

URGENT ACTION

STUDENT ACTIVISTS DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE

Five student activists from the University of Khartoum in Sudan have been detained without charge in Khartoum North since 13 and 14 April after being arrested by the National Intelligence Security Service (NISS). They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Bader Al Deen Salah Mohamed, first-year student Faculty of Economics and Social Studies, **Ahmed Zuhair Dawd**, Faculty of Agriculture, **Mohamed Al-Mujtaba**, Faculty of Pharmacy and **Ibrahim Yahya Omer**, Faculty of Science were arrested by the NISS on 13 April at Khartoum Dental hospital. They had accompanied their colleague who was injured during a protest to the hospital. **Mohamed Adam Shahtallah**, a student in the Geography department, was arrested on 14 April outside the University of Khartoum.

The NISS additionally arrested 27 students (five females, 22 males) on 13 and 14 April who were involved in protests at the University of Khartoum. Student protests began on 11 April following reports that the government was planning to sell some of the university's buildings, and continued until 14 April. The 27 students were released without charge on 16 April. Those released have reported that they were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

The families of the five who remain in detention have not been officially informed of where they are held, but they believe that they are currently held at the NISS offices near the Shendi bus station in Khartoum North.

We are concerned that Bader Al Deen Salah Mohamed, Ahmed Zuhair Dawd, Mohamed Al-Mujtaba, Ibrahim Yahya Omer and Mohamed Adam Shahtallah are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

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

- Calling on the Sudanese authorities to inform the families of Bader Al Deen Salah Mohamed, Ahmed Zuhair Dawd, Mohamed Al-Mujtaba, Ibrahim Yahya Omer and Mohamed Adam Shahtallah where they are held, and ensure that they are immediately released if they are not charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- Urging them to ensure that Bader Al Deen Salah Mohamed, Ahmed Zuhair Dawd, Mohamed Al-Mujtaba, Ibrahim Yahya Omer and Mohamed Adam Shahtallah are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to ensure that Bader Al Deen Salah Mohamed, Ahmed Zuhair Dawd, Mohamed Al-Mujtaba, Ibrahim Yahya Omer and Mohamed Adam Shahtallah have access without delay to lawyers of their choice, to medical treatment, and to their families;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 JUNE 2016 TO:

President

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Awad Al Hassan Alnour
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Ismat Abdul-Rahman Zain Al-Abdin
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Suda

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, Fax 020 7839 7560, info@sudan-embassy.co.uk , www.sudanembassy.co.uk

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented an intense and sustained crackdown by the police and security forces since 2012 on the activities of students in universities across Sudan. This has included use of excessive force by the NISS, police and security forces who have used batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition against largely peaceful demonstrators, causing death and injuries. Over this period scores of protestors have been killed, injured, beaten, arrested and detained. Detainees have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment, others have been held *incommunicado*.

Over 300 people suspected of leading or coordinating countrywide protests against economic austerity measures in 2012 were arbitrarily arrested and detained. The NISS and police response to the September 2013 protests over cuts to fuel subsidies led to the death of over 140 people whose bodies had bullet wounds and injuries of protestors and bystanders. In April 2015, hundreds of students participating in a demonstration at Al-Fashir University calling for the boycott of the April general elections were attacked by the NISS who used live ammunition and teargas. In January 2016, the NISS attacked students attending a public seminar organised by an opposition party, the United Popular Force at El Geneina University in West Darfur. Students were beaten with hose pipes and metal bars leading to the death of one student and injuries to others. The government of Sudan has repeatedly failed to ensure that thorough, impartial and independent investigations are conducted and perpetrators of these human rights violations are held to account, thus perpetuating impunity and hindering deterrence.

The NISS maintains broad powers of arrest and detention under the National Security Act 2010, which allows suspects to be detained for up to four-and-a-half months without a judicial review of the detention. NISS officials often use these powers to arbitrarily arrest and detain individuals, and to subject them to torture and other forms of 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 amendments passed by Parliament on 5 January 2015 have exacerbated the situation. The January Constitutional amendment gave the NISS powers to intervene in 'political, social or economic threats' without giving any clarity as to what amounted to such threats. The NISS could therefore interpret the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression, association and assembly as constituting threats against the state. Amnesty International has consistently called for the review of the powers of NISS to bring them in line with international standards.

Name: Bader Al Deen Salah Mohamed, Ahmed Zuhair Dawd, Mohamed Al-Mujtaba, Ibrahim Yahya Omer, Mohamed Adam Shahtallah
Gender m/f: m

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