

Advocacy dossier

Ameira Osman Hamid

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At liberty **Sudan**

Ameira Osman Hamid, an engineer and women's rights defender, was arrested from her home in January 2022 by plain-clothed security officers weeks after the military coup. She was released on bail in February.

01

The case at a glance

Ameira Osman Hamid, an engineer and women's rights defender, was arrested from her home in January 2022 by plain-clothed security officers weeks after the military coup. She was released on bail in February.

Status	Arrested	Country
At liberty	**20 Jan 2022**	**Sudan**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Ameira Osman Hamid in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Ameira Osman Hamid faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Ameira Osman Hamid can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

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

02

Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

Arbitrary detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9

Denial of medical care UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rules 24 to 27

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

Judicial harassment UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12

Threats and intimidation UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

03

How the case unfolded

2002

Conviction

Convicted and fined for wearing trousers

Ameira Osman was convicted under the public order provisions of Article 152 of the Criminal Code for wearing trousers and had to pay a fine.

27 August 2013

Arrest

Detained by the Public Order Police for not covering her hair

The Public Order Police detained her in Jabal Awliya for refusing to wear a headscarf.

27 August 2013

Charge filed

Charged with indecent dress, punishable by flogging

She was charged with indecent dress under Article 152 of the Criminal Code, which carries up to 40 lashes. Her trial was postponed several times; in June 2014 she still faced the charge.

27 August 2013

Conditional release

Released on bail the same day

She was released on bail after about four hours in custody.

2022

Award or recognition

Front Line Defenders Award laureate

Ameira Osman was named a laureate of the 2022 Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk.

20 January 2022

Arrest

Arrested at home by plain-clothed officers

Around thirty plain-clothed security officers raided Ameira's home in Khartoum at 11:30 PM without presenting identification or an arrest warrant. She was taken to an unknown location and not permitted to bring her walking aid or medication.

6 February 2022

Conditional release

Released on bail

Ameira was released from detention on bail. The legal basis for her arrest and any charges filed have not been publicly disclosed.

04

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked against current sources. Ameira Osman Hamid has been free since her release on bail on 6 February 2022, and no later arrest or prosecution has been reported. In October 2026 Radio Dabanga quoted her, as head of the No to Oppression against Women Initiative, on the first phase of a feminist justice campaign.

Background and Work

Ameira Osman Hamid is a Sudanese engineer and the founder of the No to Women Oppression Initiative, established in 2009. The Initiative focused on defending women's rights and building collective responses to gender-based violations in Sudan. Its campaigns targeted the Public Order Law, a legal framework used for decades to police women's appearance, behaviour, and public participation. Women were flogged, fined, and detained under the law for wearing trousers, working in certain professions, or moving through public spaces without male guardianship.

In 2002 she was convicted and fined under the public order provisions for wearing trousers, and in August 2013 the Public Order Police detained her and charged her with indecent dress for refusing to cover her hair. Ameira and the Initiative provided legal support, organised public advocacy, and built coalitions with other civil society organisations. The work was sustained, methodical, and deeply rooted in communities of women who had been targeted by the law. The Initiative also responded to emerging threats, including violence against women protesters during the 2018 to 2019 revolution and the period of transitional governance that followed.

The Arrest

On the night of 20 January 2022 at approximately 11:30 PM, a convoy of vehicles carrying around thirty plain-clothed security officers raided Ameira's home in Khartoum. No official identification was presented. No arrest warrant was shown to the family. The officers entered the house and conducted an aggressive search. Family members, including children, were present and witnessed the raid.

Ameira was taken from the house to an unknown location. Her family was not informed where she was being held or under what charges. She is partially paralysed and requires a walking aid for mobility. She also requires regular medication. She was not allowed to take either the walking aid or her medication when the officers removed her.

Detention and Health

Her family expressed immediate concern for her health. Her partial paralysis requires ongoing physical support and medication to manage pain and mobility. The conditions of her detention and whether she received medical care during her detention remain unclear. The intelligence service at first denied holding her; her family later learned that she was held in Omdurman women's prison.

Context and Release

Ameira's arrest took place three months after the military takeover of 25 October 2021, which ended Sudan's fragile transitional government. The coup triggered widespread protests and a campaign of

arrests targeting civil society activists, journalists, and women human rights defenders. In November 2021, woman human rights defender Sit Alnfor Ahmed was killed. Ameira had publicly condemned the killing and other human rights violations that followed the coup.

She was released on bail on 6 February 2022. The legal basis for her arrest and the charges, if any were formally filed, have not been publicly disclosed. Her case reflects the broader pattern of arbitrary detention and intimidation used against Sudan's civil society in the months following the coup.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/ameira-osman-hamid/

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