



Rio de Janeiro, March 14th 2019

PR-43/2019

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

Your Excellency:

I write seeking your assistance regarding the urgent situation of my Sudanese scientific colleague Professor Muntaser Ibrahim, a professor of molecular biology at the University of Khartoum and a widely respected scholar in the fields of genetics and cancer research.

I was alarmed to learn that Professor Ibrahim was detained by security forces on February 21, 2019, and is being held incommunicado at the Security Forces' Political Detention Center in Bahri, Khartoum. It is my understanding that Professor Ibrahim and several opposition members were taken into custody just as they were planning to present a memorandum to the government outlining a University of Khartoum faculty initiative. This initiative, signed by more than 500 university professors, proposes steps toward a peaceful solution to the escalating protests and violence in your country. I understand that, while Professor Ibrahim remains in detention, the individuals detained with him have been released.

Reliable reports indicate that Professor Ibrahim is being held under harsh conditions of confinement and that he has been allowed no access to legal counsel or family members. His situation is of particular concern given that he suffers from a chronic heart condition and has had two strokes in recent years. To the best of my knowledge, there have been no reasons provided for Professor Ibrahim's detention.

As Professor Ibrahim does not appear to have been charged with any internationally recognized crime, I am concerned that his detention stems solely from his efforts to develop a proposal for a peaceful resolution of the current unrest in Sudan. Such action constitutes the exercise of his fundamental rights to freedom of opinion and expression, which are protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African



Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to which the Republic of Sudan is a party. Thus, I respectfully request that you use your good offices to ensure the unconditional and immediate release of Professor Ibrahim and that, in the interim, his conditions of confinement are brought into conformity with international standards, including that he be allowed regular access to his family, legal counsel of his choosing, and any necessary medical care.

Thank you in advance, Your Excellency, for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Luiz Davidovich
President
Brazilian Academy of Sciences