

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS' WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN AFTER ARREST

Two Sudanese activists Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman and Nasreen Ali Mustafa, were arrested by the National Intelligence Security Service (NISS) on 25 May. Their whereabouts are unknown and their families have not been allowed to visit them. Both are at risk of torture.

Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman, 51, a pharmacist, and the Secretary General of the Sudanese Consumer Protection Society (SCPS) and **Nasreen Ali Mustafa**, an activist, were arrested on 25 May by NISS officers and taken for interrogation in relation to sexual harassment and corruption claims made by the two on separate occasions.

Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman and Nasreen Ali Mustafa attended a symposium on sexual harassment organized by SCPS on 23 May. Nasreen Ali Mustafa, addressed the gathering and raised concerns about the alarmingly high number of unreported incidents of sexual harassment and abuse in some schools buses in Khartoum State. She urged families to speak out and raise the issue with the authorities. The symposium received considerable media coverage. A few days after the symposium, Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman gave an interview to a local newspaper in which he highlighted the rampant corruption in essential consumer goods alleging that high level government officials were involved.

On 25 May, both activists were arrested and the NISS confiscated the print runs of 10 newspapers in Khartoum. There is speculation that this could have been retribution for reporting on the SCPS event. The whereabouts of Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman and Nasreen Ali Mustafa remain unknown after they were taken by the NISS officers. They have not been allowed family visits or access to lawyers. There are credible fears that both may be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

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

- Calling on the authorities to reveal the whereabouts of Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman and Nasreen Ali Mustafa immediately;
- Urging the authorities to either charge them with an internationally recognizable offence or immediately and unconditionally release them;
- Calling on the authorities to give them access to lawyers of their own choosing and allow them visits from their families;
- Urging authorities to ensure that the two are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 JULY 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 of Justice

Mohamed Bushara Dousa
Ministry of Justice,
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum,
Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed
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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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 recent weeks more than 221 students from Darfur were arrested by NISS and the police after violent clashes between the National Congress Party student supporters and students from Darfur in five universities in Khartoum. 157 were released on bail after having been charged with various crimes. 37 students were injured.

Currently there are 12 members of the opposition Sudanese Congress Party (SCP) in detention. Four members of the SCP are facing criminal charges 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'. Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman is also an active 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. 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 recent constitutional amendments passed by Parliament on 5 January 2015, have exacerbated the situation. The constitutional amendments accorded sweeping powers to the NISS now has unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues.

The Sudanese Consumer Protection Society (SCPS) was formally established in 1998, it has been very vocal on consumer rights issues and corruption in regards to consumer goods. SCPS has been advocating for strong consumer protection legislation in Sudan.

Name: Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman (m) and Nasreen Ali Mustafa (f)
Gender m/f: both

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