

PUBLIC

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28 February 2005

Further Information on UA 47/05 (AFR 54/026/2005, 24 February 2005) Detention without charge/Fear for Safety/Prisoner of Conscience/Possible Prisoner of Conscience

SUDAN **Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam (m), Chair of the Sudan Development Organization (SUDO)**
Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman (m)

Human rights defender Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam has ended his hunger strike after the Sudanese authorities gave him access to his family and to medical treatment. He is in hospital in the capital Khartoum. He is apparently not being guarded in hospital, and has been permitted to have visitors, including leading UN personnel based in Khartoum.

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam began his hunger strike on 19 February. Before being transferred to hospital on 26 February, he was brought before the Attorney General and charged with "attempting to commit suicide" which carries a penalty of one year's imprisonment under Article 133 of the 1991 Sudan Penal Code. Such a charge suggests that the Sudanese authorities have failed to find any other offence to charge him with. He has also been interrogated in hospital by a representative of the Attorney General's Office in relation to this charge.

There is still no news about the whereabouts or condition of Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, who was arrested with Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam on 24 January 2005.

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam told Amnesty International by telephone from his hospital bed that since his detention, he had been kept in a small room in a "ghost house", with no access to the outside world apart from guards coming three times a day to take him to the toilet and to bring food. He said that he did not see the sun during his detention. Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam thanked Amnesty International members for their efforts on his behalf and urged them to continue to campaign for human rights changes in Sudan.

"Ghost houses" are private houses used as secret detention and torture centres in Sudan. Their use appeared to have ceased some years ago, but since September 2004 there have been many reports of detainees being kept incommunicado and sometimes tortured in such houses. Some private apartments where political detainees are allegedly ill-treated near Kober Prison in Khartoum North are nicknamed "Abu Ghraib".

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

- welcoming the authorities' decision to grant Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam access to medical treatment and to visitors;
- calling for Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam to be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peace and human rights activities;
- expressing concern at the use of the charge of "attempting to commit suicide";
- urging the authorities to investigate the apparent use of a "ghost house", or secret detention centre, to detain Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam incommunicado;
- expressing concern for the safety of Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman, who may be detained in a secret detention centre, and calling for him to be released immediately and unconditionally unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair trial;
- urging the authorities to allow Salah Mohamed Abdelrahman immediate and unrestricted access to his relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid he may need;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that human rights activists are not harassed or detained, and to respect their commitments to observe international human rights law. These commitments were reaffirmed in January under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

APPEALS TO:

(If your faxed or emailed appeal does not get through, please either send it by mail or forward it to the diplomatic representative of Sudan in your country and ask them to pass on your appeal to the authorities)

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha

First Vice-President, People's Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 771651 / 779977 / 780796 (Please mark your fax: "For the attention of the First Vice-President")

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin

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

Fax: + 249 183 771479 / 780796 (Please mark your fax "For the attention of the Minister of Justice")

Email: info@sudanjudiciary.org

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 183 777268

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Dr Abdel Moneim Osman Taha

Rapporteur, Advisory Council for Human Rights, Khartoum, Sudan

Email: human_rights_sudan@hotmail.com

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 11 April 2005.