

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/061/2005

24 June 2005

Further Information on UA 136/05 (AFR 54/060/05, 24 May 2005) and follow-up (AFR 54/060/05, 16 June 2005) - Fear of Torture/Fear of Arbitrary Arrest/ Incommunicado detention/ Death in custody/

SUDAN **Abdel-Aal Mahmoud Gazira (m), son of Mahmoud Gazira**
Adil Gazira (m), brother of Mahmoud Gazira
El-Amin Kuku (m), aged 13 (disabled)
Anid Kau Lioi (f), daughter of Mayak Nich, community leader in Soba Aradi IDP
(Internally Displaced Persons) Camp
Akuch Kau Lioi (f), daughter of Mayak Nich
And more than 200 detainees from Soba Aradi IDP camp

Released: **Mahmoud Gazira (m), of Nuba ethnicity, United Sudan National Party member**
Hanan Mahmoud Gazira (f), daughter of Mahmoud Gazira

Mahmoud Gazira and Hanan Mahmoud Gazira have now been released. Some 208 residents of Soba Aradi IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) Camp in Khartoum North are still said to be held in police custody, where they are reportedly beaten daily. Amnesty International is concerned for their lives, as four of the Soba Aradi detainees, including Abdallah Daw Al-Bait Ahmed, have now died in custody.

A first group of 19 detainees from the Soba Aradi camp, most of whom are said to be from the Darfur region of western Sudan, were recently brought before a Court in Khartoum and charged with disturbing the public peace. This was the first time they had had access to their lawyers and to the outside world.

The detainees told their lawyers that those arrested on and after 24 May had been dispersed in various detention centres around Khartoum but were brought back to Soba Aradi police station every day and heavily beaten by police officers. The detainees said that the police told them: "We don't know law, we don't want anyone of you to write a report of this, because you killed 19" (referring to the killing of police officers on 18 May, when Soba Aradi residents resisted being forcibly relocated to a distant camp).

The lawyers informed the Governor of Khartoum State of the alleged torture, but he is not believed to have taken any action to stop it.

The arrests which began on 24 May were linked to the clashes between police and IDPs in Soba Aradi on 18 May. It is unclear whether 14 or 19 police officers were killed in the clashes; between 15 and 50 civilians are also believed to have been killed. During the riot, the police station in Soba Aradi was set on fire. The State Government's policy of relocating IDPs around Khartoum without full consultation, often by force and without offering adequate alternatives for shelter and basic services, has been criticised by the United Nations.

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

- expressing concern for some 208 detainees from the Soba Aradi Internally Displaced Persons camp, who are still being held in custody, and expressing shock at reports that they are being tortured;
- calling on the government of Sudan to immediately and publicly condemn the beating of detainees from Soba Aradi Camp which is said to have resulted in four deaths in custody;
- calling for the deaths in custody, including that of Abdallah Daw Al-Bait Ahmed, to be investigated immediately, and that anyone suspected to have beaten detainees, ordered such beatings, or held command responsibility for beatings should be immediately suspended from office and brought to justice in a fair trial;

- calling on the authorities to immediately reveal the names, number and whereabouts of all those arrested from Soba Aradi since the 18 May clashes;
- calling for all those detained to be treated humanely and have immediate access to lawyers, families, UN human rights monitors and any medical aid they may need;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all those brought to trial are tried according to international standards for fair trials and have free and regular access to lawyers to prepare their defence before any trial;
- calling on the authorities to open an independent and impartial investigation into the Soba Aradi incidents and the treatment in detention of those arrested, and for the findings of the investigation to be made public.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Abdul Haleem Mutafi
Governor of Khartoum State
Khartoum State, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 770143
Salutation: Dear Governor

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President, People's Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 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 780796 (Please mark your fax "For the attention of the Minister of Justice")
Email: info@sudanjudiciary.org
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 5 August 2005.