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Prisoner of Conscience

3 May 1995

SUDAN

Gordon Micah Kur

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Amnesty International is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Gordon Micah Kur, who is currently being held without charge or trial in Kober Prison in Khartoum. The former policeman and social worker was arrested in February 1995 in northern Sudan and held for a time in one of the "ghost houses" - detention centres notorious for torture and ill-treatment.

Information from Sudan can often take several months to reach the outside world; however, Amnesty International has been able to establish that the detention of Gordon Micah Kur is part of the ongoing pattern of harassment and detention without trial by the Sudanese authorities of their political and ideological opponents (*for further information, see Sudan report, "The Tears of Orphans", AI Index AFR 54/02/95*).

Amnesty International fears that if Gordon Micah Kur is transferred back to a "ghost house", his past involvement with the Sudanese Amputees' Association (SSA - see below) would put him at particular risk of torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gordon Micah Kur has been repeatedly harassed by the authorities, apparently because of his social work between 1987 and 1989 with the SSA, a welfare organization set up to help the victims of hand and foot amputation sentences imposed by the courts between 1983 and 1985. The SSA was regarded as insulting to Islam by supporters of the National Islamic Front, which since 1989 has provided the ideological basis for the current government, and the organization was among many which were banned on 30 June 1989.

Gordon Micah Kur was previously detained between September 1989 and June 1991 and was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. In 1993 he wrote to a friend: *"Since my release from detention two years' ago one finds himself in a wider prison. For instance I am not allowed to leave the capital city nor the country and above that all possible means of getting a job are blocked. I have actually been living on help I receive from friends from time to time...but most of the other people have their families broken down."*

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoner of conscience Gordon Micah Kur;
- calling on the Sudanese Government to stop arbitrarily detaining peaceful political opponents.

#### 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) Minister of the Interior

Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Muhammad Kheir  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior Kheir, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Justice and Attorney-General,

Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu  
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 OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

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 14 June 1995.