

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AFR 54/01/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 09/92      Legal Concern/Fear of Torture**

**8 January 1992**

**SUDAN:                      Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr - army officer  
                                    Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr - businessman**

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Two brothers, Brigadier Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr and Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr, are reported to have been arrested by members of a security force known as the "Security of the Revolution" on 30 December 1991 at Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr's home in Khartoum North. Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr was an official at the Sudanese Embassy in Saudi Arabia until he was recalled to Khartoum and dismissed from the army in December 1991. Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr is an agriculturalist and businessman. It has been reported that Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr is suspected by the Sudanese authorities of passing information to government opponents, however there has been no official announcement about why the two brothers were arrested and they have not been charged or tried. Their whereabouts remain unknown but it is thought that they are being detained outside Khartoum.

There is serious concern that Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr and Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr are at risk of torture, which is routine in secret detention centres, known in Sudan as "ghost houses", run by the "Security of the Revolution". Amnesty International has been able to confirm the torture in detention centres of more than 100 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 AFR 54/22/90).

More recently, over 75 civilians and former and serving army officers arrested in late August 1991 in connection with an alleged coup attempt were reportedly seriously tortured while under detention in "ghost houses". An elderly prisoner was bound and suspended by his wrists from the walls of his cell on three consecutive nights. A civilian prisoner is reported to have had the flesh from his heels sliced off. There are reports of prisoners being whipped, of others having their testicles crushed with pliers and of yet others being burnt by hot irons.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On 30 April 1991 the Sudan Government responded to international criticism of its human rights record by announcing an amnesty for "all political prisoners". This led to the release of 299 prisoners of conscience, many of whom had been detained without charge or trial since shortly after the 30 June 1989 coup. However not all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners were in fact freed. There have also been new arrests of government opponents and a number of those released in the amnesty have since been re-arrested. At least 40 prisoners of conscience remain in prison. Over 100 suspected government opponents have been arrested since August 1991 alone. The majority have been held incommunicado in "ghost houses", often for only brief periods, where they are reported to have been tortured.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr and Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr who Amnesty International believes may be prisoners of conscience;

- expressing concern at reports of their continuing incommunicado detention without charge or trial and fear that they may be being tortured;
- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated and that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

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**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Lieutenant General  
Omar Hassan al-Bashir  
Head of State and Chairman of the NSRCC  
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**

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

**Telegrams: Brig-Gen al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD**

**Salutation: Dear Brigadier-General**

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

**Telegrams: Brigadier Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Dear Brigadier**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi,  
Chief Justice, Law Courts,  
Khartoum, Sudan.

Mr Ali Sahloul,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
PO BOX 873, 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 21 March 1992.