

PUBLIC

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Incommunicado detention / Prisoner of conscience (POC) /
Fear of Torture or ill-treatment

25 March 2003

SUDAN

Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel (m) aged 48, human rights defender

Prisoner of conscience, Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel was arrested by four plainclothes security officers on the road near his house in Damazin, Blue Nile province in eastern Sudan on 24 March. He is currently being held in incommunicado detention without charge and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel is a senior official in the Ministry of Industry and works in a voluntary capacity as the executive director of the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO); a voluntary organisation created to promote sustainable development and human rights.

On 26 and 27 March, SUDO was due to hold a workshop in Damazin, on the role of civil society in the peace process. The workshop was to be attended by participants from the capital Khartoum, Damazin and elsewhere. Permission for the workshop was initially granted by the security forces but subsequently withdrawn, without an official explanation, on 24 March.

Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel was arrested before he was due to lead the workshop, possibly because the government has been very sensitive about discussions by Sudanese civil society on questions relating to the peace process.

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

- expressing grave concern at the detention of Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel, who was detained by the Sudanese security forces on 24 March, apparently in connection with a human rights workshop on the peace process;
- calling on the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel and to give assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel immediate and unrestricted access to his relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid he may need;
- calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Hussein Ibrahim Gindeel as it appears that he is being held solely in connection with his work as a human rights defender.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 771651 /787676 / 783223

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Telegram: Vice-President Taha, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 771651/787676 / 783223

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 Khayr, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651/787676 / 783223
Salutation: Dear Major-General

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 774339 / 776554/ 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 Sir

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 6 May 2003.