

2007

23 August

UA 222/07

Torture/Fear for Safety

SUDAN

Jamal Mohammed Sinin (m)
Omer Mohammed Haroun (m)
Mohammed Abdel Magid Haroun (m)
Adam Adam Ismail (m)
Abdel Jabbar Abdallah (m)
Ahmed Mohammed Hussein (m)
About 30 other displaced persons from Kalma Camp

On 21 August hundreds of police, army and border intelligence guards surrounded Kalma Camp, near the capital of South Darfur, Nyala. About 35 of the displaced people living in the camp, including the six named above, were arrested and were taken to Nyala West police station where they are held incommunicado. According to reports, the detainees are being severely beaten.

According to the government the security forces entered the camp after two policemen were killed and others wounded. According to camp residents the security services used tear gas and looted shelters housing the displaced during the raid.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to UN figures 2.2 million people in Darfur are now gathered in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). They were driven out of their homes when, in response to armed opposition attacks, the government armed and supported local militias, known as the Janjawid, as a proxy force. The government and the Janjawid attempted to suppress the insurgency by deliberately targeting civilians of the same ethnicity as the armed opposition groups. About 95,000 people have been killed, and more than 200,000 have died over the past four years as a result of conflict-related hunger or disease. Vast areas of Darfur have been emptied of farmers, and hundreds of villages have been razed to the ground. The people fled to camps, and are now living mostly in basic shelters for a fourth year.

Kalma is one of the largest camps, sheltering more than 90,000 IDPs in Darfur. The security forces in Nyala have frequently arrested people from the camp. The National Intelligence and Security Agency are likely to use torture systematically against any group suspected of attacking the police. Article 31 of the 1999 National Security Forces Act gives the security forces the power to detain people for up to nine months without access to judicial review: this puts detainees at grave risk of torture and extrajudicial execution.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the men named above, who are detained incommunicado in Nyala West police station;
- urging the authorities to give the detainees immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers, and any necessary medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to charge the men with recognisable criminal offences, or else release them immediately;
- urging the authorities to repeal Article 31 of the National Security Forces Act, which allows detainees to be unduly held for up to nine months without access to judicial review.

APPEALS TO:

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

Fax: +249 183 782541
Salutation: Your Excellency

Prof. Al-Zubair Bashir Taha
Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Interior, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: +249 183 774339
+249 183 776554 (Please mark, "FAO Minister of Internal Affairs")
Salutation: Dear Minister

Al-Hajj Atta al-Manan
Governor of South Darfur State
c/o People's Palace, P.O. Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: +249-711-832535,

COPIES TO:

Dr Abdel Moneim Osman Taha
Rapporteur, Advisory Council for Human Rights
Khartoum, Sudan

Email: human_rights_sudan@hotmail.com

Human Rights Committee
The Peoples Hall
Omdurman, Sudan

Fax: +249 187 560950

E-mail: info@sudan-parliament.org

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 4 October 2007.
