

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 95/92 "Disappearance"

20 March 1992

Sudan

Otto George Dangasuk

Otto George Dangasuk, a Sudanese asylum-seeker who was denied asylum by the Netherlands Government, and was returned to Sudan on 5 February 1992, is reported to have "disappeared" after arriving in Khartoum. It is believed that he was arrested by security officials at the airport. It is feared that he is being held incommunicado and that he is at considerable risk of being tortured.

Otto George Dangasuk was formerly an employee of the Sudan Government's Forestry Department and is from Kajo Kaji in Yei River District in the southern Sudan. He left Juba in the southern Sudan in October 1988, apparently after coming under suspicion of being a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), an armed opposition movement which has been fighting the government since 1983. Otto George Dangasuk is reported to have remained in hiding in Khartoum for 11 months before fleeing the country by ship from Port Sudan.

Otto George Dangasuk's asylum claim in the Netherlands was refused apparently because he withdrew certain statements he had made about his past political activities in the Sudan. He did not take the opportunity to challenge the authorities' decision to expel him. Amnesty International is concerned in any case where an asylum-seeker is subjected to human rights violations after their return to their own country. The Amnesty International Dutch Section is consequently taking this matter up with the Dutch authorities, asking them as a matter of urgency to take actions on Otto George Dangasuk's behalf.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Suspected government opponents arrested by the Sudanese security services in northern Sudan are commonly held incommunicado in the security headquarters in Khartoum or in secret detention centres, known as "ghost houses". Amnesty International has been able to confirm the torture in detention centres of more than 100 people arrested since November 1989. One of their victims, Ali Fadul, a medical doctor, is reported to have died as a result of torture on 22 April 1990 (see UA AFR 54/22/90). More recently, over 75 civilians and former and serving army officers arrested in late August 1991 in connection with an alleged coup attempt were reportedly tortured in "ghost houses". An

elderly prisoner was bound and suspended by his wrists from the walls of his cell on three consecutive nights. A civilian prisoner is reported to have had the flesh from his heels sliced off. There are reports of prisoners being whipped, of others having their testicles crushed with pliers and of yet others being burnt by hot irons.

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

- expressing concern at the reported "disappearance" of Otto George Dangasuk at Khartoum airport on 5 February 1992;
- expressing concern that he may be in incommunicado detention without charge or trial and fear that he may be being tortured;
- seeking assurances that he is being humanely treated, that his whereabouts in custody are made public and that he has immediate and regular access to his family and lawyer and receives any necessary medical attention;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO

1) 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

2) 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

3) Abdel Sami Omar
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 Minister

COPIES TO:

- Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi, Chief Justice, Law Courts, Khartoum.
- Mr Ali Sahloul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO BOX 873, Khartoum.

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 5 May 1992.