

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

ABDELWAHAB AHMED MOHAMED HASHEM "BOB"

«عبد الوهاب أحمد محمد هاشم «بوب

At liberty **Sudan**

HuMENA

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Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem, known to friends and colleagues as Bob, leads the Workers' Coordination Committee in North Kordofan, advocating for public employees amid Sudan's civil war. He was taken from his office in September 2025 and released without charge in late December 2025.

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem, known to friends and colleagues as Bob, leads the Workers' Coordination Committee in North Kordofan, advocating for public employees amid Sudan's civil war. He was taken from his office in September 2025 and released without charge in late December 2025.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**23 Sep 2025**
COUNTRY	**Sudan**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/abdelwahab-ahmed-mohamed-hashem-bob/

02

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Denial of family visits	UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 58
Denial of legal counsel	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)
Enforced disappearance	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Article 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 9, 16
Prolonged pretrial detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)

03

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

23 September 2025

ARREST

Arrested by SAF Intelligence in Al-Obeid

Officers from the SAF General Intelligence Service arrested Bob at his office in Al-Obeid, North Kordofan. His family and colleagues were not informed.

13 October 2025

REAPPEARANCE IN CUSTODY

Whereabouts disclosed: transferred to prison

After three weeks of enforced disappearance, information emerged that Bob had been transferred to Al-Obeid Central Prison.

14 October 2025

CALL BY OTHERS

Son issues public statement

Bob's son made a public statement confirming the arrest on 23 September and the period of incommunicado detention that followed.

24 November 2025

UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES COMMUNICATION

UN experts write to Sudan about his detention without charge

December 2025

RELEASE

Released without charge

He was released after about three months in detention without charge. He was reported to be in poor health and under surveillance.

04

THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem, widely known as Bob, is a trade union leader from North Kordofan, a Sudanese region whose governance has been disputed and fractured by the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces since April 2023. He serves as head of the Workers' Coordination Committee, an independent structure representing public sector employees established after the repeal of the 2010 Trade Unions Act. The Committee was formed to defend workers' rights in a climate where traditional union structures had been dismantled or co-opted.

Bob's advocacy has focused on labour rights, fair wages, and the political independence of union activity. In September 2025, he recorded an audio message for a private professional group in which he discussed the situation facing the trade union movement in North Kordofan. He affirmed the legitimacy of the Workers' Coordination Committee and raised alarm about the non-payment of salaries to public sector workers for sixteen months. He insisted that workers' rights and dignity must be respected and that demands for overdue wages should not be met with intimidation or political retaliation. He had also objected to the governor handing the union council back to its old leadership elected in 2015.

The Arrest and Enforced Disappearance

On 23 September 2025, officers from the SAF General Intelligence Service arrested Bob at his office in Al-Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan. Authorities did not inform his family or colleagues of his detention. For more than three weeks, his whereabouts remained unknown. His disappearance fits a wider pattern of enforced disappearances targeting trade union leaders and human rights defenders across Sudan since the escalation of armed conflict.

On 13 October 2025, information emerged that Bob had been transferred to Al-Obeid Central Prison. The following day, his son issued a public statement confirming the arrest and the period of enforced disappearance. At that point, Bob had been held incommunicado for more than three weeks without charge, without access to legal counsel, and without family visits.

Detention Conditions and Legal Status

Bob was interrogated at least twice during his detention, but no formal charges were filed against him. His detention without charge violated both Sudanese law and international human rights standards. The prolonged incommunicado nature of his detention raised serious concerns about his health, his safety, and the risk of ill-treatment or torture while in custody.

He was released without charge in late December 2025, after about three months in detention. While held, he was denied due process guarantees, including the right to be informed of any charges, the right to legal representation, and the right to communicate with his family. His detention appeared to be

punitive rather than judicial, linked directly to the circulation of his audio message about workers' rights and overdue salaries.

Context and Pattern of Repression

Bob's case is part of a broader campaign of repression against trade union leaders in Sudan. Since the outbreak of war in April 2023, governance in many regions has been militarized and civic space has been systematically suppressed. Trade unionists, in particular, have faced harassment, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance for peaceful advocacy. The arrest of Bob and others reflects the authorities' intolerance of independent voices demanding accountability and economic justice during a time of acute crisis.

The militarization of governance in contested regions like North Kordofan has created an environment in which security forces operate with impunity. Workers advocating for unpaid wages or defending the independence of union structures are increasingly treated as security threats rather than as legitimate social actors. Bob's detention underscores the risks facing those who continue to advocate for labour rights in Sudan's current conflict.

05

SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob”, trade union leader; head of the Workers' Coordination Committee representing public sector employees in North Kordofan in Sudan, who has been released. I am writing to ask that the case be closed properly and that no further reprisal follows.

In brief: Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem, known to friends and colleagues as Bob, leads the Workers' Coordination Committee in North Kordofan, advocating for public employees amid Sudan's civil war. He was taken from his office in September 2025 and released without charge in late December 2025.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Drop any charges that remain on record against Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal;
4. Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

I will continue to follow this case until the record against Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem “Bob” is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
8 November 2026