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MEDICAL CONCERN

**Professor Mohamed Said al-Gadal
SUDAN**

Professor Mohamed Said al-Gadal, aged 55, was arrested on 20 September 1989 in Port Sudan and has since been held without charge or trial in Port Sudan prison. Professor al-Gadal is a diabetic and is said not to be receiving insulin. He is also said to have a back disorder and to walk only with difficulty. Amnesty International has adopted Professor al-Gadal as a prisoner of conscience; the organization is urging that he be given necessary medication and that he be released unconditionally.

Professor al-Gadal has been a university teacher since the 1960s. He qualified with a Masters (MA) degree in the USA followed by a Doctorate (PhD) at the University of Khartoum. He is currently professor of history at the University of Khartoum and vice-President of the Sudan Writers Union. Among his recent works is An Economic History of the Mahdist State published in 1986.

Professor al-Gadal is married with seven children, five of whom live at home.

Background

In the months following the overthrow in June 1989 of the government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi in a military coup led by Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan al-Bashir, several hundred people including politicians, trade unionists, academics, doctors and members of other professions were arrested because of their real or suspected opposition to the new military government. (For details, see Sudan: Imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, AI Index: AFR 54/06/90, February 1990.) Despite the release of some prisoners in the first months of this year, more than 100 people remain in prison without charge or trial.

The vast majority of those arrested since the coup have not been allowed access to legal counsel and have been denied recourse to any judicial authority. Only a handful have been brought to trial. Adequate health care is reportedly being denied to prisoners, some of whom suffer from ulcers, heart disease and diabetes.

Amnesty International is urging the Government of the Sudan to immediately release all prisoners of conscience and to ensure that those currently held - including Professor al-Gadal - receive all necessary medication and treatment.

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.