

URGENT ACTION

THREE OPPOSITION MEMBERS HARASSED BY NISS

Khalid Omer Yousif, Magdi Okasha Amed and Widad Abdelrahman Derwish, opposition members of the Sudanese Congress Party (SCP), were arrested by the Sudanese National Intelligence Service (NISS) and released without charge. However, they are required to report to the NISS office every day.

Khalid Omer Yousif, a civil engineer by profession and a secretariat member of the SCP, was arrested on 6 August by NISS officers at his house at around 8.00 am as he was leaving for work. The NISS officers told him to follow them to the NISS office in his car on the assurance that he would be free to return home. His car was however confiscated along with several other documents in his car including his daughters' passports at the NISS office. Khalid Omer Yousif was released at around midnight without any formal interrogation or charge. He was instructed by NISS to report to their office every day.

Two days later, **Magdi Okasha Amed**, also a member of the SCP, was arrested at his home at 8.00 am. About 10 armed men came into his house and took him to the NISS office in their vehicle. He was released the same day, but like Khalid Omer Yousif, he was also asked to report to the NISS office every day. **Widad Abdelrahman Dirwesh** was also arrested on the same day as Magdi Okasha and later released without being charged. She too was asked to report to the NISS office every day. For two days, she reported to the NISS office, but on 12 August she refused to show up. The NISS called her on 12 August asking her to report to their office and when she refused, six armed NISS officers were sent to collect her from her house. She was later released at 11 pm.

All three individuals report to NISS offices every day at around 8 am, they are kept in different rooms and are released between 11pm and midnight. They spend the whole day in the NISS office with occasional questioning on the activities of the SCP and sometimes they asked to identify people in videos and photographs. They are allowed to pray in the mosque in NISS office. The SCP has been holding public gatherings in Khartoum state and North Kordofan state in which they discuss the situation in Sudan including state policies and the armed conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Amnesty International has documented an increase in the daily summoning of individuals by NISS as a tactic to avoiding due process and curtailing their movements.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Urging the Sudanese authorities to immediately inform Khalid Omer Yousif, Magdi Okasha Amed and Widad Abdelrahman Derwish the reasons for their arrest and the restrictions on their freedom of movement;
- Urging them to either charge the three with an internationally recognizable criminal offence or else lift the restrictions on their freedom of movement, including the requirement to show up at the NISS office every day;
- Reminding them of their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Sudan is a state party, to respect the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 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

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, 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.

**AMNESTY
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received numerous reports since the end of Sudan's general elections in April 2015 that the NISS crackdown on activities of political opposition groups and civil society has intensified.

In May 2015, 12 members of the opposition Sudanese Congress Party (SCP) were detained by the NISS. Four members of the SCP were charged with criminal offences including capital offences under the 1991 Penal Code 'complicity to execute a criminal agreement', 'undermining the constitutional system' and calling for 'opposition of the public authority by violence or criminal force'. Other SCP members Asim Omer Hassan, Ibrahim Mohammed Zain and Mastoor Ahmed were on 6 June sentenced to 20 lashes for participating in activities supporting the boycotting of the April 2015 general elections. Amnesty International also documented the arrest and detention of Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman, an activist and member of the Sudanese Congress Party.

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. 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, which accorded sweeping powers to the NISS giving it unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues, have exacerbated the situation.

Name: Khalid Omer Yousif (m), Magdi Okasha Amed (m) and Widad Abdelrahman Derwish (f)

Gender m/f: both

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