

# URGENT ACTION

## BROTHERS CONVICTED, ONE FREED, ONE STILL HELD

Two activists, Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun and his brother Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun have been sentenced to six months and one year imprisonment respectively by a court in Khartoum, Sudan. Both were sentenced to time already served. Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun has been released while his brother will spend three more months in prison. The two have been in detention since their arrests on 14 December 2015 and 6 January respectively.

**Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun**, a 24-year-old activist and student at Omdurman Al Ahlia University was arrested and detained on 14 December 2015 by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) after he publicly confronted an NISS officer whom he believes tortured him in 2013 while he was in detention. The court, on 5 September sentenced him to six months and a fine of 10,000 Sudanese pounds (US\$1,647). The court was satisfied that the period he had served in detention was sufficient punishment and he was released immediately after the verdict was delivered.

**Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun**, an activist and a member of the opposition party, National Umma Party (NUP), was also sentenced on 5 September. The court sentenced him to one year imprisonment and fine of 20,000 Sudanese pounds (US\$3,294). He will spend three more months in prison. Erwa Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun was arrested by the NISS on 6 January in front of his house in Omdurman. He had been spearheading efforts to have his younger brother, Emad Al Sadig Ismael Hamdoun released from NISS custody.

The two activists had been charged by the Prosecutor in January with four offences under the 1991 Penal code, including those that carry the death penalty. The articles under which the charges fall include Article 50 'undermining the constitutional system', Article 57 'entering and photographing military areas', Article 66 'publication of false news', Article 157 'defamation' and Article 160 'abuse and insults'. Three additional offences were under Sudan's Informatics Crimes Act, Articles 10 'threats and extortion', Article 16 'Violation of religious beliefs or sanctity of private life' and Article 17 'defamation'.

Both Emad and Erwa El Sadig Ismael Hamdoun went on a five day hunger strike in January, demanding that authorities either release them or present them before a court of law to answer to the charges against them. Their trial started on 8 February 2016.

**No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.**

This is the first update of UA 277/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr54/3321/2016/en/>

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