

URGENT ACTION

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR DETAINED STUDENT ACTIVIST

Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun, a 24-year-old student at Omdurman Ahlia University, is currently being held at the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) political office in Khartoum North after his arrest on 14 December. Amnesty International is concerned about his safety while in detention.

Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun's family thinks that Emad was arrested because he confronted an NISS officer for torturing him. On 12 December, Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun publicly challenged an NISS officer, who he believed was involved in his torture while in detention in 2012. The NISS officer "threatened to arrest him" according to a family member.

Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun is an active member of the opposition party, the National Umma Party (NUP) and of the Sudanese youth movement *Girifna*. The 24-year-old student from Omdurman Ahlia University, was arrested in the evening of 14 December from outside the NUP headquarters in Omdurman by three NISS agents in plainclothes. He was able to contact his family and inform them that he had been detained without charge at the NISS political office in Khartoum North.

This is not the first time he has been arrested. He was arrested and subjected to torture in 2012 and 2013. Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun risks being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun's family issued a statement on 15 December, in which they said: "that we are worried about Emad's safety".



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

- Urging the Sudanese authorities, to either charge Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun with a recognizable offence or immediately release him;
- Urging them to ensure that he is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Calling on them to give him access to lawyers of his own choosing and allow him visits from his family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 JANUARY 2016 TO:

President

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

Email: info@presidency.gov.sd

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

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

Email: moj@moj.gov.sd

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

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

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

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

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 2015, the NISS carried out arbitrary arrests and detentions, a number of which were politically motivated. Some detainees were released without charge. None appear to have received effective remedies, including compensation for their unlawful detention and no security officers appeared to have been held to account. NISS suppression of freedoms of expression, association and assembly continues. In the week beginning 14 December, the NISS indefinitely suspended the independent newspaper *al-Tayar*, prevented three banned civil society organisations from holding a press conference in Khartoum, and shut down the office of the international organisation, Tear Fund in Sudan.

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 judicial review. NSS 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, NSS 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 constitutional amendments accorded sweeping powers to the NISS which now has unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues.

Name: Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun

Gender m/f: m

UA: 277/15 Index: AFR 54/3097/2015 Issue Date: 18 December 2015