

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/01/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 49/94 Fear of Torture

14 February 1994

SUDAN El-Fadil Adam Ismail - Secretary General of Umma Party's Youth
organization
Abdallah Barakat - Imam from the Ansar religious order
Ismail el-Haj Baloul - graduate of agriculture
Dafallah Mohamed Abdallah - veterinarian

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that the four senior members of the banned Umma Party named above were arrested in Khartoum during the first week of February 1994. The whereabouts of the men, as well as the reason for their arrest, remain unknown and there is serious fear that they may be undergoing torture on account of their opposition to the government.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

El-Fadil Adam Ismail was previously arrested in August 1993 and detained until November 1993 (see UA 312/93, AFR 54/35/93, 7 September 1993). Abdallah Barakat has also been detained in the past, the latest occasion being when he was briefly arrested on 12 November 1993, following a speech in the Wad Nubawi mosque, one of the holiest shrines of the Ansar religious order. The Umma Party is closely associated with this Islamic religious sect. (see UA 411/93, AFR 54/41/93, 19 November 1993).

Prisoners are held without charge or trial in Sudan on the basis of Decree Two of the emergency laws issued by the government immediately after the 30 June 1989 coup. Section Seven of the decree bans the "showing of any political opposition by any means to the regime of the Revolution for National Salvation" and allows the authorities to arrest and detain anyone "suspected of being a danger to political or economic security".

Detainees in Khartoum are normally held at the security headquarters or in secret detention centres, known as "ghost houses" in Sudan. Detainees are commonly beaten on arrival at "ghost houses" and torture during interrogation of prisoners is systematic.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or Arabic, or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the detention without charge or trial of the four men named following their arrest in early February 1994;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and urging that their whereabouts in custody be made public and that they are granted immediate and regular access to their family, legal counsel and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that they be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of the Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KAID SD
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior
 People's Palace
 PO Box 281
 Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu
 Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
 Ministry of Justice
 Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign
 Affairs)
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
 Chief Justice
 Law Courts
 Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 PO Box 873
 Khartoum, Sudan

Dr A. al-Mufti
 Secretary of Human Rights Commission*
 Khartoum, Sudan

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, but apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 March 1994.