

PUBLIC

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06 December 2004

UA 329/04      Fear for safety/Fear of "disappearance"/Abductions

SUDAN

Adam Omar Idriss (m), aged 42  
Adam Ali Atim (m), aged 85  
Abdel Aziz Mohamed Abdallah (m), aged 22  
Abdallah Tairab Saif Al Din (m), aged 21  
Abdallah Yusif Tairab (m), aged 23  
Adam Suliman Abaker (m), aged 50  
Ibrahim Abaker Osman (m), aged 41  
Idriss Adam Abdallah (m), aged 55  
Mohamed Fadul Abdallah (m), aged 85  
Yahya Atim Adam (m), aged 62  
Hamid Abdel Rahman Mohamed (m), aged 52  
Ibrahim Mohamed Hussein (m), aged 65  
Adam Hussein Abdallah (m), aged 70  
Adam Ahmed Mohamed (m), aged 38  
Ishag Ahmed Mohamed Nur (m), aged 50  
Abdallah Adam Hamad (m), aged 48  
Abdallah Adam Abdallah (m), aged 52  
Mohamed Ahmed Abdallah (m), aged 38  
Ibrahim Suleiman Adam (m), aged 27

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The 19 men named above were abducted by the army and the government-backed *Janjawid* militia on 28 November, in western Sudan. Their whereabouts are now unknown, and Amnesty International fears that they may be killed or tortured, or may simply "disappear".

They are members of the Fur and Dajo farming groups. They were abducted in their homes, or in the street or in the market, in the village of Adwa, some 40km north of Nyala, the state capital of South Darfur. The village is in an area believed to be controlled by an armed opposition group, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). The 19 men may have been abducted because they were suspected of supporting the SLA, or to intimidate potential SLA supporters. The army and *Janjawid* took them away in 4x4 vehicles.

Two days later, the Sudanese army and the *Janjawid* launched a massive raid on Adwa, which was already swollen by tens of thousands of people forced from their homes by previous *Janjawid* raids. An Antonov aircraft and two helicopter gunships also bombed the town. Estimates of those killed range from 90 to 140: observers said on 6 December they had so far found 20 bodies. Some 40,000 people are said to have fled to nearby areas. African Union monitors who came to investigate the attack the following day also came under fire, apparently from the *Janjawid*.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Darfur has been the scene of internal armed conflict since February 2003, when the SLA and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) took up arms against the government because of what they perceived as the lack of government protection for their people and the marginalisation and underdevelopment of the region. Since then, the government has given free rein to the *Janjawid* nomadic militias to kill and abduct civilians, mainly from the agricultural ethnic groups, and destroy their property. A million and a half have been forcibly displaced from rural areas to settlements around the towns and villages of Darfur. Attacks on civilians and their property have increased in the past two months, despite a ceasefire that the government agreed with

the JEM and SLA in March 2004, and further agreements signed in November, to allow access for humanitarian assistance.

In Darfur, civilians are often arrested or abducted at around the time of these attacks, particularly men whom the Sudanese armed forces may suspect of supporting the JEM and SLA. Many of those abducted during the 21-month conflict have not been seen since, and those arrested by the armed forces are routinely tortured. In some cases, people arrested by the armed forces or the *Janjawid* have been killed simply because they are from agricultural ethnic groups.

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

- expressing concern at the abduction of the 19 men named above, and your fear for their safety;
- urging that the armed forces immediately reveal the whereabouts of these men, and give assurances that they will not be killed or tortured;
- calling on the authorities to give them access to international monitors, including the African Union force in Darfur, the International Committee of the Red Cross and UN human rights monitors;
- urging that they be released immediately, or else transferred to a registered detention centre, charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a fair trial without the possibility of the death penalty;
- urging the Sudanese government to respect international humanitarian law, which prohibits attacks on civilians during armed conflict.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha  
First Vice-President  
People's Palace, PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Fax :** + 249 183 771025

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Fax :** + 249 183 779383

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

Major-General (Dr) Al Tayeb Ibrahim Khair  
President's Advisor on Security  
Office of the President  
People's Palace, PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Fax :** + 249 183 771651/783223

**Salutation:** Dear Sir

Al-Hajj Atta al-Manan  
Governor of South Darfur State  
Presidential Palace, PO Box 281  
Khartoum

**Fax :** + 249183 779977

**Salutation:** Dear Governor

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 17 January 2005.