

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Prisoner of Conscience/fear of torture

20 April 1994

SUDAN:

Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, opposition politician -
Senior member of Democratic Unionist Party

Amnesty International has recently learned that Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, the most senior member of the banned Democratic Unionist Party remaining in Sudan, was arrested at his home in Khartoum on 20 March 1994. His arrest allegedly took place after he had been visited by a number of foreign visitors at his home.

Amnesty International believes Sid Ahmad al-Hussein is a prisoner of conscience. His current whereabouts are unknown and there are fears that he may be at risk of torture while in detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, an outspoken critic of the government, has been arrested on several occasions in the past, most recently on 17 November 1993 when he was detained until 20 February 1994. (See UA 411/93 AFR 54/41/93, 19/11/93 and follow up AFR 54/02/94, 24/02/94). During previous periods in detention he has been subjected to torture.

Political prisoners are held without charge or trial in Sudan on the basis of Decree Two of the emergency laws issued by the government immediately after the 30 June 1989 coup. Section Seven of the decree bans the "*showing of any political opposition by any means to the regime of the Revolution for National Salvation*".

Political detainees in Khartoum are normally held at the security headquarters or in secret detention centres known as "*ghost houses*". Torture during interrogation of prisoners is systematic.

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

- expressing concern at the incommunicado detention, following his arrest on 20 March 1994, of Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, whom Amnesty International believes is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for exercising his internationally recognised right to freedom of expression and association;
- seeking public assurances of his safety and guarantees that he is not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging that he be granted immediate and regular access to his family and legal counsel and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

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 KAID SD
Faxes: 249 11 71724
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior
 People's Palace
 PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Faxes: 249 11 71724/76554/73046/70186
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

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

Telegrams: Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign
 Affairs)
Faxes: 249 11 74063
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
 Chief Justice
 Law Courts
 Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 PO Box 873
 Khartoum, Sudan

Dr A. al-Mufti
 Secretary of Human Rights Commission*
 Khartoum, Sudan

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, but apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

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 1 June 1994.