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Saudi Arabia: Sudanese human rights defender Husham Ali Mohammad Ali threatened with deportation to Sudan

On 8 May 2018, Sudanese human rights defender **Husham Ali Mohammad Ali** informed his family that the Saudi authorities have begun deportation procedures against him to send him to Sudan, where he will be prosecuted for his human rights work. The human rights defender has been held in detention in Saudi Arabia since he was arrested in November 2017 at the request of the Sudanese authorities.

[Husham Ali Mohammad Ali](#) is a 46-year-old Sudanese blogger and human rights defender. He has contributed to various online forums and news websites and has been vocal about corruption and the practice of torture in Sudan. He has also been an advocate of Sudan's civil disobedience, which began in late 2016 and included the stay-at-home strikes, to protest government austerity and corruption. The human rights defenders has lived in Saudi Arabia since 2010 and had been working as an accountant.

On 8 May Husham Ali Mohammad Ali informed his brother via phone from Al-Shumaisi Detention Centre outside Jeddah that on 2 May the Saudi authorities began procedures to deport him to Sudan. He said that the authorities had forced him to sign his deportation memorandum as a wanted detainee.

Husham Ali Mohammad Ali was arrested by members of the Saudi General Security on 18 November 2017 at his apartment in Jeddah. His laptop and phones were confiscated during his arrest. The human rights defender was subjected to incommunicado detention and solitary confinement until January 2018. It was during an interrogation that he came to know that his detention was carried out at the request of the Sudanese authorities.

Front Line Defenders is concerned for the safety of Husham Ali Mohammad Ali, who is at serious risk of deportation to Sudan where he would be prosecuted. Front Line Defenders condemns his ongoing detention, which it believes it to be solely connected to his legitimate and peaceful work in promoting and protecting human rights in Sudan.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Saudi Arabia to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Husham Ali Mohammad Ali and ensure that he is not deported to Sudan as Front Line Defenders believes that he is being held solely as a result of his legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Husham Ali Mohammad Ali and ensure that his treatment, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the 'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment', adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;

3. Ensure that Husham Ali Mohammad Ali has immediate and unfettered access to his families and lawyer.