

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 375/00 (AFR 54/07/00, 11 December 2000) and follow-up (AFR 54/001/2001, 9 January 2001 and AFR 54/006/2001, 23 February 2001) - Fear of Torture

SUDANAli al Said (m), Democratic Unionist Party
Al Tijani Mustafa (m), Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party
Mohamed Mahjoub (m), Sudan Communist Party
Joseph Okailo (m), National Democratic Alliance (NDA)
Mohamed Wida Ala (m), NDA spokesman
Mohamed Suleiman Mohamed (m), Trade Union Alliance
Stans Jimmy Wongo (m), Union of Sudan African Parties
Ibrahim Haj Musa (m)

Osman Yusif Ibrahim (m), lawyer
Siddig Yusif Ibrahim (m), his brother
Abdel Hameed Ali (m)

All the men featured in this UA have now been released. None of them were reportedly tortured in detention, though they were held in poor prison conditions.

Ali al Said, Al Tijani Mustafa, Mohamed Mahjoub, Joseph Okailo, Mohamed Wida Ala and Mohamed Suleiman Mohamed were released from Omdurman prison on order of the Minister of Justice on 1 October. The charges against them which ranged from spying to "conspiracy against the State" were dismissed, after President Omar Hassan al-Bashir suspended their trial.

Stans Jimmy Wongo and Ibrahim Haj Musa, who faced lesser charges of "being part of a non-registered party" and "instigating an illegal meeting" had been released on bail in February. The charges against them were also dismissed on 1 October.

The eight men had been arrested by Sudanese security officers during a meeting with an American diplomat in December 2000. Before being charged they were detained incommunicado for periods ranging from two to three months. Their trial began at the end of March 2001, but was regularly postponed due to the government's failure to produce key witnesses in court.

President Omar al Bashir's decision to suspend the trial coincides with an improvement of the relations between Sudan and the United States after the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the United States on 11 September. The Sudanese government was quick to condemn the 11 September attacks and announced that it would join the "international fight against terrorism". The United States welcomed Sudan's cooperation and did not oppose the decision by the UN Security Council to lift sanctions against Sudan on 28 September.

Osman Yusif Ibrahim and Siddig Yusif Ibrahim, who were arrested on 13 February were released in March. Abdel Hameed Ali, who was detained on the same day, was released a few days after being arrested. None of them were told why they had been arrested or charged.

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No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.