Mr. Mohammed Bushara Dousa
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Al Nil Avenue, P.O Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

Copy to:
Mahdi Ibrahim Mohamed
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan
2210 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Date: _____

Dear Minister:

Abuzar Al Amin, deputy editor-in-chief of the *Rai Al Shaab* newspaper, was arrested in May 2010, in relation to articles that he had published in *Rai Al Shaab*. These included an analysis of the results of the April 2010 presidential and parliamentary elections, and an article suggesting that an Iranian weapons factory had been built in Sudan. The next day, National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) agents raided and closed down the newspaper office.

On July 14, 2010, Abuzar Al Amin was convicted and sentenced to five years for allegedly undermining the Constitution and publishing false news. In May 2011, the Supreme Court reduced his five-year sentence to one year, with his release date marked for July 3. But two weeks before that date, new claims were brought against him by the NISS, so when he was released from prison he was transferred to the Office of the Prosecutor to await trial on charges — including criminal conspiracy and undermining the constitution — that appeared to be politically motivated.

Amnesty International believes that the charges against Abuzar Al Amin should be dismissed and that he should be allowed to continue his work as a journalist.

While we welcome the release of Abuzar Al Amin, we call for the July 2011 charges against him to be dropped, and we urge removal of all current restrictions on freedom of expression that are not in conformity with Sudan's obligations to respect and protect human rights.

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