

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/023/2003

17 April 2003

Further Information on UA 52/03 (AFR 54/005/03, 21 February 2003) Torture/ Incommunicado detention/detention without charge

SUDAN Adam Abdel Rahman Abdel Shafe' (m), aged 50

Released: Adam Abdel al-Rusul Adam (m), aged 52, farmer
Al-Omda al-Tijani Sayf al-Din (m), aged 55
Al-Omda Abdelallah 'Ali Harun (m), aged 54, farmer
Abdel al-Qader 'Issa Abdel al-Qader (m)
Shogar Tur Shogar (m), aged 30, student
Abdel al-Karim (m), aged 40, merchant (last name not known)
Mohammad Abdel al-Jabbar Kundi (m), aged 27, student
Abdel al-Naser Isma'il (m), aged 35, teacher
Al-Sadeq Musa Al-Dum (m), aged 25, student
Abdelallah (last name unknown) (m), aged 25, shepherd
Da'ud Shurum (m) aged 35, farmer
Mohammad Hamed Abdel al-Mulla (m), aged 41, teacher

New name: Diko Grini, aged approximately 80, omda (community leader)

Twelve of the individuals from the Fur ethnic group who were arrested in January have now been released without charge. They spent two months in incommunicado detention in Geneina, the capital of western Darfur. Adam Abdel Rahman Abdel Shafe' continues to be held in incommunicado detention in Geneina.

Amnesty International is concerned for the health of Diko Grini, a community leader of the Fur, who is said to be 80 years old. He was also arrested in January and is being held in incommunicado detention, at an unknown location.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Fur ethnic group are mainly from the Darfur region. Over the past few years hundreds of civilians, mostly from agricultural ethnic groups like the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa, have been killed or wounded. Their homes have been burnt, herds looted by nomadic groups and dozens of civilians have been killed in a single raid. In an increasingly deteriorating situation, members of the security services have also been killed. In response to these clashes, the government has often detained community leaders incommunicado for months without charge or trial. Amnesty International has called for a Commission on Inquiry into the deteriorating situation in Darfur.

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

- expressing grave concern at the incommunicado detention of Adam Abdel Rahman Abdel Shafe' and Diko Grini who were arrested in Darfur at the end of January;
- calling on the authorities to immediately confirm the whereabouts of Adam Abdel Rahman Abdel Shafe' and Diko Grini and to give assurances that they will not be tortured or ill treated;

- calling on the authorities to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge the detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and give them a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately;
- 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 end the practice of prolonged incommunicado detention without charge or trial, apparently used as a means of addressing the conflict in Darfur;
- calling on the government to set up a fully independent commission of inquiry into the deteriorating human rights situation in Darfur, to make public its findings and implement them.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 799031
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 774339 / 776554 / 773046 / 770186 / 777900 / 773046 / 770186
Salutation: Dear Minister

Ustaz Abul-Basit Sabdarat
President=s Adviser on Legal and Political Affairs
Office of the President
People=s Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: President=s Adviser on Legal and Political Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 11 771 651 / 787676 / 7832332 /
Salutation: Dear Sir

Engineer Umar Harun Abdullah
Governor of Western Darfur State
c/o People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Governor of Western Darfur State, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +249 11 771 651 / 787676 / 7832332
Salutation: Dear Sir

Director of Prisons
Ministry of the Interior
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Director of Prisons, Ministry of the Interior, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed

Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 799031

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 29 May 2003.