

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/07/99

Further information on UA 85/99 (AFR 54/06/99, 22 April): Fear of torture / Health and legal concerns 27 April 1999

SUDAN Mohamed Abdel Seed - journalist  
Maha Hassan Ali (f) - journalist  
Abdelgadir Hafiz - journalist

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Maha Hassan Ali was released without charge on Friday 23 April, reportedly after the official Sudan Journalists' Association provided unspecified guarantees.

The other two journalists have not been taken to court or charged and their whereabouts are still unknown.

The three were arrested in Khartoum between 14 and 18 April 1999. The authorities have refused to say why they were arrested or where they are held, or to allow them access to their relatives or lawyers. They were reportedly accused of spying for a foreign power, said to be Egypt.

Amnesty International believes they are held for political reasons and fears they may be tortured or ill-treated while they are held at a secret detention centre. There has been a pattern in recent years of torture and illegal secret detention of suspected government opponents.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Journalists in Sudan are often detained on suspicion of harbouring opposition sympathies. Egypt is one of a number of governments involved in peace initiatives and mediation between the Sudanese government and the armed opposition.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern at the continuing secret incommunicado detention of Mohamed Abdel Seed and Abdelgadir Hafiz;
- appealing for them to be given immediate access to their relatives and lawyers, and medical care and treatment as required;
- requesting assurances that they are being treated humanely in detention;
- calling for them to be either taken to court, charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair trial in accordance with international standards, or released immediately and unconditionally.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir  
President of the Republic of the Sudan  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Faxes: + 24911 787676 or 783223**  
**Telegrams: President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Faxes: + 24911 774063**

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Faxes: + 24911 779383**

**Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Hafez al-Sheikh al-Zaki  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court  
Khartoum, Sudan

Dr Ahmad al-Mufti  
Advisory Council for Human Rights  
PO Box 302  
Khartoum, Sudan

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 8 June 1999.