

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 68/02 Fear of “disappearance”/ Fear of torture /incommunicado detention

**SUDAN Rehab Abdel Bagi Mohamed Ali (f), aged 30
Farid Abbas (m), aged 29**

Rehab Abdel Bagi Mohamed Ali and Farid Abbas were detained at Khartoum airport on 1 September. They are reportedly in imminent danger of torture or “disappearance”.

Rehab Abdel Bagi Mohamed Ali, an x-ray technician at Omdurman hospital, was returning to Khartoum from a one month holiday in Asmara, Eritrea, where she was visiting her cousin and attending a cultural event. Farid Abbas, a friend, had arranged to meet her at the airport. Rehab Abdel Bagi Mohamed Ali was arrested by the Sudanese security forces. Fearing for her safety, Farid Abbas offered to accompany her. The whereabouts of both individuals is currently unknown, although Amnesty International received unconfirmed reports that they were taken to the political section of the offices of the security forces near Farouk cemetery in Khartoum.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Political opposition and freedoms of expression, assembly and association have been severely curtailed since President Omar al-Bashir came to power in 1989. Opposition political parties, trade unions and student associations are banned or restricted in their activities. Sedition charges and offences defined as “against the State” have been used arbitrarily in the past against suspected political opponents who can face trial by a military court. Under the State of Emergency and the National Security Act, amended in December 2000, the security services can keep people in prolonged detention without charge.

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

- Expressing grave concern for the safety of Rehab Abdel Bagi Mohamed Ali and Farid Abbas, who were detained by the Sudanese security forces on 1 September and have not been seen since;
- Calling on the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Rehab Abdel Bagi Mohamed Ali and Farid Abbas and to give assurances that they will not be tortured, ill treated or “disappear”;
- urging the authorities to allow the detainees immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid they may need
- calling on the authorities 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 recognizable criminal offence and give them a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
President’s Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651/ 787676 / 783223
Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883

Salutation: Dear Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 788941 / 774842 / 774906

Salutation: Dear Minister

Major General Abdul-Rahim Muhammed Hussein
Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Minister of Internal Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 774339 / 776554 / 773046 / 770186 / 777900

Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Fax: + 249 11 779383

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

The Editor
Khartoum Monitor

Email: Khartoummonitor@hotmail.com

Salutation: Dear Sir

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 October 2002.