ADVOCACY DOSSIER

HAFIZ HARON

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At liberty **Sudan**

Hafiz Haron is a journalist who has reported on police violence in Sudan. When he tried to report a burglary, officers beat him, then charged him with threatening police. He was convicted and fined after hearings where only police testified.

HuMENA.

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Case reference HM-SD-2026-018

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Hafiz Haron is a journalist who has reported on police violence in Sudan. When he tried to report a burglary, officers beat him, then charged him with threatening police. He was convicted and fined after hearings where only police testified.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**23 May 2021**
COUNTRY	**Sudan**
SENTENCE	**One month in prison or a fine of 30,000 Sudanese pounds; fine paid by Al-Tayar newspaper and defendant released.**
CHARGES	**Threatening the police** **Hindering the police** **Causing public annoyance** **Undisclosed fourth charge**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Quash the conviction and drop any charges that remain on record against Hafiz Haron in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Hafiz Haron faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Hafiz Haron 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/hafiz-haron/

02

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Physical assault	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 7, 9
Press freedom violation	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19
Threats and intimidation	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Torture	Convention against Torture, Articles 1, 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 7
Unfair trial	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

03

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

20 May 2021

ARREST

Arrested after attempting to report burglary

Haron found a thief in his home and went to the local police station to file a complaint. When officers refused to log the report and Haron insisted, police arrested him and held him for approximately twelve hours, during which he was physically and verbally abused.

20 May 2021

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Released on condition of return

Haron was released after twelve hours in detention, sustaining injuries to his neck and ear that required hospitalisation. Police released him on condition that he present himself at the station again within days.

23 May 2021

RE-ARREST

Re-arrested after filing complaint against police

Haron went to the administrative police station to file a complaint against the officers who beat him on 20 May. When he refused police requests to withdraw the complaint, he was arrested again for approximately six hours and released on bail.

23 May 2021

CHARGE FILED

Charged with multiple offences

Following his second arrest, Haron was charged with threatening the police, hindering the police, and causing public annoyance. He reported that a fourth charge existed but was not disclosed to him.

23 May 2021

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Released on bail after six hours

After about six hours in custody he was released on bail.

2 June 2021

HEARING

First hearing; police witnesses testify

The first hearing took place before the Criminal Court of Khartoum Bahri Wasat. Two police officers appeared as prosecution witnesses against Haron.

16 June 2021

HEARING

Second hearing with additional police testimony

The second hearing was held before the same court. Additional police officers testified as witnesses against Haron.

8 August 2021

CONVICTION

Convicted by Criminal Court

The Criminal Court in Khartoum Bahry Wasat convicted Haron and sentenced him to one month in prison or a fine of 30,000 Sudanese pounds (approximately 58 euros).

8 August 2021

RELEASE

Released after newspaper pays fine

Al-Tayar newspaper paid the fine of 30,000 Sudanese pounds and Haron was released. He announced his intention to appeal the conviction before the Supreme Court.

04

THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Hafiz Haron works as a journalist for Al-Tayar, an independent newspaper in Sudan. His reporting centres on human rights violations in conflict-affected regions, particularly Darfur, where abuses have persisted for years with little accountability. A significant portion of his work documents police violence across Sudan, tracking cases of excessive force, unlawful detention, and impunity within security forces.

This focus on police conduct made Haron a familiar and unwelcome figure at local precincts. Officers subjected him to frequent stop-and-search operations, a form of low-level harassment that escalated dramatically in May 2021.

The Incident and Arrest

On 20 May 2021, Haron discovered a thief in his home in Khartoum Bahri. He went to the local police station to file a complaint and requested that officers detain the intruder. Police refused to log his complaint. When Haron persisted, officers arrested him and held him for approximately twelve hours.

During detention Haron was subjected to physical and verbal abuse. He sustained injuries to his neck and ear that required hospitalisation after his release. The police released him on condition that he present himself at the station again within days.

On 23 May Haron returned, this time to the administrative police station, to lodge a complaint against the officers who had beaten him. The police asked him to withdraw the complaint. When he refused, they arrested him for a second time, holding him for around six hours before releasing him on bail. On the same day they charged him with threatening the police, hindering the police, and causing public annoyance. Haron reported that a fourth charge existed but was not disclosed to him.

Legal Proceedings

The first hearing took place on 2 June 2021 before the Criminal Court of Khartoum Bahri Wasat. Two police officers appeared as witnesses for the prosecution. A second hearing followed on 16 June, at which additional police officers testified against Haron. The court scheduled a third hearing for 24 June to hear remaining witnesses and potentially deliver a verdict.

On 8 August 2021, the Criminal Court in Khartoum Bahry Wasat convicted Haron and sentenced him to one month in prison or a fine of 30,000 Sudanese pounds, approximately 58 euros at the time. Al-Tayar, the newspaper where Haron worked, paid the fine and he was released the same day. Haron stated publicly that he would challenge the conviction before the Supreme Court. The outcome of that appeal, and his situation since the war that began in April 2023, are not known.

The proceedings were marked by structural imbalance: only police officers testified as witnesses, and

the undisclosed fourth charge remained unaddressed throughout the hearings. The charges themselves, threatening and hindering police, arose directly from Haron's attempt to hold officers accountable for assaulting him.

Pattern of Harassment

The case against Haron formed part of a broader pattern of harassment targeting his work as a journalist documenting police abuses. Officers subjected him to frequent stop-and-search operations both before and after the trial, a form of continuous low-level intimidation familiar to reporters covering security forces in Sudan.

The retaliation for attempting to file a complaint against police misconduct illustrates the systemic obstacles facing those who document or challenge abuses by state actors. Haron's conviction effectively criminalised his refusal to withdraw a complaint of police violence, sending a clear deterrent message to others who might consider reporting similar incidents.

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SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Hafiz Haron, journalist with Al-Tayar newspaper; documents human rights violations in Darfur and police violence 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: Hafiz Haron is a journalist who has reported on police violence in Sudan. When he tried to report a burglary, officers beat him, then charged him with threatening police. He was convicted and fined after hearings where only police testified.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Quash the conviction and drop any charges that remain on record against Hafiz Haron in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Hafiz Haron faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Hafiz Haron 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 Hafiz Haron is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

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