

**PUBLIC**

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**18 March 2003**

**UA 76/03**      **Fear of torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention/detention without charge/possible prisoner of conscience**

**SUDAN**      **Edward Terso Lado (m), journalist**

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Edward Terso Lado, journalist on the English language newspaper the Khartoum Monitor, was arrested at the newspaper's Khartoum office by members of the security forces on 11 March. He has not been charged with any offence, and is currently reportedly being held incommunicado at an unknown location. He is allegedly at risk of torture. Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience held solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Members of the security forces reportedly took Edward Terso Lado to the National Security Agency offices immediately after his arrest. However he may now have been transferred to the secret political wing of Kober prison in Khartoum. In the past, other detainees held at the National Security Agency offices have been tortured. Concerns remain for his safety and wellbeing.

On 16 March Edward Terso Lado's family tried to visit him at the National Security Agency offices and bring him clean clothes, but were not permitted to see him. A lawyer provided by the Khartoum Monitor was also denied access to Edward Terso Lado. The National Security Agency has allegedly censored coverage of his detention.

Edward Terso Lado's arrest follows the publication of an article he wrote on an incident in the early history of Islam for the 9 March issue of the Khartoum Monitor. National security officers confiscated all copies of the issue before they left the newspaper's office for distribution. Later on 9 March Edward Terso Lado and the editor of the Khartoum Monitor were summoned to the offices of the General Security Service. Though the editor of the newspaper went to the security force offices, Edward Terso Lado did not attend. The authorities have reportedly denied that Edward Terso Lado's detention is related to the publication of the article, which the authorities took as critical. .

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The rights of freedom of expression, assembly and association in Sudan have been severely curtailed since President Omar al-Bashir came to power in 1989. Some opposition political parties, trade unions and student associations have been restricted in their activities. Sedition charges and offences defined as "against the State" have been used arbitrarily in the past against suspected political opponents. Under the State of Emergency and the National Security Act, amended in July 2001, the security services can keep people in prolonged detention without charge.

The national security services frequently take action against the Sudanese press in ways which are unchallengeable and often secret. In recent years Sudanese security have harassed and detained journalists and editors. They have also confiscated, fined and arbitrarily suspended newspapers which have criticized actions of the government or exercised their right to freedom of expression.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:**

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Edward Terso Lado, who was detained by the Sudanese security forces on 11 March and whose current whereabouts are unknown;
- calling on the authorities to reveal immediately the whereabouts of Edward Terso Lado and to give assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow Edward Terso Lado immediate and unrestricted access to his relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid he may need;

- calling on the authorities to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge the detainee with a recognizably criminal offence and give him a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set him free immediately;  
- calling for the Sudanese government to honour its commitments under Article 19 of the ICCPR and allow everyone the right to the freedom of opinion and expression, which includes "freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Ali Osman Mohamed Taha  
First Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegram: Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Fax: + 249 11 771651/ 787676 / 783223 (please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Maj-Gen Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammed Khayr  
Adviser to the President on Security Affairs  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Maj-Gen Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammed Khayr, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Fax: + 249 11 771651/ 787676 / 783223 (please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Dear Major-General**

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

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Fax: + 249 11 774906 / 771651/ 787676 / 783223 (please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Major General Abdul-Rahim Muhammed Hussein  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Minister of Internal Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Fax: + 249 11 773046 / 770186 / 777900**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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

**Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Fax: + 249 11 779383**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed  
Advisory Council for Human Rights  
PO Box 302  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883**

**Salutation: Dear Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed**

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 29 April 2003.

