

# URGENT ACTION

## DISCLOSE WHEREABOUTS OF TEN ARRESTED DOCTORS

The whereabouts of ten medical doctors remain unknown after being arrested by the Sudanese National Intelligence Service (NISS) between 30 October and 6 November. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. The ten were part of a group of 29 doctors arrested then released without charge on 29 October.

Ten Sudanese doctors were arrested by the NISS in Khartoum, between 30 October and 6 November after the Sudan Doctors Central Committee, an independent doctors union, announced a strike. The whereabouts of **Abdallah Gorushi, 28, Ahmad Alabwabi, 43, Hasan Karar, 30, Husam Alamin, 27, Jihad Abdel Monim, 29, Mohamed Abdullatif, 29, Mohamed Bashir Hilali, Mohamed Elmujtaba, 28, Nasir Shaga Nasir, 30, and Omar Ahmad Saleh, 29** remain unknown and they are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

The Sudan Doctors Central Committee had announced on 27 October that it would start a 48 hour strike on 1 November. This would be the second doctors' strike after a countrywide strike on 6 October which lasted eight days. The strike was called to demand that the government improve the overall health service in the country and honour a number of commitments made to doctors in October.

The ten doctors were part of a group of 29 doctors arrested by the NISS on 29 October and released on the same day. They were questioned by the NISS for several hours about their role and activities in relation to the strike and about their political affiliations. Abdallah Gorushi, Ahmad Alabwabi, Hasan Karar, Husam Alamin, Jihad Abdel Monim, Mohamed Abdullatif, Mohamed Bashir Hilali, Mohamed Elmujtaba, Nasir Shaga Nasir and Omar Ahmad Saleh were arrested again between 30 October and 6 November. The other 19 doctors who were released on 29 October are required to report every day to the NISS offices from 8am to 10pm.

The strike on 1 November took place in 60 hospitals across the country. The state minister of health described the strike in a public statement on 1 November as irresponsible and she said that the government would deal with it decisively.

### Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Urging the Sudanese authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Abdallah Gorushi, Ahmad Alabwabi, Hasan Karar, Husam Alamin, Jihad Abdel Monim, Mohamed Abdullatif, Mohamed Bashir Hilali, Mohamed Elmujtaba, Nasir Shaga Nasir and Omar Ahmad Saleh and release them immediately unless they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- Calling on them to ensure that the ten doctors are granted regular access to their family, medical treatment and the lawyer of their choice;
- Urging them to inform the 29 doctors of the reasons for their arrest and the restrictions on their freedom of movement;
- Urging them to either charge the 19 doctors with a recognizable criminal offence or else lift the restrictions on their freedom of movement, including the requirement to show up at the NISS offices every day.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 DECEMBER 2016 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 for 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.** HIS EXCELLENCY MR MOHAMMED ABDALLA ALI ELTOM  
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row St James's SW1A 1DD, 020 7839 8080, info@sudan-embassy.co.uk  
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Sudan Doctors Central Committee announced the first strike on 6 October that lasted for eight days. Their key demands were, among other things, the provision of free treatment for those critically ill and for children under five years; provision of suitable accident and emergency medical equipment in 22 hospitals; a presidential decree to activate the implementation of the Civil Service Law that protects doctors as civil servants; a presidential decree to enact a law to protect doctors and medical professionals while exercising their duty.

The doctors suspended the strike on 13 October for one week after meeting with the vice-president and the minister for health. The government agreed to fulfil the doctors' demands. The Sudan Doctors Central Committee declared on 27 October that the government failed to implement its commitments and that they would resume strike action for 48 hours on 1 November.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of an intensified NISS crackdown on the activities of political, students, civil society and trade union activists. 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 many have been subjected 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 2015 that accorded sweeping powers to the NISS have exacerbated the situation by providing it with unlimited discretion to interfere in political, economic and social issues.

UA: 251/16 Index: AFR 54/5107/2016 Issue Date: 8 November 2016