

**President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir**  
**Office of the President**  
**People's Palace**  
**PO Box 281**  
**Khartoum, Sudan**

**Brussels, 28 January 2015**

**Re: Concerns regarding the detention, health status and whereabouts of Mr Amin Mekki Medani, a lawyer**

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it also has associate and observer representatives from a further thirteen European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE writes to express its serious concerns over the detention, health status and whereabouts of Mr Amin Mekki Medani. Mr Medani is a lawyer, a human rights defender, the President of the Confederation of Sudanese Civil Society, the Vice President of the Civil Society Initiative, and the former President of the Sudan Human Rights Monitor (SHRM). In addition, he also served as the head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the West Bank and Gaza, as the Chief of Mission of the OHCHR in Zagreb, Croatia, and as a legal advisor to the Special Representative of the U.N Secretary-General in Iraq and in Afghanistan, and was a Regional Representative for the OHCHR in Beirut, Lebanon.

On 3 December 2014, representatives from political groups in Sudan, as well as the Civil Society Initiative represented by Mr Medani, signed the "Sudan Call" in Addis Ababa, which is a declaration on the "Establishment of a State of Citizenship and Democracy" that aims to end wars and conflicts, respond to humanitarian issues, examine the economic situation, strengthen the rule of law, and initiate a dialogue on the democratic transformation of the country. On the 6 December 2014, Mr Medani was arrested by the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). His arrest is believed to be in connection with his participation in the Sudan Call. At the time of his arrest, Mr Medani, who is 76 years old and suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes, was reportedly prevented from taking his medication by NISS. Moreover, his family has not been informed of his whereabouts since his arrest.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw to your attention the following Articles of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990):

Principle 16 states that:

*Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be*

*threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.*

Furthermore, Principle 23 states that:

*Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization. In exercising these rights, lawyers shall always conduct themselves in accordance with the law and the recognized standards and ethics of the legal profession.*

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges you to guarantee the safety of Mr Medani, to reveal his whereabouts and to guarantee his physical and psychological integrity and ensure he has access to a lawyer, medical treatment and members of his family. In addition, the CCBE asks you to take all necessary measures to guarantee that all lawyers in Sudan are able to perform their professional duties without fear of reprisal, hindrance, intimidation or harassment.

I look forward to hearing from your Excellency urgently.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria ŚLAZAK', written in a cursive style.

Maria ŚLAZAK  
President