

Cairo in June 23, 2009

Urgent – Mauritania

Mauritania Activists under Arrest

The Arab Program for Human Rights Activists follows up with deep concern the arrest of the Journalist and Human Rights Activist Hanafy Walad Dhah, who was arrested by the State Security and taken with hand cuffed to the police headquarters. Furthermore, he was taken in 21/6/2009 to his house where it was searched and then he was taken to an unknown place.

It should be noted that the Activist is the Media Officer for the left-wing in "Conscience and Resistance" Organization. Meantime, Hanafy spent several months in the United States of America before returning back to his country, and he is also the Director of the electronic website 'Taqadumi". Besides, he wrote a number of articles that detected the corruption and the political status in the country.

The Arab Program condemns such acts which followed by the Mauritanian government against the political and human rights activists in this undergoing transitional phase in Mauritania. Meanwhile, the Program emphasizes the need for solidarity and unity with all the civil organizations to restore the security in the country.

Moreover, The Arab Program announces its full solidarity with the Activist, and reaffirms that the procedures which have been taken against Hanafy are considered a violation to all covenants and International agreements, especially Article (9) of the International Covenant for Human and Political Rights, which related to the arbitrary arrest, and Article (19) of the same Covenant which ensures the freedom of opinion and speech rights.

The Arab Program calls the Mauritanian government to wok on the following:

1. The immediate release of the Human Rights Activist and Journalist Mr. Hanafy Wald Daha.
2. To respect the freedom of opinion and speech and to stop all violations and harassments regarding the freedom of opinion.
3. To respect all International Covenants and agreements pertaining Human Rights.