

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/02/92

Distr: UA/SC

27 January 1992

UA 32/92 Fear of "disappearance"/Extrajudicial Execution

SUDAN: Mohamed Bakhit Daldum
 Suleiman Fargallah Murfaieen
 Ardeib Murfaieen

 Gumma al-Theimir
 Dafallah Tiya Jeilani
 al-Haj al-Nur
 Hakim Hamdeen
 Haja Karshoum
 Kalthum Daldum

There are fears for the safety of Mohamed Bakhit Daldum and the eight other men named above who are reported to be detained uncharged in Lagowa garrison in western Sudan by the Sudanese army. They were among 35 men from the Nuba ethnic group arrested in November 1991 in the small town of Lagowa in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan on suspicion of being linked to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). There are reports that 19 of those arrested were subsequently extrajudicially executed by soldiers in Lagowa garrison on 27 November 1991. Seven others were transferred to the town of El-Obeid where they were brought to trial, apparently on charges of being linked to the SPLA. The outcome of the trial is unknown.

The arrests in November 1991 are reported to have followed demonstrations protesting at the extrajudicial execution by soldiers of two men, Mukhtar Musa and Hamza Fargallah. Mukhtar Musa was reportedly shot dead while detained in Lagowa barracks. Hamza Fargallah was reported to have been arrested in Lagowa, taken to el-Obeid prison but then transferred back to Lagowa. On his way back to the town he was reportedly extrajudicially executed by escorting military intelligence officials.

There have been several other recent reports of extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" in the Nuba Mountains. Two teachers at Kadugli Senior Secondary School, Ismat Hassan Khair al-Said from Miri and Yousif Galgadoun from Dilling, "disappeared" near the start of 1991. Others who "disappeared" during 1991 include Hamdan Hassan Koury, a lawyer from the al-Lagori area, together with his father Hassan Koury Bagari, Mohamed Nowar Aso, a dental assistant, al-Sir Abdel Nabi Malik, an employee of the Soil Survey Department, Kamal Kano Kafi, a radio technician, and Ibrahim Marmatoun, an employee of the Water Department.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nuba are a loose federation of ethnic groups occupying the remote mountain ranges of the southern part of South Kordofan. They regard themselves as non-Arabs and as culturally closer to southern Sudanese than to the Arab nomads whose stock graze the plains between the mountain Nuba communities. The Christian church has many Nuba members, although many others are Muslims.

The Nuba Mountains has been politically tense since the start of the current civil war in 1983. In 1985, informal pro-government militias were formed among some Arab nomadic communities which have grazing in the area, notably the Misseriya. These militias were responsible for massive raids into southern Sudan in which thousands of civilians were killed. Some Nuba have joined the SPLA, which became active in the area in mid-1987, and many, particularly those who are Christian or with education, have since been suspected by the authorities and pro-government militias of being sympathetic to the SPLA. In late

1989 the current military government created Popular Defence Forces (PDF) as a formal pro-government militia recruited largely from the ranks of previously existing informal groups.

Members of the armed forces and militias have frequently been responsible for extrajudicial executions of Nuba, both following detentions and in attacks on villages in revenge for incidents in which soldiers or militia members have lost their lives. In November 1987, for example, eight civilians were extrajudicially executed by soldiers at al-Gohan east of Kadugli. Sixteen others arrested with them had earlier been released. In November 1989, militia forces were reportedly responsible for the extrajudicial execution of 44 villagers in the Keiga Alkhel area northwest of Kadugli. There are reports that in January 1990 six civilians were extrajudicially executed by the armed forces in the Kallandi area in the northern Nuba mountains. Twelve others arrested with them were detained, apparently without charge or trial. In April 1991 in the same area, PDF members reportedly tortured and then extrajudicially executed Jibreel Salah and Jibreel Sendica.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the safety in detention of Mohamed Bakhit Daldum, Hakim Hamdeen, Ardeib Murfaieen and six other men, arrested in Lagowa in November 1991;
- urging that they be humanely treated, and that their families and lawyers be given access to them;
- urging that they be released immediately and unconditionally unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial;
- urging that a prompt, impartial and independent investigation be established into the reported extrajudicial execution of 19 men arrested with them.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of the NSRCC
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KAID SD
Salutation: Your Excellency

Brigadier-General al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior
and Deputy Chairman of the NSRCC
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Gen al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Salutation: Dear Brigadier-General

Brigadier Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum

Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Dear Brigadier

COPIES TO:

- Mr Jalal Ali Lufti,
Chief Justice, Law Courts,
Khartoum, Sudan.

- Mr Ali Sahloul,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
PO BOX 873, Khartoum, Sudan.

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 March 1992.