

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/16/97

UA 199/97 Fear of torture / Possible prisoners of conscience 7 July 1997

**SUDAN**Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, engineer  
Kamal Abdel Rahman, lawyer  
Abdel Rahman al-Amin, director of an insurance company  
Abdel Basit Abbas Hussein, medical doctor

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Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, Kamal Abdel Rahman, Abdel Rahman al-Amin and Abdel Basit Abbas Hussein, arrested on or around 7 June 1997, are at risk of torture in the security wing of Kober Prison in Khartoum.

The detainees have been accused and are reportedly under a holding charge of having links with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA - an umbrella organization of Sudanese opposition political parties, trade unions and the Sudan People's Liberation Army - SPLA). They may be prisoners of conscience arrested for their non-violent opposition to the government.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Anyone detained by the Sudanese security forces is at risk of ill-treatment. Those whom the authorities suspect may have information about opposition activities are at risk of severe torture, either in secret "ghost houses" or in the section of Kober prison controlled by the security forces.

Sudan is under intense pressure from NDA military activities and from its eastern neighbours. In January 1997 the Eritrean government allowed the NDA to hold a high-level meeting in Asmara at which plans to launch military activity in northern Sudan were announced. On 22 January Issaias Afewerki, the President of Eritrea, announced that "if the alliance [NDA] needs weapons, we will support the Sudanese opposition without hesitation". Sudan has also accused Ethiopia of military aggression on the shared border and has launched a mass mobilization of the Popular Defence Force (PDF) militia.

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

- seeking assurances that Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, Kamal Abdel Rahman, Abdel Rahman al-Amin and Abdel Basit Abbas Hussein, who may have been arrested for their alleged non-violent opposition to the government, are not being tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- urging that they be granted regular access to their families, legal counsel and any necessary medical attention;
- seeking assurances that Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, Kamal Abdel Rahman, Abdel Rahman al-Amin and Abdel Basit Abbas Hussein will be brought to court promptly, charged and given a fair trial or released.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

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

**Telegrams: President, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Mr 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat

Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, 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, 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 18 August 1997.