

2 September 1996

Further information on EXTRA 137/96 (MDE 24/14/96, 28 August 1996) - Fear of refoulement / Fear for safety

SYRIA / HUNGARY Anthony Zakaria Laki, Sudanese asylum-seeker
Samuel Lado Zakaria, Sudanese asylum-seeker

According to information obtained by Amnesty International, the two brothers Anthony Zakaria Laki and Samuel Lado Zakaria, Sudanese asylum-seekers, are to be *refouled* to Sudan by the Syrian authorities as early as 6 September 1996.

Amnesty International's information also indicates that despite repeated requests, the Syrian authorities have refused to allow representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Syria to visit the two brothers in detention.

Amnesty International remains gravely concerned for the two brothers. As stated in the original EXTRA, Anthony Zakaria Laki is a deserter from the military and as such is at risk of serious human rights violations if returned to Sudan, including detention, ill-treatment and possibly torture. It is likely that his brother Samuel Lado Zakaria would face the same fate as an accomplice to military desertion.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: The above new information should be incorporated into continuing urgent appeals to the Syrian and Hungarian authorities.

A. To the Syrian authorities:

- Urging them to halt at once the planned *refoulement* of the two brothers to Sudan;
- Pointing out that the internationally recognised principle of non-*refoulement* is binding on all states, regardless of whether or not they have ratified specific conventions on the rights of refugees;
- Urging the authorities to release the two brothers from detention and afford them effective and durable protection from *refoulement*;
- Expressing concern that representatives of the UNHCR in Syria have been denied access to the two brothers;
- Urging the authorities to establish adequate procedures whereby those individuals at risk of serious human rights violations if returned to their country could obtain effective and durable protection.

B: To the Hungarian authorities:

- Expressing concern that the two brothers were refused effective and durable protection in Hungary and that consequently they may imminently be *refouled* to Sudan, where they face grave human rights violations;
- Reminding the authorities of their treaty obligation under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees to abide by the principle of non-*refoulement*;
- Urging the authorities to seek assurances from the Syrian government that the two men will not be *refouled* to Sudan but will be afforded effective and durable protection;
- Urging the authorities to establish an adequate procedure whereby those individuals at risk of human rights violations if returned to their country could obtain effective and durable protection.

APPEALS AND COPIES TO: authorities listed in the original EXTRA.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 October 1996.