

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

IMTITHAL ABDELFADEEL

امتثال عبد الفضيل

At liberty **Sudan**

Imtithal Abdelfadeel is a journalist and member of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate who reports on displaced communities and women's rights. She was arrested in April 2025 while attempting to travel for a reporting assignment and held incommunicado for three days.

HuMENA.

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Case reference HM-SD-2026-007

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Imtithal Abdelfadeel is a journalist and member of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate who reports on displaced communities and women's rights. She was arrested in April 2025 while attempting to travel for a reporting assignment and held incommunicado for three days.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**19 Apr 2025**
COUNTRY	**Sudan**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Imtithal Abdelfadeel and on any family members affected by the same order.

02 Restore valid travel documents and remove any border-watch flags placed in connection with peaceful human rights work.

03 Comply with the ICCPR Article 12 guarantee of freedom of movement.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/imtithal-abdelfadeel/

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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)
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Press freedom violation	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19
Threats and intimidation	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Travel ban	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12
Unlawful surveillance	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 17

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

April 2025

CONTEXT

Journalists Syndicate condemns her arrest

The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate condemned her arrest and demanded the lifting of all pledges and restrictions imposed on her.

19 April 2025

ARREST

Arrested at bus station in Kassala

Military officers arrested Abdelfadeel at approximately 5:00 a.m. as she prepared to travel to Port Sudan for a journalism assignment. She was blindfolded and her phone was confiscated.

22 April 2025

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Released after signing travel ban under duress

After three days of incommunicado detention, Abdelfadeel was released after being coerced into signing an agreement imposing an arbitrary travel ban preventing her from leaving Kassala State or Sudan.

22 April 2025

TRAVEL BAN IMPOSED

Barred from leaving Kassala State or Sudan

As a condition of her release she was forced to sign a pledge that bars her from leaving Kassala State or Sudan. No judicial authority ordered or reviewed the ban.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Imtithal Abdelfadeel works as a journalist for Al-Jareeda, a Sudanese daily newspaper. Her reporting focuses on the social and economic rights of internally displaced people, a population that has grown dramatically since the outbreak of armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in April 2023. She is a member of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate and among a small cohort of young female journalists working in Sudan on issues of women's rights and justice.

Sudan's press environment has deteriorated sharply since the 2021 military coup and the 2023 outbreak of hostilities. Many journalists have fled the country or ceased reporting. Those who remain face checkpoints, arbitrary detention, and restrictions on movement. Abdelfadeel's work on displacement and women's issues places her in a particularly exposed position in a militarised context where such reporting is treated as a threat.

The Arrest

On the morning of 19 April 2025, Abdelfadeel arrived at a bus station in Kassala to begin a journey to Port Sudan, intending to continue from there on a journalism assignment abroad arranged by her employer. At approximately 5:00 a.m., military officers arrested her. They blindfolded her and confiscated her mobile phone.

The arrest occurred hours before her scheduled departure, and authorities appear to have known her travel plans in advance. The timing and circumstances suggest the detention was designed not only to prevent her from leaving but to disrupt her reporting assignment.

Detention and Coercion

Abdelfadeel was held at a detention facility in Kassala State for three days. During that time, she was held incommunicado and subjected to interrogation. She had no access to family members or legal counsel. Authorities provided no formal charge or legal basis for her detention.

On 22 April 2025, she was released after being coerced into signing an agreement under duress. The document imposed an arbitrary travel ban that prohibits her from leaving Kassala State or Sudan. No judicial authority reviewed or authorised the terms of the ban. She was compelled to sign as a condition of her release.

Ongoing Restrictions

Since her release, Abdelfadeel remains under surveillance by state authorities. The travel ban prevents her from undertaking journalism assignments outside Kassala, effectively limiting her ability to report and earn a living. As of May 2025 the restrictions remained in force without legal review or any stated

expiry date. No later information on whether the ban has been lifted has been found.

The ban is part of a broader pattern in Sudan in which journalists and human rights defenders are subjected to arbitrary movement restrictions, interrogation, and harassment designed to silence reporting on abuses committed during the ongoing armed conflict.

International Response

Human rights organisations have called for the immediate lifting of all restrictions on Abdelfadeel's movement and an end to surveillance and harassment. No government authority has provided a legal justification for her detention or the travel ban she was forced to accept. In April 2025 the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate condemned her arrest and demanded the lifting of all pledges and restrictions imposed on her.

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SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing to demand the immediate lifting of the arbitrary travel ban imposed on Imtithal Abdelfadeel, journalist with Al-Jareeda newspaper; reports on social and economic rights of internally displaced people; member of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate in Sudan.

In brief: Imtithal Abdelfadeel is a journalist and member of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate who reports on displaced communities and women's rights. She was arrested in April 2025 while attempting to travel for a reporting assignment and held incommunicado for three days.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Imtithal Abdelfadeel and on any family members affected by the same order;
2. Restore valid travel documents and remove any border-watch flags placed in connection with peaceful human rights work;
3. Comply with the ICCPR Article 12 guarantee of freedom of movement.

I will continue to monitor this case until Imtithal Abdelfadeel's freedom of movement is restored.

Respectfully,

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