

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

HISHAM ALI MOHAMMAD ALI

هشام علي محمد علي

At liberty **Sudan**

Sudanese blogger, detained in Saudi Arabia and Sudan from 2017 to 2019, stabbed in Addis Ababa in December 2025 in what appears to be a targeted attack. His passport remains invalid and Sudanese authorities refuse to renew travel documents for him and his family.

HuMENA.

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Sudanese blogger, detained in Saudi Arabia and Sudan from 2017 to 2019, stabbed in Addis Ababa in December 2025 in what appears to be a targeted attack. His passport remains invalid and Sudanese authorities refuse to renew travel documents for him and his family.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**Jul 2024**
COUNTRY	**Sudan**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Immediately end all transnational targeting of Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali, including surveillance, defamation campaigns, Interpol misuse, and consular harassment.

02 Withdraw any in-absentia convictions or politically motivated charges tied to peaceful human rights work.

03 Comply with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and OHCHR guidance on transnational repression.

04 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali and on any family members affected by the same order.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/hisham-ali-mohammad-ali/

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Denial of consular services	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Forced exile	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12(4)
Passport confiscation	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12(2)
Physical assault	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 7, 9
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
Transnational repression	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Travel ban	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

2016

DEFENDER ACTIVITY

Advocacy of civil disobedience begins

Hisham begins publicly supporting stay-at-home strikes in Sudan, protesting austerity, corruption, and human rights violations.

November 2017

ARREST

Detained in Saudi Arabia at Sudan's request

Saudi authorities detained him in Saudi Arabia, where he lived, at the request of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service.

2018

TRANSFER BETWEEN PLACES OF DETENTION

Deported to Sudan and held by NISS

Saudi Arabia deported him to Khartoum, where NISS agents detained him on arrival and held him incommunicado. Reports differ on the exact day of the deportation.

2018

CHARGE FILED

Referred to State Security Prosecution

He was referred to the State Security Prosecution on charges including crimes against the state, which can carry the death penalty.

July 2018

CONTEXT

Family reports torture in NISS custody

His family said he had been moved to hospital after being tortured in NISS custody.

14 April 2019

RELEASE

Released after the fall of al-Bashir

Sudan's Transitional Military Council ordered his release among a package of decisions taken after the fall of Omar al-Bashir.

July 2024

PASSPORT CONFISCATED OR NOT RENEWED

Passport and family documents invalidated

Following his arrest, Sudanese authorities refuse to renew Hisham's passport or those of his family, leaving them in legal limbo in Ethiopia.

July 2024

ARREST

Arrested in Ethiopia

Hisham is arrested in Addis Ababa, reportedly with involvement of the Sudanese embassy. He is later released but his passport is not renewed.

29 July 2024

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Released on personal bail

Ethiopian police released him on personal bail after about one day in custody. He continues to live in exile in Addis Ababa.

23 December 2025

ATTEMPTED KILLING

Stabbed in targeted attack

An unidentified assailant stabs Hisham twice in Addis Ababa at approximately 8:00 pm. Nothing is stolen; the attack appears targeted.

24 December 2025

CONTEXT

Police statement recorded

Police visit Hisham in hospital to record his statement and request he report to the station. The attacker's identity remains unknown.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali, who publishes under the names Husham Ali and Wad galeba, is a Sudanese blogger and human rights defender. He has contributed to a range of online forums and independent news websites, writing extensively on corruption, torture, and impunity in Sudan. His work has focused on the gap between official rhetoric and lived reality: the disappearances, the beatings in detention, the diversions of public funds.

He became a vocal supporter of the civil disobedience campaigns that began in late 2016, when Sudanese communities organised stay-at-home strikes to protest government austerity measures, human rights violations, and systemic corruption. These strikes prefigured the mass protests that would eventually topple Omar al-Bashir's regime in 2019, though the democratic transition they sought has since collapsed into renewed conflict.

In November 2017, Saudi Arabia, where he then lived, detained him at the request of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). In 2018 he was deported to Khartoum, where NISS held him incommunicado. His family said he was taken to hospital after being tortured in custody, and he was referred to the State Security Prosecution on charges including crimes against the state, which can carry the death penalty. He was released in April 2019, after the fall of Omar al-Bashir.

Since the outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023, Hisham has published articles opposing the conflict and criticising all armed parties, the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces, and allied militias. That editorial stance, refusing to align with any faction, has made him a target for multiple actors in the conflict.

Arrest and Passport Revocation

In July 2024, Hisham was arrested in Ethiopia. The circumstances of the arrest suggest coordination with the Sudanese embassy in Addis Ababa. He was later released, but his Sudanese passport has since expired, and Sudanese authorities have refused to renew travel documents for him or his family. The refusal leaves them in legal limbo, unable to travel onward or return, and vulnerable to further harassment.

Passport confiscation and refusal to renew documents are established tools of transnational repression, used by authoritarian states to immobilise dissidents abroad, restrict their access to asylum procedures, and maintain pressure on them and their families.

The Stabbing in Addis Ababa

On 23 December 2025, at approximately 8:00 pm, an unidentified man stopped Hisham on the street in

Addis Ababa and stabbed him twice with a knife. The assailant made no demands and took none of Hisham's belongings. The attack did not resemble a robbery or spontaneous street violence. The attacker fled immediately after the stabbing.

Hisham was transported to hospital and received urgent medical treatment. Initial reports raised concerns about critical injuries, but doctors later confirmed that he had not sustained internal abdominal injuries. He remains under medical supervision.

Police officers visited him in hospital to record a statement and requested that he report to the police station the following day. At the time of writing, the identity of the attacker and the motive for the assault remain officially unknown. No arrests have been announced.

Context and Risks

The stabbing follows a pattern of escalating pressure. Hisham had been arrested with apparent Sudanese embassy involvement in July 2024. His passport and those of his family were subsequently invalidated, stranding them in Ethiopia. He continued to publish criticism of all parties to the Sudanese conflict, making him a potential target for the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces, and aligned actors.

The attack occurred in a context of widespread transnational repression by Sudanese state and non-state actors. Sudanese dissidents in exile have been subjected to surveillance, threats, forced returns, family targeting, and physical violence. The targeted nature of the stabbing, the absence of any robbery motive, and the preceding passport revocation and arrest all point to a politically motivated assault.

Hisham remains in Ethiopia without valid travel documents, in a country where he has already been detained at the request of the Sudanese government, and where he has now been stabbed in what appears to be a targeted attack. His safety and that of his family remain in jeopardy.

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SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express grave concern about the ongoing transnational repression targeting human rights defender Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali, blogger and human rights defender; writes on corruption, torture, and civil disobedience in Sudan; vocal critic of all parties to the ongoing Sudanese conflict. The reach of state intimidation across borders, including against family members in Sudan, must end.

Sudanese authorities coordinated with their embassy in Ethiopia to arrest Hisham in July 2024, then refused to renew his and his family's passports, stranding them abroad. The December 2025 stabbing follows this pattern of cross-border pressure targeting a critic of all parties to Sudan's ongoing conflict.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Immediately end all transnational targeting of Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali, including surveillance, defamation campaigns, Interpol misuse, and consular harassment;
2. Withdraw any in-absentia convictions or politically motivated charges tied to peaceful human rights work;
3. Comply with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and OHCHR guidance on transnational repression;
4. Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali and on any family members affected by the same order.

I will continue to monitor this case until Hisham Ali Mohammad Ali's family and contacts in Sudan can live free from state reprisal.

Respectfully,

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