



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

*" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "*

## COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE - COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

4 March 2004

IMMEDIATE

P  
R  
E  
S  
S  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

### **Sudan: Arbitrary Arrest and Incommunicado Detention of Human Rights Lawyer**

The Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers of the ICJ called on the Sudanese Government to either bring charges or release a human rights lawyer currently held in incommunicado detention and to allow him to communicate with his family and to receive legal representation.

Mr Salih Mahmoud Osman was arrested by members of the National Security Agency (NSA) on 1 February. He has been kept in incommunicado detention since then, first at the NSA headquarters in Wad Medani and, from 3 February onward, at an undisclosed location in Khartoum.

"Unless the Sudanese authorities charge him with a criminal offence and bring him before an independent and impartial tribunal, Mr. Osman must be immediately released" said Linda Besharaty-Movaed, ICJ/CIJL Legal Advisor. "The grounds for his arrest and detention, as well as his location, must urgently be made public, and he must be allowed to communicate with his lawyer".

Even though the reason of Mr. Osman's arrest and detention are not known, there is reason to believe they are linked to his provision of legal aid to detainees facing capital punishment and victims of human rights abuses in Darfur province, the site of an ongoing internal armed conflict. Both parties to the conflict have been accused of committing several human rights abuses in this province and the rest of the country, including the capital Khartoum.

*For more information, please contact José Zeitune, Lawyer, at +41 22 979 3812*

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

81A, avenue de Châtelaine, P.O. Box 216, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: +41(0) 22 979 3800 – Fax: +41(0) 22 979 3801 – Website: <http://www.icj.org> - E-mail: [info@icj.org](mailto:info@icj.org)