

URGENT ACTION

POET REMAINS IN INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION

Sudanese activist and poet, Abdelmoniem Rahama, remains in incommunicado detention. He has had no access to a lawyer and his family have not been informed of his location. He is at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

Abdelmoniem Rahama was arrested on 2 September and was seen in the custody of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State, Sudan. He was reportedly tried in a military court and sentenced to death in Sinja, Sennar State in November, along with 18 alleged members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). However it is not clear on which charges he has been convicted.

Abdelmoniem Rahama is actively involved in Sudanese politics and the arts. In 2010, he was appointed as a government advisor for cultural affairs in Blue Nile, and is a co-founder and administrative director of *Ajrass Alhurriya* (Bells of Freedom) newspaper in Sudan. The newspaper was shut down by the authorities on 8 July.

During the 1980s, Abdelmoniem Rahama was an active member of the Sudanese Writers Union and chairperson of *Sudana*, an organization promoting the art and literature of marginalized groups in Sudan. Between 2003 and 2005, he was the head of the Arabic section of the Sudan Radio Services network, in Nairobi, Kenya.

On 1 September fighting broke out in Blue Nile, bordering South Sudan, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N). On 2 September, Sudanese President al-Bashir declared a state of emergency in Blue Nile and appointed a military governor to the state.

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

- Call on the authorities to release Abdelmoniem Rahama or charge him with a recognizable criminal offence before an ordinary court;
- Call on the authorities to repeal the death sentence if Abdelmoniem Rahama has been sentenced to death before a military court;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Abdelmoniem Rahama is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Call on the authorities to grant Abdelmoniem Rahama immediate access to his family, lawyers, and to any medical treatment he might require following allegations of torture.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 JANUARY 2012 TO:

Minister of Justice

Mr Mohammed Bushara Dousa
Ministry of Justice, PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 183 764 168
Email: moj@moj.gov.sd

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies 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

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 279/11. Further information:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/029/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The fighting in Blue Nile State follows tensions between Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) over security arrangements in the border areas prior to South Sudan's independence on 9 July. Following South Sudan's independence, the SPLM-North, which was previously part of the southern SPLM, was formed in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Over 55,000 people have been displaced from Blue Nile State and sought refugee in neighbouring Ethiopia and South Sudan. Independent observers and aid workers have been prevented from entering Blue Nile State since the fighting broke out.

On 5 June, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) broke out in Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan, and surrounding areas. Indiscriminate bombings by SAF and ongoing ground attacks by both SAF and SPLA-N have resulted in over 300,000 people displaced in Southern Kordofan alone. Furthermore, Amnesty International received reports of extra-judicial executions and arrests of people affiliated with SPLM-North in Kadugli town.

Name: Abdelmoniem Rahama

Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 279/11 Index: AFR 54/039/2011 Issue Date: 8 December 2011

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