

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

External Document

AI Index: AFR 54/158/2004 (Public)
News Service No: 305
2 December 2004

Embargo Date: 2 December 2004 00:01 GMT

Sudan: No one to complain to Testimonies

"I want revenge from what the Janjawid did to me, but I do not trust the police. They are like Janjawid to me. I cannot complain to the police, they will punish me even more, some Janjawid are in the police and some policemen themselves are Janjawid."

A pregnant schoolgirl in North Darfur who was raped by four members of the Janjawid government militia in February 2004.

"This is the most painful part for me: while I was unconscious my brother went to report the attack to the police at Nyala Wasat police station and they chased him away. When I think of this I cannot sleep. I am a respectable man but I can get no protection. We can be looted, attacked and even killed so easily in Darfur."
O., a spare parts trader from Nyala, was arrested and shot in the jaw and the hand by the Janjawid on the 15th February 2004

"[...] I reported the murder of my brother to the police but they told me to go and see the armed forces. So I went to the Security who told me to report to the armed forces. Both asked me to pay and I paid in total 35 million [Sudanese pounds]. Then, after someone contacted the army officer in Saraf Omra, I was arrested on 20 August 2003. The armed forces took me to a military camp outside Kabkabiya and beat me, tied my feet and arms and hung me up to a tree from the morning to the evening. They were saying: 'You and your brother support the armed opposition, where did you find the lorry and the goods?'. I was detained for 12 days and beaten five times a day, before the prayer, after sunrise, at night... I was released because one of my brothers paid seven million pounds to a man working for the military intelligence. [...] Until now I have not had any success in the case, even in just reporting the case. [...] Even if you report to the police you get arrested afterwards."

Brother of a person who was reportedly extra-judicially executed by the armed forces in West Darfur.

"Every 10 or 15 days I am called by the Security. It is forbidden for me to leave Al-Fasher town: I need an authorisation from the Security. They don't ask questions but keep me for several hours. I am always watched. I am not afraid as my mandate as a lawyer is to work for human rights. As a lawyer, I have no problem being arrested, because they know that I know the law, but the problem is for other people who are unfairly treated when they are detained. When people are punished, they do not have anyone to protect them or to complain to."

A lawyer from North Darfur about his harassment by the National Security Forces.

"They fight us with water. They only give us water once a week, and if you want more water you need to pay the prison guard (it costs 2,000 Sudanese pounds for a jerry can of water from outside)."

A former detainee in Nyala prison describes his treatment.

"His head and right leg were very swollen and his eyes were coming out of his face."

Former detainees speaking about Mahmud Mohamed, a young man arrested and tortured in Khartoum in October 2004.

"I am angry because the security is targeting the Fur, especially those from Thur, those families living in Umbadda and Mayo [districts of Omdurman where many Darfurians live] and the relatives of Saleh Mahmud. I don't have political affiliations and yet they have humiliated us, insulted us and tortured us. They cannot differentiate between politics and normal citizens. They also insulted me by asking: 'Why do you waste your time to come and live in Khartoum?'"

Young Darfurian who was detained by the security forces in Khartoum in October 2004.

"In July 2004, I was working for an international organisation with other colleagues, and me and others went to the IDP camps to collect information. In the camp, we came across many cases of rape. Then, on 18 August, the Security arrested me for four days. I was on my way to the University and someone in civilian clothes ordered me to come with him. When I arrived at the office of the Security, they asked me what my relationship with this organisation was and told me that our government says that we should not help such organisations. They kept me for four days but they could not find anything on me. They proposed me money to spy on the organisation but I refused. Then they released me."

A student from Kass, a town in South Darfur where some 60,000 persons displaced by the conflict have taken refuge.

"I was taken in a room with ten men; they took my robe Women's cloth. and put a cloth on my eyes. They lifted my clothes and began to punish me with a belt until the evening. They pulled my nails with a cutter until I bled, with a pen they picked me and said: 'you will confess to this story'. They also made me spend a day under the sunshine. I was then transferred to another room and they kicked me with their shoes and fists. I am still suffering on my left and right side. [...] After this torture I was forced to confess to this story. I didn't sign anything but they wrote a document. They put some paper to cover my eyes and I was taken in picture with a video camera that they had on their shoulder. Su'ad and I were then pictured in different situations: sitting down, standing up, with telephones and we were forced to say on these phones that we did it."

Mariam Mohamed Dinar, one of 12 persons arrested by the "positive" security in August 2004.

"The security officer I knew kicked me with his boots and punched me on the face and on my feet. The punishment continued, and the two other men also used their belt on me, saying: 'If you want to be released, you have to tell the truth.' The punishment continued for nine days, sometimes I was left in the sunshine for days. I fell sick."

Fatima Rahma, another of the 12 persons arrested by the "positive" security in August 2004.

"They took me away and said that they knew I had not made the video but that I had to say I did. And then they punished me very heavily. The next day I said that I did the pictures."

Su'ad Al coerced into making a false statement in August 2004.

"From 3pm until 8pm they left me there under the tree. Then I had to sit and they tied my legs to my body, my hands on the back and put a stick under my legs. They hung me upside down to the tree, on the stick under my knees and then they swung me back and forth. I was beaten with sticks and whips at my feet. They were maybe 15 Janjawid. They took all my clothes off and I was naked. They left me hanging upside down with another person under this tree until morning. They read the names of 97 Tora Bora from Andra Gro to me and they called me bad names. For three days this continued, they beat us every day and at night they hang me under the tree upside down. They did not give us food and only a little water. They rubbed pilipili (hot pepper) in our eyes and nose. They put a blanket around our head and tied it very tight. On the fourth day they told me and another local leader to dig a well for them. They would pour cold water over our hot bodies and refused us to give us water to drink, they made us work for them and sometimes they would fire gunshots at us."

M., a community leader from Margasa, West Darfur who was tortured by the Janjawid in For Baranga.

"No evidence and no complaints".

Judges answering AI in West Darfur when they were asked how so many thousands of people could be murdered and so much property destroyed and looted without any judicial action taken.

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>