

PUBLIC

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UA 265/04 **Fear for safety / Torture**

SUDAN **Al Naji Abdalla (m), student, member of the Popular Congress Consultative Council**
Abdulkarim Mohamed (m), member of the Popular Congress Student Secretariat
Ahmed Omar (m), student, member of the Popular Congress
Naji Dahab (m), member of the Popular Congress political secretariat
Yasir Musa (m), member of the Popular Congress Student Secretariat
Khalid Osman (m), Popular Congress activist
Adam Sabun (m), Zaghawa ethnicity, aged 40
Scores of suspected Popular Congress activists

Killed: **Shamsuldin Idriss (m), student**
Abdulrahman Suleiman Adam (m), student

Over the past week, the Sudanese authorities have arrested scores of members or suspected members of the Popular Congress, an opposition party said to be linked to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), which is one of the armed groups fighting against the Sudanese government in Darfur. The arrests, which began on 8 September and are still continuing, are taking place in and around the capital Khartoum.

Some of those arrested are known to have been tortured, and at least two students have died, reportedly as a result of injuries sustained under torture. Many others, including Al Naji Abdalla, Abdulkarim Mohamed, Ahmed Omar, and Naji Dahab have been arrested and are still missing, and believed to be at serious risk of torture. Al Naji Abdalla was reportedly beaten during arrest.

Those targeted for arrest include high-profile members of the Popular Congress; lower-profile members of the Popular Congress, in particular students; and people from Darfur who are suspected of having links with the Popular Congress and the conflict in Darfur. The latter two groups are most at risk of torture. Adam Sabun, who was arrested on 10 September, Yasir Musa, and Khalid Osman are all reportedly in hospital after being tortured by security forces. It is feared that all three men may be taken back into detention after they leave hospital.

The dead bodies of two students arrested as part of this security operation have been given back to their relatives. On 10 September, Shamsuldin Idriss, a Nuba student at al-Nilein University, died in custody one day after being arrested. The police told his relatives that he died of "stomach pains"; however a medical examination of his corpse reportedly revealed concussions on his brain and bruises on his legs, abdomen and left shoulder. On 14 September, the dead body of Abdulrahman Suleiman Adam, a Darfurian student at Al-Gezira University in Khartoum, was returned to his parents. The security forces claimed that he fell from their car upon arrest. His skull was reportedly fractured. Amnesty International fears that both deaths in custody may have resulted from torture or other ill-treatment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sudanese government has accused the Popular Congress of plotting "sabotage" after announcing on 9 September the discovery of weapons at a house in Khartoum. On 15 September the Minister of Justice announced the creation of a committee, to be headed by Attorney-General Salah Abu-Zayd, to investigate the alleged "sabotage" plot.

More than 60 people are so far thought to have been arrested. On 13 September Hassan al-Turabi, the leader of the Popular Congress, was transferred from house detention, where he had been held without charge for several months, to Kober prison. In the past few days, his son Siddiq al-Turabi has also been arrested and brought to Kober prison, as well as Popular Congress senior officials such as Ibrahim al-Sanusi and Mohamed el Amin Khalifa. They risk being kept in incommunicado detention for an indefinite period.

According to Reuters news agency, First Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha told reporters on 13 September that an investigation had begun into the death of Shamsuldin Idriss. He added that, "under these kinds of circumstances, where there are battles... some incidents may occur. But the law rules, and there is no organ or apparatus in this state that is above the law... including the state security services".

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

- expressing your concern for the safety of Al Naji Abdalla, Ahmed Omar, Abdulkarim Mohamed and Naji Dahab, urging the authorities to reveal their whereabouts;
- asking for the names and whereabouts of all those arrested since 8 September to be made public; for assurances that they will not be tortured; and that they are granted access to doctors, lawyers and relatives;
- asking for full, independent and impartial investigations into all deaths in custody and reports of torture, including those of Shamsuldin Idriss, Abdulrahman Suleiman Adam, Yasir Musa, Khalid Osman, Al Naji Abdalla and Adam Sabun, and urging that those responsible be brought to justice;
- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested, unless they are to be charged with recognizably criminal offences.

APPEALS TO: (it may be difficult to get through to these fax numbers, but please keep trying)

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 779 977
Salutation: Your Excellency

Major General Abdel Rahim
Mohammed Hussein
Minister of Internal Affairs
and Presidential Representative for Darfur
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax : +249 183 773046
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan
**Fax: + 249 183 770 883 (Ask for
faxes to be forwarded to the Minister of
Justice)**
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:
Abdel-Moneim Taha
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 770 883
Salutation: Dear Sir

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 28 October 2004.