

SUDAN Mohamed Ibrahim Abdallah (m)  
Sadul Adam Abdelrahman (m)  
Abdullah Rabhi (m)  
Mohamed Hamid Ahmed (m)  
Mohamed Issa Tiue (m)

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Amnesty International is concerned that the five men named above are at imminent risk of cross-amputation (amputation of the right hand and left foot) and execution. They are being held in Kober prison in the capital Khartoum.

Earlier this month, the Constitutional Court in Khartoum, the highest judicial court, rejected their appeal. Only the President of Sudan could overturn the sentences.

The five men, from Kutum in the state of northern Darfur, north-western Sudan, were accused of a bank robbery in Nyala in 1998 and found guilty of armed robbery. On 18 March 1999, they were sentenced to cross-amputation and death by hanging in an unfair trial by a court in northern Darfur. The men were denied legal representation. Concerns were expressed by lawyers at the time that death sentences were passed onto the men even though no-one was killed in the Nyala bank robbery.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the beginning of the year, at least 19 people were reported to have been executed and at least a hundred people were sentenced to death in Sudan. Amnesty International fears that the number awaiting execution may be much higher.

Sudan's Penal Code, which is based upon the government's interpretation of Shari'a (Islamic law), includes penalties such as limb amputation, death by hanging and flogging. Amnesty International regards these as cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments. They are inconsistent with international human rights law and Sudan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Sudan has ratified, and the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which Sudan has signed.

Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and campaigns for these to be removed from all penal codes without exception. The organization takes no position on the ideological or religious basis of any penal code.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:**

- appealing for their sentences, including cross-amputation and death by hanging, to be commuted immediately;
- expressing concern that the five men are facing sentences of cross-amputation, in contravention of the prohibition in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as well as Sudan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- expressing concern that the men were also sentenced to death, which Amnesty International considers to be the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life;

- expressing concern that the five men were sentenced after an unfair trial, which did not allow them legal representation;
- calling on the government to uphold the right of all Sudanese to receive a fair trial and have adequate legal representation, in accordance with international standards and without recourse to the death penalty;
- calling for all sentences of death and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishments in Sudan to be commuted.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir  
President of the Republic of Sudan  
President's Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Fax: + 24911 771651/ 787676 / 783223**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Fax: +24911 774842/ 774906**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Fax: +24911 779383**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Dr Yasir Sidahmed  
Advisory Council for Human Rights  
PO Box 302  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax: + 24911 779173**  
**Salutation: Dear Dr Sidahmed**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Hafez al-Sheikh al-Zaki  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court  
Khartoum, 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 31 December 2002.