

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/19/91

UA 358/91

Torture

**Distr: UA/SC
29 October 1991**

SUDAN:

Muawia Jaffar - police officer

Zein al-Abdin al-Tayib Osman - unemployed

The two men named above are reported to have been arrested and tortured by members of a Sudanese intelligence service, known as the "Security of the Revolution", in separate incidents in October 1991.

Muawia Jaffar was arrested in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on 14 October 1991 by "Security of the Revolution" officers, some hours after he is reported to have prevented security officials from entering a sector of the airport for which they had no authorization. He was badly beaten and then dumped in a back street in Khartoum.

Zein al-Abdin al-Tayib Osman, 21-year-old unemployed school graduate, was arrested in the town of Sennar in Blue Nile Province early October on suspicion of distributing anti-government leaflets. He is reported to have been beaten and subjected to electric shocks in an interrogation centre. Subsequently he was transferred to hospital in Sennar where he is believed to remain, under guard.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The security service known as the "Security of the Revolution" was created to combat opposition after the military coup on 30 June 1989 which brought the current government to power. The service's members are selected from trusted supporters of the government, many of whom are sympathizers of the National Islamic Front (NIF). Both the cases of torture described above led to protests in Sudan and it is reported that the authorities have made a number of arrests. However, the investigations concerning Muawia Jaffar's reported ill-treatment have been handled in an unusual way - through the office of the Attorney General - leading the police to voice fears that the perpetrators will not be brought to justice. The police in Khartoum have demanded that those alleged to be responsible for the assault be handed over to them as the proper arresting and charging authority. The authorities have so far refused.

The "Security of the Revolution" is the security service responsible for secret detention centres, known in Sudan as "ghost houses". Prisoners held incommunicado in "ghost houses", even those held for short periods of time, have routinely been subjected to torture. By mid-1991 Amnesty International had been able to confirm the torture in "ghost houses" of more than 60 people arrested since November 1989 by members of the "Security of the Revolution". One of their victims, Ali Fadul, a medical doctor, is reported to have died as a result of torture on 22 April 1990 (see UA 164/90, AFR 54/22/90, 25 April 1990). Although there were some indications after Ali Fadul's death that measures were being taken to reduce the use of torture, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of the torture of political prisoners held incommunicado in secret detention centres.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of the two people named above and about reports that they were tortured by members of the "Security of the Revolution";
- calling for independent and impartial investigations into their treatment in detention, in particular to establish if they were subjected to torture or other unlawful treatment;
- requesting clarification of the exact reasons of their arrest;
- requesting assurances that Zein al-Abdin al-Tayib Osman is being humanely treated and has access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging the government to release Zein al-Abdin al-Tayib Osman immediately and unconditionally if he is not to be charged promptly with an offence of a recognizably criminal nature;
- urging the government to bring to justice those alleged to be responsible for the reported torture.

APPEALS TO

His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of the National Salvation
Revolution Command Council
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Your Excellency

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KAID SD

Brigadier-General al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Deputy
Chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Dear Brigadier-General

Telegrams: Brig Gen Mohamed Saleh al-Zubeir, Khartoum, Sudan

Brigadier Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice

Dear Minister

Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD
(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

COPIES TO:

Mr Ali Sahloul
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Khartoum Sudan

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 December 1991.