

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 411/92 (AFR 54/34/92, 22 December 1992) - Fear of torture/Legal concern

SUDAN: Salma Abdulla Khalil (female)
 Saaida Abdulla Khalil (female)
 Nadia Said (female)

and new name: Hala Mirghani Suleiman (female)

The four women named above were among 25 women arrested in Omdurman, the old city facing Khartoum on the west bank of the Nile, on 17 December 1992. Their arrest followed peaceful demonstrations protesting at inflation and the cost of living. It is alleged that several women were beaten as they were arrested.

Amnesty International has learned that all the women were released on the evening of their arrest. However, the four women named above are reported to have been ordered to report each day early in the morning to the security headquarters in Khartoum where they are held until just before the evening curfew when they are allowed to return home. The women are not being subjected to interrogation or, apparently, any form of investigation. Amnesty International considers them still to be prisoners of conscience.

Making individuals report each day and holding them until the evening is a form of physical restriction tantamount to detention. The practice prevents individuals from leading their normal life and effectively removes them from society. Day-time detention is now widely used in Khartoum to harass suspected opponents of the government and restrict their freedom of movement. During August and September 1992, for example, hundreds of trade unionists were made to report daily to the security headquarters in Khartoum. Individuals have been made to report in this manner for periods ranging from a few days to several months. Those summoned are not given food or drink and there are reports of prisoners being verbally threatened and abused. Some prisoners have been made to recite parts of the Quran from memory and have been accused of being infidels when they have failed.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of the women named above on 17 December 1992 who Amnesty International believes are prisoners of conscience arrested for engaging in their internationally recognized fundamental right to freedom of expression and association;
- expressing concern that some of them are reported to have been assaulted

while they were arrested;

- expressing concern that the women are reported to have been ordered to report each day to the security headquarters in Khartoum where they are made to remain until the evening;

- indicating that Amnesty International regards this form of physical restriction as tantamount to detention and considers the four still to be prisoners of conscience;

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- urging that all restrictions on their freedom of movement be lifted immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of the National Salvation
Revolutionary Command Council
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-General al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior
and Deputy Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council
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: Your Excellency

3) Mr Abdullah Idris
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum

Mr Ali Sahloul

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO BOX 873
Khartoum

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 2 February 1993.