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Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Special Procedures Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
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SUDAN-ARREST AND TORTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS DR MUDAWI IBRAHIM ADAM AND HAFIZ IDRIS ELDOMA

Dear Chair and Special Rapporteurs,

As you may be aware, the prominent Sudanese human rights defender (HRD), Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, and his colleague, Hafiz Idris Eldoma, were arrested on 24 November 2016 and 7 December 2016 respectively in Khartoum, Sudan.

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam is a HRD known for bringing attention to human rights violations in Sudan. A professor of engineering at the University of Khartoum, he is also a founder and former director of the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO). Dr Mudawi has been arrested several times in relation to his human rights work. He was most recently arrested on 7 December 2016 by the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and has been detained without charge till 11 May 2016.

Dr Mudawi suffers from chronic respiratory and heart complications. He went on hunger strike on 21 January 2017 to protest against his prolonged detention without charge. Around mid-February 2017, after agreeing to stop the hunger strike, he was transferred to the office of the Sudanese State Security Prosecutor. He was allowed to meet his family only in late January 2017 and spoke to his lawyer for the first time on 22 February 2017.

Hafiz Edris Eldoma, a HRD from North Darfur, was arrested by the NISS from Dr Mudawi's home in Khartoum on 24 November 2016. He was subjected to severe beatings and electric shocks by the NISS in detention and was forced to make a confession about his work on human rights monitoring.

The government considers any reporting on human rights by an independent human rights organizations (especially national NGOs) as a criminal offence. In previous cases (TRACKs, the Pastors case), Amnesty International has documented charges under a number of provisions of the 1991 Penal Code, including Article 50 'Undermining the Constitutional System' and Article 51 'Waging War against the State,' with punishment for both charges being the death

penalty or life imprisonment. In addition, Article 53 'Espionage'; Article 64 'Inciting hatred against the State'; Article 65 'Being members of criminal and terrorist organizations'; and Article 66 'Dissemination of false information' have also been used. The latter four carry penalties ranging from six months to ten years in prison.

On 11 May 2017, the Attorney General charged Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Hafiz Edris Eldoma with a number of crimes under the 1991 Criminal Act.

We believe the detentions of Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Hafiz Edris Eldoma are connected to their peaceful exercise of their rights to the freedoms of expression, assembly and association. Amnesty International also considers Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam's arrest as a significant escalation in the crackdown on Sudanese HRDs and is concerned the authorities may continue to carry out further arrests of HRDs. A full list of other human rights defenders connected to the case of Dr Mudawi and the circumstances of their arrests is attached as an annex.

The cases referred to in this letter are just a few examples of a pattern in which the Government of Sudan targets HRDs, especially those from the region of Darfur.

Amnesty International urges you to call on the Sudanese authorities to drop all the charges against Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Hafiz Edris Eldoma, and to stop any further harassment of HRDs in Sudan.

Yours sincerely,

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Amnesty International