

PUBLIC

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

28 August 2003

SUDAN

Abaker Ismail Adam (m)]
Alsadiq Sidiq (m)] All of Fur
Suleiman Adam Musa (m)] ethnicity
Ismail Mohamed Abdallah (m)]

The four men named above have reportedly been detained at the Security Forces premises in Nyala, capital of Southern Darfur province, Western Sudan, since 5 August. They are not being allowed any contact with their relatives or lawyers and Amnesty International fears that they may be tortured or ill-treated in detention.

Abaker Ismail Adam, Alsadiq Sidiq, Suleiman Adam Musa and Ismail Mohamed Abdallah, who is reportedly mentally ill, were all arrested in the village of Mokjar in Western Darfur by security forces officers around 3 August. After being detained incommunicado in the security forces' premises in Mokjar, they were transferred to Nyala on 5 August.

The four men are of Fur ethnicity and are allegedly suspected of supporting the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), an armed group fighting against the government forces in the Darfur region. None of them, however, has been charged with any offence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February 2003, 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 and West 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. Amnesty International is receiving reports of the increasing use of torture on people detained by the security forces in Darfur.

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 the 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 Abaker Ismail Adam, Alsadiq Sidiq, Ismail Mohamed Abdallah and Suleiman Adam Musa, who have been detained incommunicado at the security forces premises in Nyala since 5 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;
- 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 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:

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 771025 / 779977
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 770883
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Somi Zaydan Atiyah
Governor of Southern Darfur
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Governor of Southern Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651 / 779977
Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 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 9 October 2003.