



URGENT APPEAL

SAF ARRESTED MR. ALI HAJO IN AL-KURMUK, SUDAN

On 28th May 2024, the Sudan Armed Force (SAF) in Al-Kurmuk town arrested Mr. Ali Hajo while he was traveling to Ethiopia. He was accused of going to attend TAGADOM conference. Since then, he has been held incommunicado. This raised fear that he could be undergoing torture.

On 28th May 2024, Mr. Ali Hajo arrived at Al-Kurmuk town from Damazin city, he was on his way to Ethiopia by road. On arrival, he passed by the Sudan Armed Force - Military Intelligence (SAF-MI) office to get the permission to cross the border to Ethiopia, because this is one of the measures imposed by the security of Sudan for the cross-border movement between the two countries.

Mr. Hajo was subsequently arrested by SAF-MI at the MI office and since then, he has been detained at the military garrison in Al-Kurmuk. Nobody has been permitted to visit him. This raised fear among his family and friends that he could be undergoing torture.

A reliable source in Al-Kurmuk informed HUDO Centre that; *'the cause of Hajo arrest that SAF-MI believes he was on his way to attend the founding conference of TAGADOM in Adiss Ababa which was going on by then'*.

HUDO Centre is concerned about the safety of civilians in Sudan during this difficult period of fighting between SAF and RSF and calls for the following:

- The Sudan Armed Forces in Blue Nile to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Ali Hajo and any other civilians that could be under their detention.
- The commander of SAF in Blue Nile State to investigate the circumstance behind Mr. Hajo arrest and make the findings public.
- SAF in Blue Nile to respect the freedom of movement.
- The Sudan Armed Forces to stop the arrest of civilians.



HUDO Centre

Additional information:

Mr. Ali Hajo (40 years old), is a government employee, political activist and a resident of Damazin city in Blue Nile State. Damazin is the capital of Blue Nile state. Al-Kurmuk is a Sudanese town located in Blue Nile state at the border with Ethiopia.

Mr. Ali Hajo has been regularly arrested by the security agencies. The last time he was arrested was on 26th January 2023, and basing on emergency order he was sentenced to three (3) months imprisonment without appearing before court and sent to Roseries prison. He was later released on 25th April 2023. This arrest and imprisonment was because of an article he posted on his Facebook page criticizing the appointment of a former SAF/MI commandant in Blue Nile as a head of the reconciliations committee in Blue Nile. In his article, he stated how the commander was responsible for torturing students and activists in Blue Nile during Omer Al-Bashir's regime and Mr. Hajo was one of his victims.

Reporting to SAF-MI office and presenting your national number is one of the immigration regulations imposed on the civilians by authorities in Sudan to permit them to cross the border to Ethiopia by road. On many occasions, people are denied permission to cross or arrested for no good reason.

TAGADOM is an abbreviation for the Arabic name of The Coordination Body of The Democratic Civil Forces whom had conducted a conference in Adis Ababa from 26th to 30th May 2024.

The violated rights: Personal freedom, freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and association

- Articles 46, 58 and 60 of the Constitutional Document 2019.
- Articles 6, 11 and 12 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.
- Articles 9, 12 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Articles 9, 13 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.