

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

YASIR MIRGHANI ABDALRAHMAN

ياسر ميرغني عبد الرحمن

At liberty **Sudan**

Yasir Mirghani, a pharmacist who leads a Sudanese consumer-rights organization, was arrested in April 2023 on embezzlement charges tied to decade-old EU funding. He was released after a week in detention near a conflict zone, on a personal guarantee and with the charges still pending. He had been detained before, in 2015 and in December 2022.

HuMENA

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Case reference HM-SD-2026-015

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Yasir Mirghani, a pharmacist who leads a Sudanese consumer-rights organization, was arrested in April 2023 on embezzlement charges tied to decade-old EU funding. He was released after a week in detention near a conflict zone, on a personal guarantee and with the charges still pending. He had been detained before, in 2015 and in December 2022.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**11 Apr 2023**
COUNTRY	**Sudan**
CHARGES	**Criminal breach of trust under Article 177 of the Sudanese Criminal Act of 1991, alleging embezzlement of European Union funds received in 2012**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Immediately unfreeze the personal and organisational accounts of Yasir Mirghani.

02 Withdraw the underlying terrorism-finance or money-laundering proceedings used as pretext.

03 Restore access to property, salary, and professional licences.

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

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Asset freeze	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 13
Denial of medical care	UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rules 24 to 27
Inhumane detention conditions	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 10 UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules)
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

25 May 2015

ARREST

Detained by the security service over corruption remarks

National Intelligence and Security Service officers arrested him in Khartoum with activist Nasreen Ali Mustafa and held him incommunicado, after he spoke about corruption in essential consumer goods in a newspaper interview.

7 June 2015

RELEASE

Released by the security service

The National Intelligence and Security Service released him.

23 October 2022

ORGANISATION DISSOLVED OR STRUCK OFF

SCPS registration annulled

The Humanitarian Aid Commission cancelled the registration of the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society and seized its assets, seals and documents, over allegations related to EU funding received in 2012.

8 December 2022

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Arrested, questioned and released on bail

He was arrested and questioned over the same allegations and released on bail the same day. The Humanitarian Aid Commission announced a criminal complaint against the Society's management.

11 April 2023

ARREST

Arrest in Khartoum

Sudanese police arrested Yasir Mirghani at his home in Khartoum and confiscated his mobile phone. He was charged with criminal breach of trust under Article 177 of the 1991 Criminal Act.

11 April 2023

RELEASE ON BAIL ORDERED

Bail set at full grant amount

A judge set bail at €264,875, the exact sum of the EU grant received by SCPS in 2012. The sum could not be posted and Mirghani remained in detention.

11 April 2023

CHARGE FILED

Charged with criminal breach of trust under Article 177

The Anti-Corruption Prosecution charged him with criminal breach of trust under Article 177 of the 1991 Criminal Act over EU funds received by the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society in 2012.

15 April 2023

MEDICAL CARE DENIED

Denied medication amid clashes

As armed clashes erupted around the detention facility near Khartoum's military headquarters, Mirghani was denied adequate food and required medication.

18 April 2023

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Released on personal guarantee

After seven days in detention, Yasir Mirghani was released on a personal guarantee. Charges remained formally active.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Yasir Mirghani is a pharmacist and the head of the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society (SCPS), an organization founded in 1998. The Society works to protect communities from corporate abuse and to combat corruption in Sudan's commercial sector. It has intervened in cases involving price manipulation, unsafe goods, and exploitation by businesses operating without oversight. After the October 2021 coup, the Society took telecom companies to court over the internet shutdown.

In May 2015 the National Intelligence and Security Service detained him for nearly two weeks after he spoke about corruption in essential consumer goods in a newspaper interview.

Mirghani is also a member of the Confederation of Civil Society, a coalition that unites more than fifty human rights organizations across the country. The coalition has advocated for democratic transition, rule of law, and accountability in the years following the ouster of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

The Arrest

On 11 April 2023, Sudanese police arrested Yasir Mirghani at his residence in Khartoum. Officers confiscated his mobile phone and transported him to the Anti-Corruption Prosecution Authority. The Authority charged him under Article 177 of the Sudanese Criminal Act of 1991, which criminalizes breach of trust. The charge alleged that he had embezzled funds the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society received from the European Union in 2012, more than a decade earlier.

A judge set bail at €264,875, an amount precisely equal to the full sum of the EU grant. Mirghani's family could not afford the bail, and he remained in detention.

On 23 October 2022, the Humanitarian Aid Commission had cancelled the registration of the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society and seized its assets over the same allegations. On 8 December 2022 he was arrested, questioned and released on bail the same day. His lawyers later stated that the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission, the government body that filed the complaint, had previously attempted to prosecute the Society and its members on similar grounds. When those efforts collapsed, the Commission revived the matter using financial records from 2012.

Detention Conditions and Health

Mirghani was held in the Anti-Corruption Prosecution Authority's detention centre near the military headquarters in Khartoum. On 15 April 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group, engulfing the capital. The detention facility was located in one of the principal confrontation zones.

His defence counsel issued a public statement calling for his immediate release, warning that his life was

in grave danger as fighting intensified around the facility. Inside, he was denied adequate food. He was also denied medication that he required for a medical condition, the details of which were not disclosed.

Release

On 18 April 2023, after seven days in detention, the Sudanese authorities released Yasir Mirghani on a personal guarantee. No bail payment was made. The charges remained formally active at the time of his release, and the case had not been resolved.

Legal and Political Context

The prosecution of Yasir Mirghani took place against the backdrop of Sudan's faltering democratic transition. Following the military coup of 25 October 2021, civilian institutions faced renewed repression. Civil society organizations, particularly those that had mobilized during the 2018 to 2019 revolution, became targets of administrative harassment, registration revocations, and criminal proceedings.

The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission, which lodged the complaint against Mirghani, is a government body with a history of restricting the operations of independent civil society groups. The Commission has the authority to approve or cancel the registration of non-governmental organizations, and it has used that power to silence groups critical of state policy.

Mirghani's lawyers characterized the prosecution as judicial harassment designed to silence the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society and intimidate its leadership. The use of decade-old financial records to construct a criminal case, they argued, demonstrated the political motivation behind the charges.

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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 unfreezing of the assets of Yasir Mirghani, pharmacist and head of the Sudanese Consumers Protection Society, fighting corruption and corporate abuse in Sudan.

In brief: Yasir Mirghani, a pharmacist who leads a Sudanese consumer-rights organization, was arrested in April 2023 on embezzlement charges tied to decade-old EU funding. He was released after a week in detention near a conflict zone, on a personal guarantee and with the charges still pending. He had been detained before, in 2015 and in December 2022.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Immediately unfreeze the personal and organisational accounts of Yasir Mirghani;
2. Withdraw the underlying terrorism-finance or money-laundering proceedings used as pretext;
3. Restore access to property, salary, and professional licences.

I will continue to monitor this case until Yasir Mirghani's financial rights are restored.

Respectfully,

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