

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/21/96

UA 212/96 Executions / Fear of execution / Fear of torture  
Fear of unfair trial

23 August 1996

SUDAN Gamal Yusuf, colonel  
Abdallah al-Tayeb, lieutenant colonel  
Bushra Hamid Burma, major  
Camillio Luthali, major  
Tariq Abu Abdu, lieutenant colonel  
Salah Ahmad al-Jaber, major  
Kamal al-Tigani, major  
Naser Kamal, lieutenant  
Faud Salih, general (retired)  
Hassan al-Khatib, colonel (retired)  
Osman Atiat Allah, lieutenant colonel (retired)  
'Abd al-Marouf Hussein, colonel (retired)  
Jaknoon, naval officer (retired)  
al-Dardiri Haj Ahmad, major - alleged executed  
Salah Karboni, major - alleged executed  
Ali Abbas Ali, lieutenant colonel - alleged executed  
Mohamed Mahmud, lieutenant colonel - alleged executed  
Taj al-Sir Sarbil, major - alleged executed  
and 47 others

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The military officers named above were among 65 civilians, officers and other ranks arrested in Port Sudan on 15 August 1996. The authorities have acknowledged the arrest of 19 civilians and an unstated number of soldiers, accusing them of "plotting subversive activity" in Port Sudan and seeking to attack installations there.

The military personnel are reported to have been taken to al-Fau where they were brought before a military tribunal and unfairly tried. Reports that 11 officers were executed by firing squad on 18 August 1996 have heightened Amnesty International's concern that all those arrested are under threat of execution. Military tribunals in Sudan fall short of international standards of fair trial by not affording full rights to defence or appeal.

In the past persons accused of involvement in suspected coup plots have been tortured. Amnesty International fears that the current detainees are also at risk of torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tension has been rising eastern Sudan throughout 1996 with increasingly frequent military activity in eastern Sudan by the Sudan Alliance Forces, one of the armed opposition movements linked to the Eritrea-based opposition National Democratic Alliance. The latter is an umbrella grouping of political parties and trade unions banned after the 30 June 1989 coup that brought the current government to power. Scores of suspected political opponents have been arrested in the major towns of Kassala and Port Sudan since January.

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

- expressing concern at the reported execution of 11 military personnel, among them Major al-Dardiri Haj Ahmad, Major Salah Karboni, Lieutenant Colonel Ali Abbas Ali, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Mahmud and Major Taj al-Sir Sarbil on 18 August 1996, reportedly after being tried before a military tribunal which

did not afford the internationally accepted rights to defence counsel and appeal;

- seeking assurances that none of those arrested are being tortured or ill-treated;
- urging that they be given immediate and regular access to their families, legal representatives and any necessary medical attention;
- appealing for them to be released if they are not to be charged with recognizable criminal offences and brought promptly to a fair trial which affords the full rights to defence and appeal, and without recourse to the death penalty;
- explaining that you oppose the death penalty without exception in all places for all crimes.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President

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**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Minister of Justice/Attorney General

Mr 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan

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

**Telexes: c/o 22411 KAID SD**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan

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

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Mr Obeid Haj Ali  
Chief Justice  
Law Courts  
Khartoum, Sudan

2) The Chairman  
Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly  
Omdurman, 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 7 October 1996.