

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/07/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 106/94 Fear of Torture

15 March 1994

SUDAN Kamal Abdelwahab Nureldayem, school teacher

Kamal Abdelwahab Nureldayem is reported to have been arrested in Khartoum during the first week of March 1994. His whereabouts are currently unknown and there is serious fear that he may be undergoing torture. The reasons for his arrest have not been made public, but Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience imprisoned for his peaceful opposition to the government.

There is concern for his health as he is thought to be suffering from a serious intestinal medical condition. Recently, the Sudanese authorities denied him an exit visa for medical treatment in Cairo.

Kamal Abdelwahab Nureldayem, who was a prominent trade union activist, was dismissed from his job at the Ministry of Education after the 30 June 1989 coup d'etat which brought the current government of Sudan to power. He has been arrested on several occasions on account of his opposition to the government. Towards the end of 1993 he was made to report each day to the Security Headquarters and remain there for several hours each time, without charge or other explanation. Amnesty International considers this to be a form of detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Political prisoners are held without charge or trial in Sudan on the basis of Decree Two of the emergency laws issued by the government immediately after the 30 June 1989 coup. Section Seven of the decree bans the "showing of any political opposition by any means to the regime of the Revolution for National Salvation" and allows the authorities to arrest and detain anyone "suspected of being a danger to political or economic security".

Political detainees in Khartoum are normally held at the security headquarters or in secret detention centres, known as "ghost houses", in Sudan. Detainees are commonly beaten on arrival at "ghost houses" and torture during interrogation of prisoners is systematic.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the detention without charge or trial of Kamal Abdelwahab Nureldayem who was arrested in early March 1994;
- seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and urging that his whereabouts in custody and grounds for detention be made public and that he is granted immediate and regular access of his family, legal counsel;
- seeking assurance that Kamal Abdelwahab receives any medical attention he may need;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released if he is held solely for his non-violent opinions, and that otherwise he be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

- 1) His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir

President of the Republic of the Sudan
 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

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior
 People's Palace
 PO Box 281
 Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD

Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu
 Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
 Ministry of Justice
 Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, Khartoum, Sudan

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

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
 Chief Justice
 Law Courts
 Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 PO Box 873
 Khartoum, Sudan

Dr A. al-Mufti
 Secretary of Human Rights Commission*
 Khartoum, Sudan

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, but apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

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 25 April 1994.