

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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19 November 1993

**SUDAN Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, senior member of Democratic Unionist Party
Abdallah Barakat, member the Ansar religious order
and 33 students whose names are currently unknown**

Amnesty International is concerned about the arrest of two prominent opponents of the government in Sudan. The whereabouts of both men remain unknown and there is serious fear that they are being subjected to torture. The organization is also concerned for the well-being of 33 students, whose names are currently not known, who are also reported to be in detention.

Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, Deputy Secretary General of the banned Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), is reported to have been arrested by security officials at his home in Khartoum on 17 November 1993. His arrest took place a day after he had organized a meeting at Omdurman Ahlia University to commemorate the signing in November 1988 of peace protocols between DUP leader Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani and the armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by John Garang de Mabior. Sid Ahmad al-Hussein gave a speech denouncing the policies of the current government which, he is reported to have said, threaten the existence of Sudan as a single, united state.

Sid Ahmad al-Hussein, the most senior member of the banned DUP remaining in Sudan, is an outspoken critic of the government. He has been arrested on several occasions in the past and each time brutally tortured.

Abdallah Barakat, a prominent member of the Ansar order and supporter of the banned Umma party, was reportedly arrested on 12 November in Omdurman. His arrest followed a speech in the Wad Nubawi mosque, one of the holiest shrines of the Ansar, in which he denounced the alleged rigging of elections in Khartoum Students' Union which led to the return of supporters of the government.

On 10 November, students protesting the election results occupied buildings in the university and confronted security police attempting to confine them to the campus. Rioting ensued and, according to some reports, over 300 students were arrested. The majority were released after two days. However, on 14 November officials are reported to have indicated that 17 students remained in detention. Meanwhile Amnesty International has received information suggesting that, as of 16 November, 33 students were being held by security officials in a secret detention centre, commonly known in Sudan as a "ghost house".

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

- expressing concern at the arrest on 17 November 1993 of Sid Ahmad al-Hussein and the arrest on 12 November of Abdallah Barakat;
- expressing concern at the arrest on 10 November 1993 of 33 students whose names are not known;
- expressing concern at their continuing detention without charge or trial and fear that they are being subjected to torture;
- requesting assurances that they are being humanely treated and urging that their whereabouts in custody be made public and that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;

- urging that they be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

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

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

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)

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 31 December 1993.