



Cairo, 3 July, 2014

Urgent Statement

The Arabic Network for Media Crisis denounces the continuous detention of Hassan Essaq

The Arab Network for Media Crisis denounces the continuation of detention of Hassan Isaac by the Sudanese authority and expresses its deep concern over his being brutally tortured by the police; it also confirms the authorities' responsibility for his safety.

Isaac (31) years old was arrested by the detective police on the tenth of June, from inside El-Nihud city market and during his performance of his duties as a journalist. He was detained and interrogated after the publication of an interview with Ibrahim El-Sheikh, the leader of the Sudanese Congress Party, following a field visit he carried out with the members of his party to residents in North and South Kordofan States, whereas he accused the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of looting, killing and spreading of fear and anxiety among civilians, which has resulted in his detention.

The Arabic Network for Media Crisis demands the prompt release of Isaac, and does not see any justification for that arrest, as he did not commit any offense that puts him in detention throughout this period. It is clear that the authorities are responsible for his safety, especially after the deterioration of his health due to the torture and the hunger strike he is on in protest against that arrest. The Arabic Network for Media Crisis demands conducting of a fair investigation on the causes of torture committed by the police elements, as well as publication of the investigation results and giving him the legal right to sue those who have tortured him. It worth mentioning that the Police, according to the constitution, are a national apparatus, part of its

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tasks is to maintain security, stability and protection of citizens and their safety.

Isaac's detention is affront violation to human rights covenants ratified by Sudan Government, it also contradicts with Sudan's constitution as stipulated in Article 39 (1) "Every citizen shall have an unrestricted right to the freedom of expression, reception and dissemination of information, publication, and access to the press without prejudice to order, safety or public morals as determined by law." and Article 39 (2) "The State shall guarantee the freedom of the press and other media as shall be regulated by law in a democratic society."

The regime talks about press freedoms and lifting of "pre- censorship" on press, last April, as a prelude to a comprehensive dialogue shared by all political forces to reach solutions for the country's crises, is denied in reality; and that confirms the regime's lack of seriousness in dealing with the situation, whilst on the contrary to that it, it aggravates the situation, where the talks about dialogue has become a sign raised by the regime to continue its suppression through closure and confiscation of newspapers.

The Arabic Network for Media Crisis observes the vicious attack carried out by the Sudanese security on public freedoms, freedom of opinion and expression. Especially by targeting newspapers and journalists and imposing of more restrictions and postponement of some newspapers, as well as prohibiting some journalists from writing. Those factors were the direct cause, why Sudan rank is in the bottom of the list of World Press Freedom Index.

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