

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/17/95  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 123/95 Fear of torture / Possible prisoners of conscience 2 June 1995

SUDAN Hassan Hussein, football coach  
Abdallah Musa, trade unionist  
Mahjoub al-Zubeir, trade unionist  
Ali al-Khattib, trade unionist  
Haj Musa 'Abd al-Rahim, trade unionist  
Moatissim Siam, engineer  
Sulieman Khalaf Allah, engineer  
Khalil Osman Khalil, businessman  
Galal Ismail, businessman  
Abdul Rahman al-Amin, manager of an insurance company  
Imad Ali Dahab, hotel manager  
Said Ashakir, teacher  
Faqiri Abdallah, employee of Sudan Ports Corporation  
Abdul Azim Abdullah, employee of the Sudan Ports Corporation  
Mahir Mekki, employee of Sudan Ports Corporation

---

The 15 men named above are reported to have been arrested in late May 1995 in Port Sudan, Sudan's largest seaport on the Red Sea. The men, many of whom hold left wing political views, were reportedly detained by security officials although neither their place of detention nor the reasons for their arrest are known. Amnesty International is concerned that they may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The arrests have taken place in what appears to be a widespread clampdown on political opponents of the military government, which seized power in a coup in 1989. There are reports of arrests in several Sudanese cities. In Khartoum, Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Prime Minister and leader of the banned Umma Party, was arrested on 16 May and other prominent Umma Party members were arrested in the days that followed. The authorities have accused the Umma Party leadership of cooperating with the armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army. There are further, as yet unconfirmed, reports of arrests in Kost, Gedaref and al-Obeid.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Political prisoners are held without charge or trial in Sudan on the basis of Constitutional Decree Two of 30 June 1989 which established a State of Emergency. The decree bans the "showing of any political opposition by any means to the regime of the Revolution for National Salvation".

Anyone detained by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment, in particular those held in secret detention centres known as "ghosthouses". Those whom the authorities suspect may have information about opposition activities are at risk of severe torture. In the past the authorities have blamed torture and ill-treatment on undisciplined security officials. Amnesty International's information, however, suggests that torture and ill-treatment is systematic.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of the 15 men named above, who Amnesty International believes may be prisoners of conscience, imprisoned on account of their non-violent opposition to government policies;

- seeking assurances of their physical safety and guarantees that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial;
- calling on the Sudan Government to put a stop to arbitrary detention without charge and to the torture and ill-treatment of individuals suspected of being government opponents.

**APPEALS TO**

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir  
President of the Republic of the Sudan  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KRID SD**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Mohamed Kheir  
Minister of the Interior  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Mohamed Kheir, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddo  
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General  
Ministry of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Obeid Haj Ali  
Chief Justice  
Law Courts  
Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Angelo Beda Bambara  
Chairman of the Human Rights Committee  
of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA)\*  
Omdurman, Sudan

\* The TNA's Human Rights Committee was created by Sudan's government-appointed Transitional National Assembly in December 1992, apparently to counter what

the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda. The Committee's Chairman has said that it investigates reports of human rights violations.

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 17 July 1995.