

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 41/04 (AFR 54/011/2004, 04 February 2004) and follow-up (AFR 54/082/2004, 8 July 2004) - Fear for safety/Health concern

SUDAN Saleh Mahmud Osman (m), lawyer

Prisoner of conscience Saleh Mahmud Osman was released from Kober prison in the capital Khartoum on 4 September. He was brought to his family by his lawyers after a final interrogation by the National Security Forces found no evidence to keep him in detention.

A lawyer and human rights defender from Nyala, Darfur, Saleh Mahmud Osman was arrested on 1 February. Although he was never charged, he was interrogated and threatened by the National Security Agency for alleged links with the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), an armed opposition group currently fighting against the Sudanese government in Darfur.

On 3 February, Saleh Mahmud was transferred to the offices of the National Security Agency in Khartoum, then to Kober prison. He was also held for a period of time at Dabak prison in Khartoum North, which is 50 kilometres away and infested with mosquitoes. Saleh Mahmud was mostly detained incommunicado, although his family was allowed to visit him in April at Kober prison.

Thousands of letters were sent to the Sudanese authorities and Saleh Mahmud Osman's legal counsel during his seven-month detention. He has expressed his thanks and gratitude for the widespread support given by Amnesty International members.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.