

9 January 2001

Further information on UA 375/00 (AFR 54/07/00, 11 December 2000) - Fear of Torture**SUDAN**

Ali al Said, Democratic Unionist Party
Al Tijani Mustafa, Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party
Mohamed Mahjoub, Sudan Communist Party
Joseph Okailo, National Democratic Alliance (NDA)
Mohamed Wida Ala, NDA Spokesman
Mohamed Suleiman Mohamed (name corrected), Trade Union Alliance
Stans Jimmy Wongo, Union of Sudan African Parties
Ibrahim Haj Musa

Ghazi Suleiman, lawyer, Sudanese Human Rights Group
(organisation name corrected)
Ali Mahmoud Hasanain (name corrected), lawyer, Democratic Unionist Party

The eight opposition political activists and two lawyers named above have now been held without charge for over a month, raising grave concern for their safety. They are held without access to their lawyers and no regular access to their families or medical treatment.

Amnesty International has received reports that all ten are held in solitary confinement in a secret place of detention. Government opponents are regularly tortured in custody, particularly when held in illegal secret detention.

Ghazi Suleiman was brought to the headquarters of the Security Services for a supervised visit from his brother on 23 December and again on 5 January. Mohamed Suleiman Mohamed's family also managed to see him on 5 January, after they submitted a request to the State Minister of Justice. Al Tijani Mustafa and Mohamed Wida Ala have also reportedly been allowed to see their families.

Ghazi Suleiman has been hospitalized twice since his arrest and there is serious concern that he has been tortured in custody, and is held in very harsh conditions. He has been arrested several times before, for his human rights activities, but until now he has been released after a few days.

The authorities have so far shown no sign that they will either charge or release the detainees. President Omar al-Bashir amended the National Security Law on 10 December 2000. Although few details of this amendment were officially given, it reportedly removes the right to challenge through the courts detentions of less than 93 days; this period is renewable for another three months. Since his re-election on 29 December, President al-Bashir has extended the State of Emergency declared in December 1999 until the end of 2001.

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

- expressing deep concern that the 10 men named above have now been detained without charge for over a month;
- expressing concern at reports that Ghazi Suleiman may have been tortured, seeking assurances that the detainees are not being tortured or ill-treated and urging the government to reveal publicly where they are detained;
- urging that they be given unconditional, immediate and regular access to their families, legal representatives and any medical attention they may need;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ghazi Suleiman and Ali Mahmoud Hasanain, whom Amnesty International believes are prisoners of conscience;
- calling for the other eight men to be released immediately and unconditionally, or else charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried in accordance

with international standards of fair trial and without resorting to the death penalty;

APPEALS TO:

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

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Dr Ahmad al-Mufti
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 24911 779173

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 20 February 2001.