

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture/Legal concern

22 December 1992

SUDAN: Salma Abdulla Khalil (female)
Saaida Abdulla Khalil (female)
Nadia Said (female)
and 22 other women

Amnesty International has received reports that 25 women, among them the three named above, were arrested in Omdurman on 17 December 1992. They were reportedly among around 200 women demonstrating in Omdurman, which is the old city facing Khartoum on the west bank of the White Nile, protesting at the cost of living in the capital. The demonstration was reportedly peaceful until security officials intervened to break it up. It is alleged that several women were beaten as they were arrested. At least one, Nadia Said, is reported to have sustained injuries that required medical attention. Security men are reported to have taunted the women in a number of ways, including challenging them to complain to Amnesty International. Amnesty International is concerned that the women may still be in detention in an unknown place and that there is a risk that they may be ill-treated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Women have periodically demonstrated against the economic and political policies of the current government, which took power in a military coup on 30 June 1989, and the authorities have been prepared to use force against them. In April 1992, for example, 10 women related to 28 army officers executed on 24 April 1990 were detained for up to three weeks after they staged a demonstration in Khartoum commemorating their executed family members. Security officials are reported to have beaten a number of women while arresting them. There have been other reports of women who have been arrested being tortured or flogged before being released. In November 1990 17 women students received 30 lashes in Wad Medani after they had demonstrated against the dismissal of university lecturers for political reasons.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of the women named above on 17 December 1992 who Amnesty International believes are prisoners of conscience arrested for engaging in their internationally recognized fundamental right to freedom of expression and association;
- expressing concern that some of them are reported to have been assaulted while they were arrested;
- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated and that they have

immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and medical attention;

- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

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

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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) Brigadier-General al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior
and Deputy Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Gen al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD

Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Mr Abdullah Idris
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign
Affairs)**

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum.

Mr Ali Sahloul
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO BOX 873
Khartoum.

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 2 February 1993.

