

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 24/16/96

16 September 1996

Further information (2) on EXTRA 137/96 (MDE 24/14/96, 28 August 1996) and follow-up (MDE 24/15/96) - Fear of refoulement / Fear for safety

SYRIA / HUNGARYAnthony Zakaria Laki, Sudanese asylum seeker
Samuel Lado Zakaria, Sudanese asylum seeker

Amnesty International regrets to report that brothers Anthony Zakaria Laki and Samuel Lado Zakaria, two asylum seekers from Southern Sudan, were *refouled* to Sudan from Syria early last week.

This was done despite repeated requests from the UNHCR office in Syria to the authorities not to *refoule* the two men. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture had also made an urgent appeal to the Syrian authorities, requesting them not to expel the two brothers to Sudan. Unfortunately, the Syrian authorities appear not to have heeded these requests.

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

To the Syrian authorities

- expressing concern that Anthony Zakaria Laki and Samuel Lado Zakaria were returned to Sudan, despite repeated requests from Amnesty International and various UN organs;
- 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 establish adequate procedures whereby those individuals at risk of serious human rights violations if returned to their country can obtain effective and lasting protection.

To the Hungarian authorities

- expressing concern that Anthony Zakaria Laki and Samuel Lado Zakaria were refused protection in Hungary and that they were consequently *refouled* to Sudan, where they are at risk of 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 remove their geographical limitation on the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and afford protection to refugees not only from Europe but from other regions as well;
- 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 lasting protection.

APPEALS TO: authorities listed in the original action.

COPIES TO: to diplomatic representatives of Syria and Hungary accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 October 1996.