

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/044/2005

13 May 2005

Further Information on UA 116/05 (AFR 54/047/2005, 09 May 2005) Fear for safety/ new concern: Legal concern

SUDAN Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam (m), Chair of the Sudan Development Organisation (SUDO)

**Released: Abdallah Taha (m), driver
Yasir Salim (m)**

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam's driver Abdallah Taha was released without charge on 11 May. Yasir Salim was released on bail on 12 May. Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam is being held in police custody at a detention centre at the Attorney General's Office in Khartoum. He has been visited by his wife and a lawyer. He has also been able to talk to the Irish non-governmental organization, Front Line the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Yasir Salim and Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam were brought before the Attorney General and were charged under Penal Code Article 53 which relates to espionage against the country and Article 57 which relates to entering and photographing military areas and works. Article 53 carries the possibility of the death penalty. Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam was arrested the day before he was due to fly to Ireland to accept one of the inaugural Front Line Human Rights Defenders' awards. His wife accepted the award on his behalf from the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese on 13 May.

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam had been asked to photograph his work in Khartoum for the award ceremony and accompanied by Yasir Salim who had a digital camera, was photographing the Baraka Bank in Khartoum North, which is said to be close to Kober Prison, when they were arrested. This is the third time that Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam has been arrested in the past 18 months, in a worrying pattern of harassment and intimidation of a leading human rights defender.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic and English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam who is being held in police custody at a detention centre in the Attorney General's Office in Khartoum;
- expressing grave concern at the use of Articles 53 and 57 of the Penal Code to charge Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Yasir Salim;
- calling for Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam to be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his peaceful activities in defence of human rights;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that human rights activists are not harassed or detained, and to respect their commitments to observe international human rights law, commitments which were reaffirmed in January under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

APPEALS TO: (If your faxed or emailed appeal does not get through, please either send it by mail or forward it to the diplomatic representative of Sudan in your country and ask them to pass on your appeal to the authorities)

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace

PO Box 281

Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 779977

+ 249 183 780796 (Please mark: "For the attention of the First Vice-President")

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Ministry of Justice

Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 780796 (Please mark "For the attention of the Minister of Justice")

Email: info@sudanjudiciary.org

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PO Box 873

Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 777268

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Hamadtu Mukhtar

Chair of the Human Rights Committee

National Assembly

Omdurman, Sudan

Fax: +249 187 560 950

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 June 2005.