May 2011, she was receiving death threats via text, telling her to leave Abu Shouk IDP camp. She was also arrested and detained for six days in 2009. During that time the NISS reportedly tortured her.

Hawa Abdallah is currently in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, undergoing medical check-ups.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is needed.

This is the first update of UA 159/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/015/2011/en>



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the last few months, Sudan's police and NISS have arrested many Darfuris for protesting about issues including general living conditions and insecurity in Darfur. On 28 April, police and NISS arrested people who were holding peaceful protests about the distribution of food in North Darfur's Al Salaam and Abu Shouk IDP camps. At least one child is believed to have been arrested and tortured. On 20 April, at least 100 people were arrested in protests at Nyala University, South Darfur.

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated significantly since December 2010, after the Sudanese government severed ties with the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi faction (SLA/MM), who signed the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006. Government forces have carried out attacks in IDP camps and in towns in Darfur, causing thousands of civilians to flee the region. Humanitarian agencies are facing increasing restrictions on access to areas affected by the conflict.

The conflict in Darfur has been marked by large-scale violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The UN estimates that the Darfur conflict has resulted in the displacement of more than 2.7 million people, with about 300,000 being killed, since 2003.

Name: Hawa Abdallah
Gender m/f: Female

Further information on UA: 159/11 Index: AFR 54/023/2011 Issue Date: 13 July 2011

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