



Justice Africa Sudan / African Unity & Peace Organisation

04 September 2026

Urgent Appeal Arbitrary Arrest and Detention of Dr. Atiya Abdullah Atiya

Justice Africa Sudan expresses its deep concern and strong condemnation for the arbitrary arrest and detention of Dr. Atiya Abdullah Atiya, Public Health Specialist and Secretary-General of the Preparatory Committee of the Sudan Doctors' Union, who has been held El Gedaref , Eastern Sudan, since mid-August 2026.

At the time of his arrest, Dr. Atiya was providing essential medical care to patients suffering from leishmaniasis in multiple health facilities, including Gedaref University. His detention represents a direct assault on humanitarian principles and the medical profession, undermining the right to health and the protection of civilians in conflict.

We denounce this unlawful detention, carried out without legal grounds, and the denial of Dr. Atiya's basic rights. His family has been deprived of information regarding his whereabouts and wellbeing. This incident reflects a disturbing pattern of systematic targeting of medical personnel and health facilities in Sudan, in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Our Demands

Justice Africa Sudan / Africa Unity & Peace Organisation calls for:

- The immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Atiya.
- Urgent access for his family and lawyer, disclosure of his place of detention, and guarantees of his safety from torture or ill treatment.
- An independent investigation into his detention and accountability for those responsible.

- An end to all forms of harassment, assault, and arbitrary detention against health and humanitarian workers.

Our Appeal to the International Community

We issue a direct appeal to all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law. We further call upon:

- The United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and relevant human rights mechanisms to intervene urgently.
- Regional and international partners to exert pressure for Dr. Atiya's release and to ensure protection for medical and humanitarian personnel across Sudan.
- Civil society and professional associations worldwide to stand in solidarity with Sudanese doctors and health workers under threat.

Our Commitment

Justice Africa Sudan and the African Unity & Peace Organisation reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with Dr. Atiya's family, colleagues, and the wider medical community. We will continue to advocate tirelessly until his release and until the rights of health workers are fully respected.

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