

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 150/93 Fear of torture/legal concern

12 May 1993

SUDAN: Gaafar Yasin Ahmad, pharmacist

Amnesty International is concerned at the arrest of Dr Gaafar Yasin Ahmad and fears that he may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment in custody.

Dr Gaafar Yasin Ahmad, the owner of a small private pharmaceutical company, is reported to have been arrested in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, in the last week of April 1993. His arrest took place at Khartoum airport on his return to Sudan after spending some weeks on honeymoon in Syria.

He is reported to be held in incommunicado detention in an unknown place. It is likely that he is being held in either the security headquarters in Khartoum or a secret detention centre, known as a "ghost house" in Sudan. The authorities are not known to have provided any reasons for his arrest but it is thought to have taken place for political reasons.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Any detainee arrested by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment. Those who the authorities believe may have information are at risk of severe torture. In the past year the authorities claim to have clamped down on torture which, they have said, is carried out by undisciplined security officials and is not official policy.

Amnesty International believes, however, that torture is systematic. The organization has recently confirmed the death under torture of a former army officer from southern Sudan arrested in Khartoum following a rebel assault on the major southern city of Juba in mid-1992. Camillo Odongi Loyuk, who was an elderly man, was tied spread-eagled to the window bars of a room. A rope with a sliding noose was tied around his testicles which tightened if he moved. He was then beaten to death. The government denies his death and claims that Camillo Odongi Loyuk is a free man.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest in late April 1993 of Dr Gaafar Yasin Ahmad;
- expressing concern at his continuing detention without charge or trial and fear that he may be subjected to torture;
- urging that he be humanely treated, that his whereabouts in custody be made public and that he has immediate and regular access to his family, lawyer and any necessary medical attention;

- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command
Council

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-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior
and Deputy Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command
Council

People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD

Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, 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 Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

3) Dr A. al-Mufti
Secretary of Human Rights Commission*
Khartoum, Sudan

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

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 23 June 1993.