

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVISTS HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN SUDAN

**Between 30 October and 1 November, eight Darfuris, including a number of human rights activists, have been arrested in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. Although the authorities have not yet acknowledged the arrests, there are reports from Sudan that all eight of them are being held incommunicado by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), without access to a lawyer or their families. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.**

**Abdelrahman Mohammed Al Gasim**, legal aid and protection coordinator for the Darfur Bar Association, and member of the Human Rights and Advocacy Network for Democracy (HAND); **Dirar Adam Dirar**, finance and administration officer at HAND, and **Abdelrahman Adam Abdelrahman**, deputy director of HAND were reportedly arrested by the NISS on the evening of 30 October in Khartoum.

Three female activists, **Manal Mohammed Adam**, **Aziza Ali Idriss**, and **Aisha Sardo Sherif** were also reportedly arrested by the NISS on 30 October.

Another two men, **Abu Gasim Al Din** and **Zakaria Yacoub** were reportedly also arrested. There are reports that more people have been arrested, but there is no confirmation as to all their names, identity or present whereabouts. The arrests have targeted Darfuris working for HAND, which is a coalition of grassroots Darfuri organizations that publishes human rights monitoring reports on Darfur, and people working for Radio Dabanga, a Sudanese radio station registered in the Netherlands that broadcasts news on the conflict in Darfur. Both reportedly share the same building in Khartoum.

None of the families of those arrested have had any news of their whereabouts or reasons for the arrests. There are reports that Abdelrahman Adam Abdelrahman may have been subjected to torture or other forms of ill-treatment.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to disclose the names and whereabouts of all those detained, including Abdelrahman Mohammed Al Gasim, Dirar Adam Dirar, Abdelrahman Adam Abdelrahman, Manal Mohammed Adam, Aziza Ali Idriss, Aisha Sardo Sherif, Abu Gasim Al Din and Zakaria Yacoub;
- Calling on the authorities to release all those detained or charge them with recognizably criminal offences;
- Urging the authorities to allow all the detainees access to legal representation as well as family visits and any medical attention they might require;
- Calling on the Sudanese government to immediately stop the harassment and intimidation of human rights activists and journalists in Sudan;
- Calling for the 2010 National Security Act to be reformed to remove the excessive powers of the NISS, including powers of arrest and detention without judicial oversight.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 DECEMBER 2010 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

Mr Mohammed Bushara Dousa  
Ministry of Justice  
PO Box 302  
Khartoum  
Sudan  
Fax: +249 183 764 168

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### **And copies to:**

#### Minister of Interior

Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Torture or other forms of ill-treatment of human rights activists and journalists by the National Intelligence and Security Services is often reported in Sudan, particularly amongst Darfuris and when those detained are not given access to the outside world. Amnesty International documented many cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention against human rights activists and journalists, and amongst Darfuris, namely at the hands of the NISS.

The 2010 National Security Act (2010 NSA), passed in December 2009, provides extensive powers of arrest and detention to members of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). Under the same Act, NISS agents are also provided with immunity from prosecution for any act committed in the course of their work. The 2010 NSA maintained powers and immunities provided under the previous law, the 1999 National Security Forces Act. As a result of these laws, a culture of impunity has pervaded in Sudan and NISS members have been carrying out human rights violations with impunity.

Although Sudan's Criminal Procedure Code contains safeguards against incommunicado detention, Article 50 of the 2010 NSA stipulates that the NISS can arrest and detain any person for a total period of four and a half months without judicial oversight. The 2010 Act does not specify the grounds on which such detentions can be made. Such incommunicado detention without access to the outside world and without any outside inspection increases the likelihood of torture taking place.

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