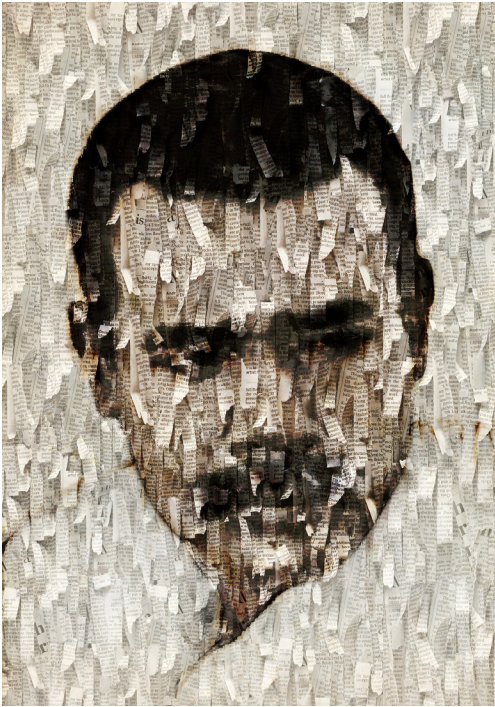


SUDAN

Abuzar Al Amin

detained newspaper editor*



Graphic design: Clinton Francis © Amnesty International

Abuzar Al Amin, deputy editor-in-chief of *Rai Al Shaab* newspaper, was arrested in May 2010, in relation to articles that were published in *Rai Al Shaab*. These included an analysis of the results of the April 2010 presidential & 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; *Rai Al Shaab* has been suspended ever since.

On 14 July 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 3 July. 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.

Abuzar Al Amin has filed a claim against the NISS for torture and other ill-treatment while he was in prison.

On 6 February 2011, two colleagues who had been arrested at the same time as Abuzar Al Amin were released; their sentences had been reduced from two years to nine months.

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.

***Prisoner of conscience Abuzar Al Amin
was released on bail on 22 August 2011.**

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

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

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

Salutation: *Dear Minister*

Airmail postage abroad: 98¢

Salutation: *Your Excellency*



Amnesty International
focuses on preventing and ending
grave abuses of the rights
to physical & mental integrity,
freedom of conscience
& expression,
and freedom from discrimination,
while promoting all human rights.

Our particular concern during Banned Books Week is to draw attention to writers, editors, librarians, publishers and readers who suffer human rights violations because of their work.

from the
**Universal Declaration
of Human Rights**

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience . . .

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information & ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 27

. . . Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. . . .

All of these letters and signatures were extremely important in keeping Tissa's case alive and finally bringing about his release. We urge all of you to continue your good work so that others who are wrongly held will be able to survive.

Ronnate Tissainayagam,
wife of former Sri Lanka prisoner of conscience J.S. ("Tissa") Tissainayagam,
freed in June 2010

**Banned Books Week 2011
IMPORTANT NOTES:**

Please do not attempt to write directly to a prisoner; in some countries there might be reprisals. Experience shows that the rarity of replies from governments does not mean our letters are being ignored. If someone does receive a reply, please send a copy to the AI address on the other side (top) of this page.