

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/018/2003

4 April 2003

UA 91/03 Fear of torture / incommunicado detention / excessive use of force

SUDAN	Hassan Ali (m), agriculture student	]
	Mohamed Siddig (m), agriculture student	] all from
	Omar al-Amin (m), agriculture student	] Bakht El Ruda
University	Mohamed al-Mustafa Hashem (m), economics student	]
	and seven other students	]
	Ammar Najm al-Din (m), student	
	Taher Bashiri (m), education graduate	
	Sami Yousef Ismail, education student, Kassala University	

The students named above are being detained incommunicado and are at risk of torture. They were among scores of students detained after a wave of violent clashes between security forces and student demonstrators at a number of universities in Sudan, during which at least three students died. Amnesty International is concerned that the security services may continue to kill or injure people through the use of excessive force on demonstrators.

Hassan Ali, Mohamed Siddig, Omar al-Amin and Mohamed al Mustafa Hashim and seven other students, all from Bakht El Ruda University in the town of Ed-Dueim, south of Khartoum were detained on 17 March. This followed a student demonstration against the university's refusal to allow student union elections. The police tried to disperse the protesters with tear gas and then reportedly shot at them using Kalashnikov rifles and revolvers, injuring a number of students. According to local sources, police then raided the female students' accommodation and arrested some students, who were later released. Some students were allegedly beaten by police during the raid. One student was said to have suffered severe internal injuries and others were badly bruised.

Student Ammar Najm al-Din and graduate Taher Basher were arrested on 30 March, allegedly in connection with student protests against the conflict in Iraq, which took place on 22 March in El-Nilein University in Khartoum. Police, reportedly including special anti-terrorist units, fired tear gas at the demonstrators and beat them with truncheons. The students responded by throwing stones at the police who then fired live ammunition at them. Two students, Sherif Hassibullah and Haytham al-Tayeb, were killed during the demonstration.

On 23 March students at Sudan University, also in Khartoum held a meeting in protest at the police killings and use of excessive force against fellow students at the previous day's demonstration. This meeting was also forcibly broken up by police using tear gas. Al-Amin Shams al-Din, an engineering student suffering from asthma, died during the incident. Police claim he fell from a building, while students state that he was shot when others students lifted him up to avoid the tear gas that would have impaired his breathing.

Another student, Sami Yousef Ismail, from Kasala University in eastern Sudan, was arrested at his home on 1 April and is currently being held incommunicado. Amnesty International has no further information on the circumstances of his detention.

**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 Hassan Ali, Mohamed Siddig, Omar al-Amin and Mohamed al Mustafa Hashim and seven other students, all from Bakht El Ruda University, Ammar Najm Aldin and Tahir

Basheri from El-Nilein University and Sami Yousef Ismail from Kasala University, who were all detained by the security forces and are currently being held incommunicado;

- calling on the authorities to reveal immediately the whereabouts of the detainees and to give assurances that they will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow the detainees immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid they may need;
- calling on the authorities to either charge the detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and give him a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately;
- expressing concern that at least three students have died and many others been injured during violent clashes with security forces in a number of universities;
- urging the authorities to refrain from using excessive force, referring to the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms which state that law enforcement officers should only use force and firearms when other means are ineffective, and, if their use is "unavoidable", should "minimise damage and injury and respect and preserve human life".
- calling for a full independent enquiry into the recent use of excessive use of force by the Sudan security forces against demonstrators, for the results of the investigation to be made public and for law enforcement officers who have acted unlawfully to be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

**Telegram: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan**

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

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

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

**Telegram: Adviser to the President on Security Affairs, 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

**Telegram: 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

**Telegram: 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

**Telegram: 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 16 May 2003.