

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AFR 54/20/95
Distr: UA/SC**

UA 127/95

Fear of torture

8 June 1995

SUDAN

Hashim Mohamed Zeyada, medical doctor

Hashim Mohamed Zeyada, a medical doctor working for an Italian-based humanitarian organization which provides relief aid in the southern Sudan, was seized by Sudan Government troops on 29 May 1995. Amnesty International believes Hashim Mohamed Zeyada is at grave risk of torture.

Hashim Mohamed Zeyada, who is in his late 50s, was arrested with a visiting Italian colleague at Pariang, a small centre in northwestern Upper Nile under the control of the armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). He is the supervisor of a medical program in Pariang. His Italian colleague is reported to be the director of the relief organization and to be normally based in Italy.

The two men, whose whereabouts remain unknown, are said to have been captured by troops from the nearby government garrison of Bentiu. The Italian Government is reported to be in communication with the Sudanese authorities to effect the release of the detained Italian.

As a Sudanese national captured by government forces in an area controlled by the armed opposition SPLA, Hashim Mohamed Zeyada is in a vulnerable position.

There are reports that the Sudanese authorities may suspect him of having information about SPLA activity. In the past, suspected supporters of the SPLA in military custody have frequently been subjected to torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This UA is directed at both the Sudanese and Italian authorities. Please follow the recommendations below:

Please address the Sudanese Authorities by sending telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the detention of Hashim Mohamed Zeyada, who Amnesty International believes to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned on account of his work as a doctor in territory controlled by armed opponents of the Sudan Government;
- seeking assurances that he and his Italian colleague are physically safe and asking for guarantees that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- asking that their whereabouts be made public and for assurances that lawyers and the Italian authorities have access to them;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released.

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) Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Mohamed Kheir
Minister of the Interior
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Mohamed Kheir,
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: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD
Salutation: Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country.

Please direct 10 appeals per section to the Italian Foreign Ministry either in Italian, English or in your own language:

- calling on the Italian authorities to work for the release of Dr Hashim Mohamed Zeyada, an employee of an Italian relief organization, together with that of their own national.

APPEALS TO:

1) Mrs Susanna Agnelli
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Piazzala della Farnesina 1,
00194 Rome

Faxes: + 39 6 399 989

Telexes: 610611

**Telegrams: Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Rome, Italy**

Salutation: Dear Minister

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 July 1995.