

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Legal Concern

1 April 1992

Sudan

- Nadia Hassan Ali Karrar (female)
- Afifa Hassan Ali Karrar (female)
- Layla Hassan Ali Karrar (female)
- Haram Ahmad Ali Karrar (female)
- Saria Abdelmoneim Karrar (8-year-old child)
- Hana al-Sadiq Abdullah al-Fadl al-Mahdi (female)
- Majda Mustafa Awad Khojali (female)
- Manal Mustafa Awad Khojali (female)
- the mother of Majda and Manal
- and another woman whose name is unknown

The women and child named above were arrested by Sudanese security officials on 31 March 1992, the 28th day of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, while they were participating in a demonstration in Khartoum which culminated in their entering the grounds of the Presidential Palace where they placed a bouquet of flowers commemorating the execution of 28 army officers which took place on the 28th day of Ramadan in 1990 - in that year 24 April. Those arrested are the sisters, wife and child of Lieutenant Colonel Abdelmoneim Hassan Ali Karrar, the sisters and mother of Captain (pilot) Mustafa Awad Khojali and the sister of Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Abdelaziz, who were among those executed in April 1990 (see UA 161/90, AFR 54/19/90 of 25 April 1990 and follow up AFR 54/24/90 of 1 May 1990).

The demonstration is reported to have been made up of women and children and to have been peaceful. The demonstrators were carrying placards with the photographs of their executed relatives and distributed leaflets calling for an end to the military government of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir. A number of women are reported to have been assaulted by security officials as they were arrested. They are reported to have been taken to Omdurman Womens' Prison. It is not known if they are facing any charges.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Twenty eight army officers were executed on 24 April 1990, the day after they were arrested. They were convicted in summary military trials of involvement in a coup attempt. Since then the anniversary of their deaths has become a rallying point for opposition to the military government.

In recent months there have been many political demonstrations in cities in Sudan. There are reports of arrests in Juba in southern Sudan in late March 1992 and of other arrests in Khartoum following street demonstrations in January and February 1992. The majority of men arrested have been held for political

reasons for short periods in secret detention centres or the headquarters of the security service in Khartoum, where torture and ill-treatment are routine.

Women who have been arrested in the past have been beaten and flogged. In some cases, the authorities have then made them report daily to the security headquarters, where they are made to wait all day before being allowed to return home - thereby preventing women from being able to take care of their children.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the arrest of the women and children named above on 31 March 1992 whom 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 and beaten while they were arrested;

- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated 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 NSRCC
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 NSRCC
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: Dear Brigadier-General

3) The Acting 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: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

- 1) Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi, Chief Justice, Law Courts, Khartoum, Sudan.
- 2) Mr Ali Sahloul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO BOX 873, Khartoum, Sudan.

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 May 1992.