

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 09/98

Fear of Imminent Execution

27 January 1998

SUDAN 'Abd al-Halim 'Abd al-Raziq

'Abd al-Halim 'Abd al-Raziq faces imminent execution after having been sentenced to death by hanging by Wad Medani criminal court in central Sudan. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) has stated that 'Abd al-Halim 'Abd al-Raziq was sentenced to death for premeditated murder under Article 130 of the criminal code, after which the families of the victims demanded *qisas* (retributive punishment).

In September 1997 'Abd al-Halim 'Abd al-Raziq and another man, both members of an Islamist political group that believes all others to be infidels, attacked a mosque of the Ansar Sunna order of Islam. Two men were killed. The second man involved in the attack was beaten to death by worshippers in the mosque.

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

- expressing deep concern at reports that 'Abd al-Halim 'Abd al-Raziq has been sentenced to death by hanging for premeditated murder and is under imminent threat of execution;
- appealing for commutation of the sentence;
- voicing opposition to the death penalty in all cases, irrespective of the nature of the offence, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of the Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: President, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: c/o 22411 KAID SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

AI currently has no fax numbers for these authorities. Those unable to send telegrams or telexes may fax appeals directly to the Sudanese embassy in their country, asking for the appeal to be forwarded onto the authorities in Sudan as a matter of urgency.

COPIES TO:

Mr Obeid Haj Ali
Chief Justice
Supreme Court
Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Ahmad al-Mufti
Secretary
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
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 24 February 1998.