

URGENT ACTION

SUDANESE STUDENT HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed, the former chairperson of the Darfur Students Association at the Holy Quran University, was arrested on 22 August in Khartoum by National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) agents. Now, more than three months later, he is still being held without charge in solitary confinement at the NISS detention centre in Khartoum North.

Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed, 23, the former chairperson of the Darfur Students Association at the Holy Quran University, was arrested on 22 August by NISS agents at the gate of the Holy Quran University in Omdurman. Now, more than three months have passed, and he is still being held without charge in solitary confinement at the NISS detention centre in Khartoum North.

The NISS have consistently denied him visits from his family or his lawyers. The family presented more than 15 applications to visit him, but 13 of their requests were denied by the NISS and they have only been allowed to see him twice in 92 days. According to his family, Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed's health is deteriorating. He has lost weight since being taken into detention, and suffers from a chronic stomach disease, for which he has been denied medical care. According to family members, his body shows signs of torture. Amnesty International is seriously concerned with the impact of prolonged solitary confinement on Naser's mental health.

Amnesty International considers Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language urging the Sudanese authorities to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed, as he is being held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Ensure that, pending his release, Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed is granted access to his lawyers, family and adequate medical treatment;
- Ensure that he is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during their detention, and that any allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are thoroughly and impartially investigated.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 JANUARY 2018 TO:

President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister for Justice

Idris Ibrahim Jameel
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to

Minister for Interior
Hamed al-Mannan
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR MOHAMMED ABDALLA ALI ELTOM
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row St James's SW1A 1DD, 020 7839 8080, info@sudan-embassy.co.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 203/17. Further information:
www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr54/7042/2017/en/

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

STUDENT HELD IN DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the past few years, students from Darfur have experienced violations of their human rights throughout Sudan. Amnesty International has been documenting the targeting of student political activists from Darfur by Sudanese security agents. The security agents have labelled these activists as armed group supporters. The armed conflict has become both an excuse and a mask for human rights violations not only in Darfur but also in the rest of the country.

Most of these human rights violations were triggered by Darfuri students' attempts to discuss the conflict in Darfur through public fora inside the universities or to address the issue of fee exemptions for Darfuri students based on various peace agreements in Darfur. However, these public forums and sit-ins have regularly been violently attacked by ruling party affiliated students, and always resulted in arbitrary arrests and detention as well as torture and ill-treatment of Darfuri students by NISS agents. This annual dispute has led to dozens of Darfuri students' being expelled from universities or banned from sitting exams for failing to pay fees.

In January 2017, Amnesty International issued a report highlighting the plight of Darfuri students at the Holy Quran University. In July, more than 1,000 Darfuri students of Bakht al-Rida University in White Nile State submitted collective resignations citing unfair treatment by the university and the security authority in Bakht al-Rida as reasons. At Omdurman Islamic University, two Darfuri students were killed during violent clashes between the ruling party-affiliated students and Darfuri students on 31 August.

The NISS maintains broad powers of arrest and detention under the National Security Act 2010 (NSA), which allows suspects to be detained for up to four-and-a-half months without judicial review. NISS officials often use these powers to arbitrarily arrest and detain individuals, many of whom are then subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. Under the same Act, NISS agents are provided with protection from prosecution for any act committed in the course of their work, which has resulted in a pervasive culture of impunity. The constitutional amendment to Article 151 (NSA) passed on 5 January 2015 that expanded the mandate of the NISS has exacerbated the situation. The amendment transformed the NISS from an intelligence agency focused on information gathering, analysis and advice, to a fully-fledged security agency with a broad mandate to exercise a mix of functions usually carried out by the armed forces or law enforcement agencies. It gave the NISS unlimited discretion to decide what constitutes a political, economic or social threat and how to respond to such threats. Neither the NSA nor the revised Article 151 explicitly or implicitly require the NISS to abide by relevant international, regional and domestic law in the operation of its duties.

Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed had just finished an exam at the university, when NISS agents arrested him at the gate of the Holy Quran University in Omdurman. According to information received by Amnesty International, Naser Aldeen Mukhtar Mohamed was stopped at the gate of the university by five plainclothes NISS agents who forced him into a Toyota pickup truck without a number plate and drove off with him.

Further information on UA: 203/17 Index: AFR 54/7489/2017 Issue Date: 27 November 2017