

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST DETAINED AGAIN AFTER RELEASE ORDER

Sudanese human rights activist, Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma, was re-arrested on 14 August by agents of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), immediately after a judge had ordered his release. He is being held in an unknown location, and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma was initially arrested on 25 June, in his home in Omdurman, which lies on the outskirts of Sudan's capital, Khartoum. He was detained in an unknown location. He was not charged and did not have access to a lawyer or his family. On 14 July, he was transferred to Kober prison, Khartoum, and a month later a judge ordered his release. However, immediately after the court ruling, NISS agents re-arrested Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma. Again, he is being held in an unknown location and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma is an X-ray technician and founder of the Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO) in Southern Kordofan. From 2004 to 2006, he was Director of Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO), in Nyala, Darfur. He has also worked for the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM), although he has not been an active member since 2008.

His arrest appears to be connected to the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan. Although he was arrested in Omdurman, he is originally from Talodi, Southern Kordofan. He is also Nuban, an ethnic group currently being targeted by the Sudanese authorities.

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

- Call on the authorities to either charge Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma with a recognizable criminal offence or release him immediately;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma is protected from torture or other ill-treatment;
- Call on the authorities to reveal the whereabouts of Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma and grant him immediate access to family, lawyer, and to any medical treatment he might require;
- Call on the authorities to immediately end the harassment and detention of Nubans on the basis of their ethnic identity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 OCTOBER 2011 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 782 541
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Mohammed Bushara Dousa
Ministry of Justice, PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 764 168
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed
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. This is the first update of UA 205/11. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/021/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the northern section of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) broke out on 5 June 2011. Since then, Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan, as well as a number of other locations, have been experiencing ongoing fighting. The bombing of towns and villages, as well as artillery fire, and house-to-house searches, have made much of Southern Kordofan unsafe for civilians, who have fled to other parts of the country and to the Nuba Mountains.

Checkpoints have been set up along the roads in Southern Kordofan, and witnesses report that lists of names have been used to target suspected SPLM members and Nuban people. As a result, Nuban people around Sudan have gone into hiding.

Despite these dangerous conditions, internally displaced people have been told by the various government authorities, including the Governor of Southern Kordofan that they should return home. The Sudanese government has also restricted the ability of humanitarian agencies to move freely and carry out their work effectively.

Name: Bushra Gamar Hassein Rahma

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA 205/11 Index: AFR 54/027/2011 Issue Date: 26 August 2011

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