

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/03/96

UA 38/96

Fear of Torture/Fear of "Disappearance" 15 February 1996

SUDAN Hassan Adam Ali, political activist

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Hassan Adam Ali, a political activist from western Sudan, has been arrested and subjected to torture since his arrival in Khartoum in late January 1996 after he was deported from Jordan.

Hassan Adam Ali has not been seen since his arrival in Sudan and his current whereabouts are unknown. Amnesty International fears that he is also at risk of "disappearance".

Hassan Adam Ali, who until the Gulf War worked as a labourer in Iraq, is a political activist from the Fur ethnic group. In August 1993 Hassan Adam Ali settled in Jordan where he was unemployed. On 1 January 1996 he was reportedly arrested by Jordanian security officials. Efforts by Sudanese friends to get Hassan Adam Ali a ticket and visa for a neighbouring country were ignored by the Jordanian authorities.

In late January 1996 he was deported using travel papers issued by the Sudan Embassy in Amman on a Sudan Airways flight bound for Khartoum. He reportedly showed signs of having been beaten immediately before he was put on the plane.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Anyone detained by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment, in particular those held in secret detention centres known as "ghost houses". Those whom the authorities suspect may have information about opposition activities are at risk of severe torture. In March 1995 one of the most notorious "ghost houses" was partially closed and its inmates transferred to a section of the main prison in Khartoum, still under the supervision of the security authorities but reportedly in better conditions. However, other "ghost houses" are known to exist.

The Fur are a non-Arab peoples from western Sudan many of whom claim that successive governments in Khartoum have followed policies that have pushed them into the political and economic margins. Local politics in Darfur are complex and historically involve tense relations between the agriculturalist Fur and pastoralist ethnic groups who claim Arab origins. Intercommunal strife and lawlessness have been further compounded by the political situation in Chad. In the early 1990s Sudan central government mounted a series of military operations in Darfur, ostensibly against "armed bandits". In early 1992 an attempt by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to create a Fur detachment in Darfur was defeated with the capture of its leader, Daoud Yahya Bolad, who was subsequently killed in what appears to have been an extrajudicial execution.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Hassan Adam Ali is being held in incommunicado detention in Khartoum where he is being tortured following his deportation from Jordan in late January 1996;
- expressing concern that he is at risk of being "disappeared";
- seeking assurances for his physical safety and guarantees that he is not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging that he be immediately released unless he is to be charged with a recognizable 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: 22411 KAID SD
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Brigadier Bakri Hassan Saleh
Minister of the Interior
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior Bakri Hassan Saleh,
Khartoum, Sudan**
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22461 KHRJA SD
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

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

Mr Obeid Haj Ali
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Angelo Beda Bambara
Chairman of the Human Rights Committee
of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA)*
Omdurman, Sudan

* The TNA's Human Rights Committee was created by Sudan's government-appointed Transitional National Assembly in December 1992, apparently to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda. The Committee's Chairman has said that it investigates reports of human rights violations.

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 1995.