

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/09/97

7 February 1997

Further information (2) on UA 29/97 (AFR 54/06/97, 28 January 1997) and follow-up AFR 54/07/97, 30 January 1997 - Prisoner of conscience / Fear of torture

SUDAN Samira Hassan Ali Karrar (f), human rights activist
Widaat Hassan Ali Karrar, her sister

Samira Hassan Ali Karrar was re-arrested on the evening of 5 February 1997. Her sister Widaat Hassan Ali Karrar was arrested on the morning of 6 February 1997. Samira had been released after two days in detention on 28 January 1997.

Samira Hassan Ali Karrar's re-arrest was preceded by the overnight interrogation of two women relatives of military officers summarily executed after an unfair trial in April 1990. The women are part of a loose association of women who campaign each year for posthumous justice for their executed menfolk. Samira and Widaat, whose brother was one of the executed men, have also been involved in this campaigning.

The authorities reportedly suspected Samira and Widaat of being involved in the organization of a possible public demonstration on 6 February 1997. The arrests are thought to have been an attempt to prevent the suspected demonstration from taking place. No demonstration did in fact occur.

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

- expressing concern at the re-arrest of Samira Hassan Ali Karrar on 5 February 1997 and the arrest of Widaat Hassan Ali Karrar on 6 February,
- stating that you consider both women to be prisoners of conscience, detained on account of their peaceful human rights activities, and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released;
- seeking assurances that they are not being tortured or ill-treated while in custody.

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 21 March 1997.