

From the President

President of the Republic of Sudan
President HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum
Sudan

18 December 2014

Dear Mr President

Dr Amin Mekki Medani- Lawyer at risk

The Law Society is the professional body representing more than 145,000 solicitors in England and Wales. Its concerns include upholding the independence of the legal profession, the rule of law and human rights throughout the world.

The Law Society is concerned for the distinguished human rights lawyer Dr Amin Mekki Medani, current President of the Sudan Human Rights Monitor who, together with Farouq Abu Eissa, has been arbitrarily arrested and detained following his signing of the Sudan Call in Addis Ababa on 3 December 2014. It has been reported that Dr Amin Mekki Medani was arrested at his home in Khartoum just before midnight on 6 December 2014 and is currently being detained in an unknown location. We understand that nearly two weeks after his arrest, no charges have been brought against Dr Mekki.

The document co-signed by Dr Mekki Medani before his arrest commits signatories to "*dismantle the one-party state regime and replace it with a state founded on equal citizenship through daily popular struggle*" and aims to end wars and conflicts in Sudan, encouraging legal and institutional reforms to protect human rights. We understand that it is his support of this document which has led to the arrest of Dr Mekki Medani.

This concerns us because it appears that Dr Mekki Medani may be currently detained, without charge, as a result of his efforts to protect human rights in Sudan, impeding his work as a human rights campaigner and threatening his right to freedom of expression. In addition to this, there are serious concerns as to the health of Dr Mekki Medani since he is 76 years of age, is on medication for diabetes and suffers from high blood pressure. We have been informed that his request to take his medication with him when he was arrested was refused.

We recall that Sudan became party to the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1986 and we would draw your attention to Article 19 of the ICCPR which provides that:

Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing

or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

In addition the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998 states that:

Article 12

1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

With regard to Dr Mekki Medani's need for medication and the subsequent denial of such medication, we would refer you to Principles 1 and 24 of the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (1988) which state:


1. All persons under any form of detention or imprisonment shall be treated in a humane manner and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

24. A proper medical examination shall be offered to a detained or imprisoned person as promptly as possible after his admission to the place of detention or imprisonment, and thereafter medical care and treatment shall be provided whenever necessary. This care and treatment shall be provided free of charge.

On behalf of the Law Society, I respectfully urge that, unless there are valid legal charges underlying his continued detention, Dr Mekki Medani should be immediately released. If such valid legal charges are present, then Dr Mekki Medani should be given the opportunity to face these charges before a judge and given the due process protections he is entitled to.

In addition, I urge that the safety of Dr Mekki Medani is immediately guaranteed and he is granted access to his medication, medical assistance and his family.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Caplen
President

Direct Line: 020 7320 5603
Direct Fax: 020 7320 5759
andrew.caplen@lawsociety.org.uk

Copies to:
Mohammed Bushara Dousa
Minister of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum
Sudan