

URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION LEADER DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE

Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, deputy leader of Sudan's National Umma Party (NUP), was arrested on 11 August at Khartoum Airport. She is currently detained without charge in an unknown location.

Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was arrested on arrival at Khartoum Airport on 11 August having returned from Paris. She had attended a meeting between the NUP and the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), a coalition of armed opposition groups, resulting in a joint agreement between both parties. Her family learned of her arrest when they went to the airport to meet her on arrival and she did not appear. Her husband received a phone call from Mariam informing him that she had been arrested by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) as she left the plane and that she was now in detention.

The NISS has not informed Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's family of any charges against her. They have also not disclosed which of the detention facilities across Khartoum she is currently detained in. Her husband has visited the NISS headquarters on an almost daily basis to request information on her location and to apply for a visit, but has so far been unsuccessful. On 13 August the NISS did agree to send Mariam some tea, coffee and food provided by her family. The NISS personnel at the headquarters informed Mariam's family that not all of these items would reach her.

Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is the daughter of Sadiq al-Mahdi, the leader of the NUP. On 17 May Sadiq al-Mahdi was arrested and charged with undermining the Constitution after publicly criticizing human rights abuses against civilians in Darfur by a government-aligned militia called the Rapid Support Forces. He was released after a month in detention. Another opposition leader, Ibrahim al-Sheikh, was arrested on 8 June and remains in detention. In addition to releasing Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese authorities must end their harassment of members of the political opposition.

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

- Urging the authorities to either charge Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi with a recognizable offence or immediately and unconditionally release her;
- Asking them to disclose Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's current location and allow her family and a lawyer to visit her;
- Urging them to end arbitrary detentions and other forms of harassment against political opposition members peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 OCTOBER 2014 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
Email: moj@moj.gov.sd (please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamed
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
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In January 2014 President Omar al-Bashir announced plans to achieve peace in Sudan and protect constitutional rights through a 'national dialogue', open to participation by all parties and even armed movements. Many of Sudan's opposition parties oppose this dialogue. Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that such a dialogue would not be possible due to ongoing restrictions on Sudan's political opposition and on freedom of expression. General elections are scheduled to be held in Sudan in April 2015.

The meeting between the NUP and the SRF in Paris resulted in the "Paris Declaration", a joint statement calling for widespread reform in Sudan. The two parties declared that they would boycott any future general elections unless a transitional government is first put in place to "provide public freedoms" and end the ongoing conflicts in Sudan's Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan states. The ruling National Congress Party refuses to recognise the Paris Declaration.

Ibrahim El Sheikh, a leading member of the Sudanese Congress Party, has been in detention since 8 June. He was arrested after a public event in Al Nuhud, West Kordofan, in which he denounced attacks on civilians in Sudan's South Kordofan and Darfur states by the Rapid Support Forces, a militia aligned with the government (please see UA 206/14: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/018/2014/en> for his case).

Name: Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi

Gender m/f: f

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