

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/01/97

UA 08/97 Fear of torture / Possible prisoners of conscience 10 January 1997

SUDAN Abdel Nabi Ali Ahmad, former regional governor, university lecturer
Adam Yousif, member of the Ansar religious order
Fadl al-Nur Jabir, senior member of the Umma Party
Fadlalla Burma Nasir, former government minister
Hashim Awad Abdel Magid, lawyer

Five senior members of the banned Umma Party are reported to have been detained without charge or trial in Khartoum, Sudan's capital. They are believed to be in a security service-run section of Kober Prison. Their families have been denied access to them. Amnesty International fears that the five are at risk of torture and ill-treatment and is concerned that they may be prisoners of conscience.

Abdel Nabi Ali Ahmad, Governor of Darfur before the 1989 coup and currently a university lecturer, Adam Yousif, a member of the committee running the organizational affairs of the Ansar order of Islam, and Fadl al-Nur Jabir, a member of the Political Bureau of the Umma Party, were reportedly arrested in late December 1996. Fadlalla Burma Nasir, a government minister before the current government seized power in a military coup on 30 June 1989, and Hashim Awad Abdel Magid, a lawyer, were detained on 4 January 1997.

A number of other prominent Sudanese citizens were arrested around the same time; they were released after 24 hours in detention. It is thought that the five men are being held as punishment for the political activities in exile of Sadiq al-Mahdi, the former Prime Minister of Sudan and leader of the Umma Party, who escaped from Sudan in mid-December 1996.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Anyone detained by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment and torture, in particular during interrogation in security offices. In the past the authorities have blamed torture and ill-treatment on undisciplined security officials. Amnesty International's information, however, is that torture and ill-treatment in security force custody are systematic.

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

- expressing concern at the detention without charge of the above men, who may be prisoners of conscience imprisoned for their suspected opposition to the Sudan Government;
- seeking assurances that the detainees are not being tortured or ill-treated;
- urging that they be given immediate and regular access to their families, legal representatives and any necessary medical attention;
- appealing for them to be released if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of the Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Mr 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Minister of Justice 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: c/o 22411 KAID SD or 22604 IPOL SD

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Mr Obeid Haj Ali
Chief Justice
Supreme Court
Khartoum, Sudan

2) Mr Ahmad al-Mufti
Secretary
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

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 February 1997.