

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 158/93 Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

17 May 1993

SUDAN:

Dr Ibrahim al-Amin - ex-cabinet member  
Mohammed Abdel-Rahim  
Mohammed Yussuf Hassan  
Mohammed al-Mahdi - Imam from the Ansar religious order  
Abdel Mahmud Abbo - Imam from the Ansar religious order  
Abdullah Ishaq - director of religious teaching in the Ansar order  
al-Hadi Adam, leading member of the Ansar order  
al-Zahawi Ibrahim, Minister for Energy, Central State  
Mustafa 'Abd al-Gadir 'Abd al-Latif, Minister of Education, Central State  
Abdel Rahman Yunis - leading member of the Ansar order  
al-Fadl Omar - farmer  
Dr Abdel Nabi Ali Ahmad - former Governor of Darfur

Dr Said Nasr al-Din - official in Ministry of Health  
Musa Abdalla al-Bashir - Ansar cleric  
Ibrahim Ali Abdelgadir Fageer al-Sadiq Ibrahim  
Abdel Bagi Taj al-Din - Omda of the Shanabla tribe  
Osman Idris Habani - teacher  
Berier Mohamed al-Tom - teacher  
Hussein Ahmad Fadl - merchant  
al-Tahir al-Raqiq - trade unionist  
al-Tigani Ahmad - trade unionist  
Hamad al-Nil Doulieb - trade unionist  
Mahmud Abasher - businessman  
Dr Yahia Mukwar - doctor and member of Democratic Unionist Party  
Abdel-Rahim al-Hussein - businessman and member of Democratic Unionist Party

Amnesty International is concerned by reports of widespread arrests in towns and cities in northern Sudan in April and early May 1993. The majority of those whose names are known to Amnesty International are members of the Umma Party and Ansar sect, a traditional order in Sudanese Islam, although members of other political parties, including the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), are also known to have been detained. (The Ansar sect has its origins in the followers of the Mohamed Ahmad al-Mahdi, the great-grandfather of Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's former Prime Minister and leader of the Umma Party.)

Amnesty International is concerned that the 27 detainees named above have been arrested solely for engaging in their internationally recognised fundamental right to freedom of expression and association and considers them to be prisoners of conscience. The organization is also concerned that as suspected opponents of the government they are likely to undergo interrogation with a high risk of torture.

Dr Ibrahim al-Amin was arrested around the 11 April 1993, apparently in Khartoum. Mohamed al-Mahdi, Imam (prayer-leader) of the Wad Nubawi mosque in Omdurman, Abdel Mahmud Abbo, Imam of the Guba mosque in Omdurman, and Abdullah Ishaq, director of religious guidance in the Ansar Affairs office, were arrested on 29 April 1993. All three men are senior members of the Ansar religious order.

In addition other reports indicate that several members of the Umma Party and Ansar sect have been arrested in provincial towns and cities. Mohammed Abdel-Rahim was arrested in El-Obeid. Mohammed Yussuf Hassan, al-Zahawi Ibrahim and Mustafa 'Abd al-Gadir 'Abd al-Latif were arrested in Wad Medani. Abdel Rahman Yunis, resident representative of the Ansar Imam, and al-Fadl Omar were arrested in Ad-Damazin, a provincial town some 300 miles south east of Khartoum. al-Hadi Adam, resident representative of the Ansar Imam in Nyala, was reportedly arrested in that town.

Musa Abdallah al-Bashir, Ibrahim Ali Abdelgadir, al-Sadiq Ibrahim, Abdel Bagi Taj al-Din, Osman Idris Habani, Berier Mohamed al-Tom and Hussein Ahmad Fadl are reported to have been arrested

in Ad-Dueim, a town some 140 miles south of Khartoum.

Dr Yahia Mukwar and Abdel-Rahim al-Hussein, a 75-year-old businessman, are both members of the Democratic Unionist Party and are thought to have been arrested in Khartoum.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The recent crackdown on Umma and Ansar members began on 5 April 1993 when Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Prime Minister and leader of the Umma Party, was held for 24 hours for questioning. On 25 March 1993 he gave a speech during the Eid feast to mark the end of Ramadan (the Islamic fasting month) in which he called for a return to a multi-party political system in Sudan. On 9 April 1993 a demonstration took place in Omdurman after Friday prayers led by

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Sadiq al-Mahdi. There are reports that dozens of others were arrested during and after the demonstration and subjected to beatings in the course of being interrogated. The Umma and Ansar members named above are believed to have been arrested because of the circulation of Sadiq al-Mahdi's `Id speech. The reasons for the detention of DUP members is not yet known but is thought to relate to their opposition to the government.

For further background information, please refer to UA 117/93 (AFR 54/15/93, 19 April 1993) - and follow ups AFR 54/12/93, 21 April 1993; AFR 54/13/93, 27 April 1993; and AFR 54/15/93, 7 May 1993.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest in April and early May 1993 of the individuals above (please select two or three names) who appear to Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience, that is people imprisoned solely because of exercising their internationally recognised rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association;
- expressing concern at their continuing detention without charge or trial and fear that they may be subjected to torture;
- requesting assurances that they are being humanely treated, that their whereabouts in custody be made public and that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released.

#### **APPEALS TO**

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General **Salutation: Your Excellency**  
Omar Hassan al-Bashir  
Head of State and Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command  
Council  
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**

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn **Salutation: Dear Deputy** Deputy Prime  
Minister, Minister of the Interior **Prime Minister**  
and Deputy Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command  
Council

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**

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu **Salutation: Dear Minister**  
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)**

**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, apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 July 1993.