



Cape Town, 13.03.2019

Statement to Demand the Release of Professor Muntaser Ibrahim

The African Society of Human Genetics (AfSHG) is deeply disturbed by the news of Professor Ibrahim Muntaser's detention by the Sudanese government since 21 February, 2019. Professor Muntaser should be freed immediately.

Professor Muntaser currently works at the Institute of Endemic Diseases at the University of Khartoum where he established the Master of Molecular Medicine, a highly rated-program that has trained many African scientists. Prof Ibrahim has also pioneered the Sudan Genome Project and several cancer research initiatives. Professor Muntaser is an esteemed researcher who has published more than 180 peer-reviewed papers and books, and has won many scientific awards.

His influence extends far beyond the Sudanese borders with collaborations across Africa and globally, including his membership of the African Society of Human Genetics (he was a founding member), the World Academy of Sciences, the African Academy of Sciences, and the International Centre for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering.

Prof Ibrahim is an advocate for peaceful ways of ending conflict including advocating for population genetics to be the vehicle of peace and harmony in Africa. It is indeed his idea that inspired the theme of our next AfSHG meeting in Bamako, Mali. Professor Ibrahim's humanity drives him to exercise his lawful right to freedom of speech and peaceful protests.

We call on the African and International research community to condemn this shameful mistreatment of our colleague, and we urge the Sudanese government to release Prof Muntaser Ibrahim immediately.

Prof Ambroise Wonkam, MD, PhD
President of the African Society of Human Genetics