

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/008/2001

10 April 2001

Further information on UA 61/01 (AFR 54/007/2001, 15 March 2001) - Fear of torture/ill-treatment

SUDANr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum, Director of the Amal Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Physical and Mental Trauma

Dr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum was released on 29 March. He confirmed that he had not been ill-treated in detention.

Dr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum is the representative in Khartoum of the Sudanese Victims of Torture Group (SVTG), an international network of Sudanese non-governmental human rights organisations. He was arrested on suspicion of giving political information to contacts outside Sudan. He was also interrogated about training courses for students and doctors provided by the Amal Centre.

Before he was released, Dr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum was made to sign a declaration confirming that his arrest was linked to an investigation into technical problems within the Amal Centre. He was also made to sign a written undertaking "not to do anything against the law".

The Security services said that the keys, computer and patient files taken from the Amal Centre would be returned on 7 April. Dr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum went to the Security services on 7 and 9 April, where he was further questioned. However, nothing was handed back to him and to this date the Amal Centre is still closed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send a final round of telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Dr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum;
- expressing serious concern that patient files, keys and a computer belonging to the Amal Centre are still in possession of the Security services and that the Amal Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Physical and Mental Trauma has not yet reopened;
- urging the authorities to return all the Amal Centre's property so they can continue their work;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that patient/doctor confidentiality is respected, and that doctors treating victims of physical and mental trauma as well as clients of the centre are protected from harassment and threats to their security.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 24911 787676/783223

Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES 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 22 May 2001.