

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/083/2003

10 September 2003

Further Information on UA 251/03 (AFR 54/075/2003, 20 August 2003) Fear of torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention/ medical concern

SUDAN	Abdel Aziz Abdul Kader (m), teacher]	
	Mahdi Yaqub (m), teacher]	
	Ahmed Abdul Rahman (m), teacher]	All members
	Adam Hussain Mohammed Fadil (m), Omda (community leader)]	of the
	Adam Saleh (m), Omda]	Fur
	Musa Mohammed (m), Omda]	ethnic group
	Al-Haj Tirab Mahmoud (m), doctor]	
	Mohamed Osman Al-Basha (m)]	
	Adam Dau Al-Beit Tur (m)]	
	Ali Musa Bakara (m)]	
	14 other men, including Abaqer Adam Mohamed Sho'aib (m),]	
	teacher]	
	and Abdul Aziz Ahmed Musa (m)]	

All the men named above were released on 9 September, with the exception of Abaqer Adam Mohamed Sho'aib and Abdul Aziz Ahmed Musa.

Abaqer Adam Mohamed Sh'aib remains detained incommunicado at the security forces premises in Kass, South Darfur State. Abdul Aziz Ahmed Musa is reportedly still detained in the office of the military intelligence in the city of Nyala. The reasons for their continuing detention are unknown, though it is thought they may remain in detention to allow signs of torture on their body to disappear before they are released. Amnesty International fears that they are at risk of further torture or ill-treatment while in detention and that their health will deteriorate if they are not given access to medical treatment.

The 22 other men were released by order of the Wali (Governor) of South Darfur. The Wali's decision followed the signing of a six-week ceasefire agreement between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) on 3 September in the town of Abeche, Chad, under the auspices of the Chadian authorities. The ceasefire contains a clause asking both parties to release prisoners of war and other people detained in connection with the conflict in Darfur. On 6 September, the Sudanese government stated that it released 54 prisoners from Darfur.

All 24 men were reportedly arrested on 12 August by security officers in Kass on suspicion of supporting the SLA. All the men were tortured over a two-day period by members of the military intelligence in Kass. They were flogged and severely beaten with sticks. One allegedly received electric shocks. As a result, five men were seriously injured and required medical treatment. Ten of them were transferred to the prison in Nyala on 14 August and the remaining others, except Abaqer Adam Mohamed Sho'aib, were transferred to Nyala a few days later. Two men, Mohamed Adam Tor and Tijani Abdella Mahmoud were treated at the general hospital in Nyala on 9 September because their teeth were broken during their torture.

The 22 men freed expressed their thanks to members of Amnesty International who campaigned on their behalf.

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

- welcoming the release of 22 men arrested in Kass;
- expressing concern for the safety of Abaqer Adam Mohamed Sho'aib and Abdul Aziz Ahmed Musa, who remain in detention, and asking for public assurances that they will not be further tortured or ill-treated by the security forces;
- calling on the authorities to allow them immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, lawyers, and adequate medical treatment for the injuries they sustained after being tortured;
- calling on the Sudanese government to abide by its commitments under international law and under the cease-fire agreement with the SLA and release them immediately, unless they are charged with a recognizable criminal offence and receive a prompt and fair trial;
- calling on the Sudanese authorities to open a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the reports of torture of the 24 men named above and, if sufficient evidence is found, to bring to justice anyone thought to have used or ordered torture.

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 779977/ 771025
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 / 771025
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

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 22 October 2003.