

# URGENT ACTION

## SUDANESE ACTIVIST AT IMMINENT RISK OF DEPORTATION

**Sudanese political activist Husham Ali is at imminent risk of being deported from Saudi Arabia to Sudan, where he would be at serious risk of torture and other ill-treatment. He is a prisoner of conscience.**

According to information provided to Amnesty International, **Husham Ali Mohammad Ali**, a 46-year-old Sudanese national was arrested at his apartment in Jeddah, western Saudi Arabia, by security officials from the Ministry of Interior's General Security on 18 November 2017. The officials searched Husham's room and confiscated his electronic devices, including his laptop, phones, CDs and memory sticks. No arrest or search warrant was provided.

Husham Ali was detained incommunicado and held in solitary confinement from the time of his arrest until the beginning of January, when he was moved to a cell with other detainees. During this time, he was interrogated multiple times about his activism and informed by prison officials that he was detained at the order of the Sudanese authorities. On 6 March 2018, Husham Ali was moved from Dhaban prison to Al Shumaisi detention centre, an immigration center outside Jeddah, where his fingerprints were taken, raising fears that Husham Ali is at imminent risk of deportation.

Husham Ali worked as a freelance accountant in Saudi Arabia, where he has resided since 2010. An opposition activist in Sudan for many years, he continued to contribute to various online forums after moving to Saudi Arabia and is also involved in supporting charity groups in Sudan. After the Sudanese government's repression of civil society in Sudan in 2013, he became more active online and has written various posts and articles to expose government corruption. He also published information about torture in detention by the Sudanese authorities and expressed his support for the November and December 2016 civil disobedience in Sudan on his Facebook page.

If deported, there is a real risk that he will be subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the Sudanese authorities. Amnesty International has previously documented the torture and ill-treatment of Sudanese activists deported from Saudi Arabia to Sudan.

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

- Release Husham Ali Mohammad Ali immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- In accordance with their obligations under international law, not to deport him to Sudan, where there is a real risk he would be subjected to unfair trial, torture and other ill-treatment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE TO 06 MAY 2018:

#### King and Prime Minister

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz  
Al Saud  
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques  
Office of His Majesty the King  
Royal Court, Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: (via Ministry of Interior)  
+966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)  
Twitter: @KingSalman

#### **Salutation: Your Majesty**

#### Minister of Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Aziz  
bin Saud bin Naif  
Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933,  
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 11 403 3125  
Twitter: @MOISaudiArabia  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

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

#### Human Rights Commission

Bandar Mohammed 'Abdullah al-Aiban  
P.O. Box 58889, Riyadh 11515  
King Fahd Road  
Building No. 3, Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fax: +966 11 418 510

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf bin Abdul Aziz - Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in London, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 30 Charles Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 5DZ tel: 020 7917 3000 or 02079173288, fax 02079173113 email: [ukemb@mofa.gov.sa](mailto:ukemb@mofa.gov.sa) complete the webform here:

<http://embassies.mofa.gov.sa/sites/uk/EN/ContactDiplomaticMission/Pages/ContactWithDiplomaticMission.aspx>; twitter: @SaudiEmbassyUK,

Salutation: Your Royal Highness

**Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International documented in 2016 and 2017 the detention of three Sudanese activists residing in Saudi Arabia, Elgassim Mohammed Seed Ahmed, 52, and Elwaleed Imam Hassan Taha, 44, Alaa Aldin al-Difana. They were arrested in Saudi Arabia in December 2016, for their online support of a civil disobedience action in Sudan in November and December 2016. The three activists were deported from Saudi Arabia to Sudan on 11 July 2017 where the Sudanese National Intelligence Service (NISS) arrested them upon arrival. Held at the NISS headquarters in Khartoum North, they told Amnesty International that they were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during detention. The NISS released Elwaleed Imam Hassan Taha and Alaa Aldin al-Difana on 22 August 2017 without charge. Elgassim Mohamed Seed Ahmed remained in detention until he was released without charge on 3 October 2017.

Amnesty International has also documented dozens of cases and received numerous reports of the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services' (NISS) crackdown on the activities of anti-government political activists, human rights defenders and civil society activists. Between November 2016 and February 2017, the NISS arrested dozens of opposition political party members and other activists who supported the civil disobedience action in November and December 2016 which was held in protest against the rise in fuel, electricity, transport, food, and medicine costs in Sudan. Those detained were subjected to various methods of torture and other ill-treatment including electric shocks, beatings, whippings, solitary confinement, and severe psychological pressure including threats of rape during interrogations. In many cases the activists were held for weeks or months without being charged with any crime.

The NISS maintains broad powers of arrest and detention under the National Security Act 2010 (NSA), which allows the NISS to detain suspects for up to four-and-a-half months without judicial review. 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.

Under the principle of non-refoulement, Saudi Arabia is prohibited from transferring individuals to another country or jurisdiction where they would face a real risk of serious human rights violations or abuses. The principle of non-refoulement has the status of customary international law making it binding upon all states, even those who have not ratified the relevant treaties. Saudi Arabia is also prohibited, as a state party to the Convention Against Torture, from returning people to states where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of being subjected to torture.