

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety/ fear of torture or ill-treatment/
incommunicado detention

31 March 2004

SUDAN

Hassan Sati (m)]
Dr al-Haj Adam (m)]
Dr Bashir Adam Rahma, (m)] Senior Popular Congress
Dr Adam al-Tahir Hamdoun (m)] Party Officials
Muhammad Ahmad Dahab (m)]
Ahmad Fadl (m)]
Suleiman Sandal (m)]
Dr Hassan al-Turabi, (m)]
And about 15 others including army officers

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of those named above who were arrested on 30 and 31 March in the capital Khartoum by members of the security forces. They are reportedly accused of supporting an attempted military coup and are being held in incommunicado detention at Kober prison, where some of them may be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Hassan Sati, Dr al-Haj Adam, Dr Bashir Rahma, Dr Adam al-Tahir Hamdoun, Suleiman Sandal, Muhammad Ahmad Dahab, Ahmad Fadl and other senior officials from the Popular Congress party (PC) were arrested on 30 March. The leader of the PC, Dr Hassan al-Turabi, was arrested at his home at around 1:20 am in the early hours of the next day. The security forces also raided the home of the former governor of Khartoum Badr-Eddin Taha on 31 March, but did not arrest him as he was not there at the time.

Dozens of members of the PC were detained without charge or trial for up to two years before being all released between July and October 2003. Dr al-Turabi was also freed in October 2003 after being detained mostly under house arrest for nearly three years. Since his release, he has repeatedly criticised government policy in Darfur. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) which is one of the armed groups operating against the Sudanese government in Darfur, is said to be linked to his party.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under the 1999 National Security Forces Act, amended in 2001, the Security forces can detain people incommunicado without charge for up to nine months. The Act has been used extensively to detain political opponents, perceived government critics, students and activists without charge. Many of whom have reportedly been tortured and ill-treated whilst being held in incommunicado detention.

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

- expressing your concern at the incommunicado detention of more than 20 people including: Dr Bashir Adam Rahma, Adam al-Tahir Hamdoun, Hassan Sati, Muhammad Ahmad Dahab, Ahmad Fadl, Dr al-Haj Adam, Suleiman Sandal and Dr Hassan al-Turabi;
- requesting assurance that they will not be tortured or otherwise ill-treated in detention;
- urging that they be allowed immediate access to relatives, lawyers and any medical aid they may need;
- calling for release of the detainees, unless they are charged promptly with a recognisable criminal offence, according to Sudan's obligations under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: First Vice-President, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 779 977
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 770 883 (Ask for faxes to be forwarded to the Minister of Justice)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 779 383
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 770 883
Salutation: Dear Sir

Major-General Al Tayeb Ibrahim Khair
President's Advisor on Security
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Dear Sir

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 12 May 2004.