

SUDAN

INVESTIGATIONS MUST BE HELD

Amnesty International is calling on the Sudanese authorities to independently and impartially investigate the torture of Juma Omar El-Nur, Abu Nigel El Amin, Juma Mahamoud, Ramadan Ismail and the death in custody of Awad Ibrahim. The results of the investigation must be made public and any one found to be responsible must be brought to justice.

These five men, all from the Nuba ethnic group, were arrested by the security forces on 19 May 2003 while attending a meeting at the house of Awad Ibrahim. They were taken to the headquarters of the security forces in Dongola, northern Sudan, where they were reportedly accused of being traitors. Later the same day, Awad Ibrahim's body was returned to his family home by the security forces. He had died after reportedly being tortured, his death was reportedly the subject of an internal investigation by the security forces who said he died of "natural causes". The four others were detained and questioned for more than 30 days.

On 22 or 23 June Juma Omar El-Nur and one other detainee were taken to Khartoum Hospital for medical treatment needed after they had been tortured in detention. On admission Juma Omar El-Nur was reportedly unconscious and remained in a coma for one week. He had been burnt on his neck, chest and hands by a solution of sulphuric acid and needed an operation following a kidney injury, suffered while under torture.

The Governor of Northern State has stated that Awad Ibrahim's death was as a result of a heart attack. He acknowledges that Juma Omar El-Nur was taken to Khartoum Hospital for treatment for a kidney injury but has not commented on how this injury was sustained. The medical doctor who examined Juma Omar El-Nur after his release stated that his inquiries were consistent with his allegations of torture.

All four men were released in July and none have been charged with any offence.

Article 33 of the Sudanese National Security Forces Act of 1999 gives almost complete immunity to officers of the security forces for any of their actions, unless the Director of the security forces allows legal proceedings against them:

"No civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted for any act connected with the official work of the member save upon the approval of the director."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS CALLING FOR:

- An open independent, impartial investigation into the torture of Juma Omar El-Nur, Abu Nigel El Amin, Juma Mahamoud and Ramadan Ismail and the death of Awad Ibrahim, to make the findings public, and bring to justice anyone, including members of the security forces, found to have used or ordered torture.

ACT NOW!

► Please send appeals to:

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Amnesty International
AI Index: AFR 54/088/2003
October 2003
EXTERNAL

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