

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture/Legal concern

8 January 1993

SUDAN:           Mohamed Wahaba                   - former civil servant  
                  Mohamed Bashir al-Faki       - teacher  
                  Salah Hassan Said           - manager in private sector  
                  Abdel Hamid Ali Bashir       - politician  
                  Abdul Ra'ouf Ali Abu Na'ouf   - former civil servant  
                  Omar Ali                       - teacher  
                  Farouk Ali Zakaria  
                  Omar Ali  
                  Mohamed Bashir

and               Abdul Rahman Abdulla Salin Tout - businessman

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Amnesty International has received reports that nine men suspected by the authorities of being members of the banned Sudan Communist Party (SCP) were arrested between 21 and 27 December 1992. Their arrests followed a security operation in Burri, a residential suburb of Khartoum, in which security officials raided a house and then occupied it for several days, detaining all those who visited. The men are being held incommunicado. Their place of detention is unknown, but is likely to be either the security headquarters in Khartoum or one of the secret detention centres run by the security service, known as "ghost houses" in Sudan.

A tenth man, Abdul Rahman Abdulla Salin Tout, was reportedly arrested on 5 January 1993. He, too, is reported to be suspected by the security services of being a member of the SCP. His place of detention is also unknown.

It appears that the authorities suspect all these prisoners of being part of an underground network of communist activists and they are thus likely to be subjected to intensive interrogation with the associated high risk of torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture and ill-treatment are routine in both the security headquarters and "ghost houses". The worst torture is inflicted during interrogation. For example, prisoners interrogated in late 1991 in connection with an alleged coup attempt were seriously tortured. An elderly prisoner was bound and suspended by his wrists from the walls of his cell on three consecutive nights.

Another prisoner is reported to have had the flesh from his heels sliced off.

In other cases there have been reports of prisoners being subjected to electric shocks, being whipped, having their testicles crushed with pliers and being burnt by hot irons.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest on various dates between 21 December 1992 and 5 January 1993 of 10 men (mention the names of several of those named above) who appear to Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience, that is people imprisoned solely because of exercising their internationally recognised rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association;
- expressing concern at their continuing incommunicado detention without

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charge or trial and fear that they are being tortured;

- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated, that their whereabouts in custody are made public 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.

**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 R  
evolutionary 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, Sudan

**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  
Sudan

Mr Ali Sahloul  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum  
Sudan

Dr A. al-Mufti  
Secretary of Human Rights Commission\*  
Khartoum  
Sudan

**Telexes: 23005 GANON SD**

\* The Human Rights Commission is a nominally independent human rights commission created by supporters of the government.

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 19 February 1993.