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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: FAILURE TO GRANT A VISA**

Amnesty International deplores the failure of the United States of America to grant a visa to one of its staff members due to observe a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

“Unjustified and unwarranted actions in preventing our delegates from attending United Nations or other meetings do not help the world protection of human rights which the United States claims to support,” Amnesty International said today.

The staff member, Dr Abdel Salam Sidahmed -- a Sudanese national travelling on a British travel document, who works in the Middle East Program of Amnesty International -- was due to attend a briefing of members of the Human Rights Committee by non-governmental organizations today. He had been delegated to observe the Human Rights Committee’s examination of Lebanon’s second interim report on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is to take place on 7 April. He was due to return to London, where the International Secretariat of Amnesty International is based, on 11 April.

More than 300 paid staff and 90 volunteers, from 57 countries, work at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London.  
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