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January 7, 2012

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

Your Excellency:

I am writing to express my grave concern over the arbitrary arrest and detention of Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma. He was initially arrested on June 25, at his home in Omdurman. A judge ordered his release on 14 August, however, Bushra was immediately re-arrested by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma remains in detention in Kober prison, Khartoum. He is being held without charge or trial, and he has been denied access to a lawyer.

Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma's health is at severe risk while he remains in prison. Since his arrest, he has participated in two hunger strikes to protest his detention. He began the most recent on October 10 when the NISS did not fulfill their promise to either charge or release him on October 9. Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma suffers from several health conditions, and his continued imprisonment poses a great risk to his welfare, particularly given the additional strain of his hunger strikes.

Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma is ethnically Nuban. His arrest and detention coincides with a recent string of arrests by Sudanese authorities, targeting intellectuals, activists, and others who appear to be Nuban, due to their perceived affiliation with the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). This pattern must be brought to an end.

I respectfully urge you to grant Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma immediate access to his lawyer, and to either charge him with a recognizable criminal offense or release him immediately. I further call on you to ensure that Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated while he remains in detention.

I thank you for your attention to this serious matter, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding its resolution.

Sincerely,

Copy to:

Minister of Interior
Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Hamed
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, SUDAN