

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/075/2003

UA 251/03 2003 SUDAN	<u>Fear of torture or ill-treatment / incommunicado detention / medical concern</u> Abdel Aziz Abdul Kader (m), teacher Mahdi Yaqub (m), teacher Ahmed Abdul Rahman (m), teacher Adam Hussain Mohammed Fadil (m), Omda (community leader) Adam Saleh (m), Omda Musa Mohammed (m), Omda Al-Haj Tirab Mahmoud (m), doctor Mohamed Osman Al-Basha (m) Adam Dau Al-Beit Tur (m) Ali Musa Bakara (m) 14 other men]]] All members] of the] Fur] ethnic group]]]]]]	20 August
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Twenty-four men, including ten named above, were reportedly arrested on 12 August by security forces officers in Kass, South Darfur State, in Western Sudan. They were all taken to security force premises where they were detained incommunicado in a single cell and then reportedly flogged and severely beaten with sticks. Fourteen of the detainees were transferred to the prison in Nyala, the capital of Southern Darfur, on 14 August. The ten remaining men are at risk of further torture.

The 24 men are all influential members of the Fur community in Kass. They were reportedly arrested individually at their homes or at work, on suspicion of supporting the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). However, they have not been charged with any offence.

The 14 men who were transferred to Nyala now have access to their relatives, but the governor of Southern Darfur, who has the power to authorise visits, is not allowing their lawyers to visit them in detention. Five of the 14 men who were transferred to Nyala prison, reportedly sustained serious injuries whilst being tortured in Kass. They were taken to the general hospital in Nyala on 19 August for a check up, but reportedly did not receive adequate medical treatment and were taken back to the prison.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), a group of farmers from the Fur and Zaghawa ethnic groups, took up arms against the government, because of what they perceive as the lack of government protection of their people and the marginalisation of the region. Fighting between government forces and the SLA has intensified over the past few weeks, mainly in North Darfur.

Incommunicado detention by government security forces has been used extensively in Darfur to detain suspected government critics and, since February, civilians suspected of supporting the SLA. People in the region also allege that those of Fur and Zaghawa ethnicity are increasingly arrested because they are of the same ethnic group as members of the SLA.

It is impossible to know how many people are currently held in Darfur, because of the absence of independent observers in these isolated regions and the practice of the security forces and the army not to release names of those in their custody.

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

-expressing grave concern for the safety of Abdel Aziz Abdul Kader, Mahdi Yaqub, Ahmed Abdul Rahman, Adam Hussain Mohammed Fadil, Adam Saleh, Musa Mohammed, Al-Haj Tirab Mahmoud, Mohamed Osman

Al-Basha, Adam Dau Al-Beit Tur and Ali Musa Bakara, who have been detained incommunicado at the security forces premises in Kass since 12 August;

- urging the authorities to give public assurances that the detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- calling on the authorities to allow them immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical care they may need;
- urging the authorities to allow the 14 men detained in Nyala prison immediate access to their lawyers and adequate medical care;
- calling for the government to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge the 24 detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and give them a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately.

APPEALS TO:

Lieutenant-General Adam Hamid Musa
Governor of South Darfur state
c/o People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Governor of South Darfur state, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771 651 / 787676
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

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 779977 / 771651
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 771479 (it may be difficult to get through, please keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

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

Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883

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 1 October 2003