

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 159/93 Fear of Torture\Legal Concern

18 May 1993

SUDAN: Major-General al-Fatih Mohamed Abdel A'al, retired army officer
Colonel Mustafa Ahmad al-Tai, retired army officer
Colonel Mohamed Hassan Osman al-Zubeir, retired army officer
Lieutenant al-Tayib Nuor al-Daim Mohamed, retired army officer
Haidar al-Tigani, retired army officer
Gaafar Yassin Ahmad, pharmacist
Osman Mohamed Ali Gumma
al-Tiraifi al-Tahir Fadul
Yasir Abu Zeid Ahmad
al-Hassan Ahmad Salih Mohamed
Mubarek Mohamed Abdalla Gadeen
Abdel Rasoul al-Nur Ismael, former Governor of Kordofan and member
of Umma Party
Fadlalla Burma Nasir, former Minister and member of Umma Party
Mirghani 'Abd al-Rahman Suleiman, member of the Democratic
Unionist Party
Osman Mustapha Mahjoub

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the 15 men named above who it believes are at risk of severe torture. There have been several arrests in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, where the authorities claim to have uncovered a plot to overthrow the government.

The 15 men, who appear to be linked to a wide variety of political parties, were arrested in late April and early May 1993. There are reports of other arrests but the numbers of detainees or their identities are as yet unknown.

Eight of the men named above, including Colonel Mustapha Ahmad al-Tai and Osman Mustapha Mahjoub, were shown on Sudanese television on 26 April 1993. They were shackled and are reported to have been bruised suggesting that they had been beaten. With the exception of Mirghani 'Abd al-Rahman Suleiman and Fadlalla Burma Nasir, whose places of detention remain unknown, the detainees are thought to be held in a secret detention centre in Khartoum, commonly known as a "ghost house" in Sudan.

Anyone detained by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment in particular those held in secret detention centres with no safeguards to protect them. Those who the authorities suspect may have information are at risk of severe torture. In the past year the authorities claim to have clamped down on torture which they blame on undisciplined security officials.

Amnesty International's information, however, suggests that torture is still 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At least 50 people have been arrested in northern Sudan since the start of April 1993 but not all those arrested are thought to be accused of involvement in a coup plot. For further information on the other arrests, see UA 158/93, AFR 54/17/93, 17 May 1993.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of the 15 men named above (please select two or three names) and others who are reportedly being held incommunicado after their arrest on suspicion of involvement in an alleged plot to overthrow the government;
- expressing concern that when some of the men named above were shown on Sudanese television on 26 April 1993 they reportedly showed signs of having been subjected to beatings;
- expressing concern that while held incommunicado at the mercy of their interrogators, in violation of international standards, they remain at risk of torture;
- requesting information about where they are being held and what steps are being taken to ensure that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair 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:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

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 5 July 1993.