

ORDRE DES AVOCATS

A LA
COUR DE PARIS

Le Bâtonnier

President of Sudan
Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
P.O. Box 281
Khartoum, Soudan

info@sudan.gov.sd

Département des
Relations Internationales
Téléphone : 01 44 32 49 43
Télécopie : 01 44 32 49 15
asouleliac@avocatparis.org

Paris, March 13, 2015

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Paris Bar which represents about 26,000 lawyers, I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding human rights lawyers Dr Farouk Abu Eissa and Dr Amin Mekki Madani who are being arbitrarily detained and risk the death penalty for politically motivated charges.

Dr Eissa and Dr Medani were arrested by National Intelligence and Security Services from their homes in Khartoum on 6 December 2014. Their arrests are believed to be connected to their participation in the "Sudan Call" political negotiations held in early December in Addis Ababa. The negotiations brought together Sudanese political and armed opposition groups which peacefully expressed their beliefs in favour of democratic principles and peace and security in war struck Sudan.

On 10 January 2015, the two men were charged under articles 50 (undermining the constitutional system) and 51 (waging war against the state) of the 1991 Sudanese Penal Code. Both charges carry the death penalty. The Penal Code, which forbids such a sentence for anyone above the age of 70, cannot lawfully be applied to Drs. Eissa and Medani who are 78 and 75 respectively.

The arbitrary arrest and detention of Dr. Medani and Mr. Eissa is in violation of their right to liberty, freedom of expression, and the rights and freedoms guaranteed to human rights defenders. The circumstances of their detention also raise concerns over the right to be free from ill-treatment or torture given their fragile physical condition and lack of access to appropriate medical care.

In light of the urgency of the situation, I respectfully request you to grant the immediate and unconditional release of Dr Eissa and Dr Medani.

I equally urge you to allow the lawful exercise of their right to the freedom of expression as guaranteed under Sudan's Interim National Constitution (INC), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Yours sincerely,



Pierre-Olivier Sur