



NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 2013

BY AIRMAIL

HE Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir

Office of the President

People's Palace

PO Box 281

Khartoum,

SUDAN

Email: info@sudan.gov.sd

10 December 2014

Subject: Arrest of human rights lawyers Mr. Dr. Amin Makki Madani and Mr. Farug Abu Eisa

Your Excellency,

The Dutch Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation (*'Stichting Advocaten voor Advocaten'*) hereby expresses its grave concern regarding the arrest of human rights lawyers Amin Makki Madani and Farug Abu Eisa by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) in Sudan.

These two lawyers travelled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to attend peace negotiations between the Sudanese opposition parties and armed movements, in order to discuss a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict in Sudan. On 3 December 2014, the parties to these negotiations signed an agreement on behalf of the participating civil society organizations, named the "Sudan Call", aiming at bringing democracy to Sudan and to bring an end to the war.

Shortly after their return from Addis Ababa, Mr. Madani and Mr. Eisa were arrested. With regard to Mr. Madani, a 76-year old man, there are specific concerns in relation to his health. Lawyers for Lawyers calls on the Sudanese Government to unconditionally release these detainees. More in general, Lawyers for Lawyers urges the Sudanese authorities to put an end to the harassment of human rights lawyers.

We would like to draw your attention to the implementation of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. In particular in this case the applicability of paragraphs 16 and 17 of these Basic Principles. According to paragraph 16, the government is under an obligation *"to ensure that lawyers are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference"*. Paragraph 17 states that *"where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities"*.



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It follows from paragraph 23 that "Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization."

These principles are universally applicable. Therefore, your government is under an obligation to adequately protect and support its lawyers.

In view of the above, Lawyers for Lawyers respectfully urges you to:

- i. Ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Amin Makki Madani and Farug Abu Eisa, and to drop all charges against them;
- ii. Ensure their personal and professional safety and to enable them to carry out their professional duties while not being intimidated, restricted or hindered in doing so; and
- iii. Guarantee under all circumstances that human rights lawyers in Sudan are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

We would like to thank you for your attention for this very important matter. We are confident of your good will and sense of justice and will continue to closely monitor this case.

On behalf of the President of Lawyers for Lawyers, Phon van den Biesen,

Sincerely,

Lawyers for Lawyers

Adrie van de Streek
Executive Director of Lawyers for Lawyers