

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 91/07 (AFR 54/014/2007, 17 May 2007) Fear of torture or ill-treatment/ Incommunicado detention

SUDAN **Osman Al Magdum (m), 71 years old, Deputy Head of the Manasir Association Executive Committee (MAEC)**
Abdel Rahman Zaidan (m), Deputy Head of the MAEC
Abdel Aatti Abdel Khair (m), member of the MAEC
Hassan Sidiq Atolabi (m), Member of the MAEC
Haitham Aldusogi (m), Member of the MAEC
Ahmed Abdel Fatah Gabriel (m)

The men named above, all members of the Manasir Association Executive Committee, were released without charge on 26 May. They had been detained for more than two months under Article 31 of the 1999 National Security Forces Act, which allows the security forces to detain people for up to nine months without access to judicial review. The detainees were routinely denied access to their families or lawyers.

Their release comes following the signing of a new Agreement between Nile State and the Manasir Association Executive Committee. Under the Agreement, the communities threatened with displacement by the construction of the Merowe High Dam in northern Sudan will be resettled around the Merowe Dam reservoir.

On 12 May, the Constitutional Court (the highest court in Sudan) accepted a lawsuit which challenged the detention of the community representatives. The petition challenged the legality of the National Security Forces Act on the basis that it is unconstitutional. This is the first time provisions of the National Security Act have been challenged at the Constitutional Court. The ruling of the Constitutional Court is still pending.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network.
