

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 1

Political Arrests 3

The May 1991 Arrests 3

Arrests of Army Officers 4

Arrests of Senior Members of the Umma Party 4

Arrest of Trade Unionists, Academics and other Government Opponents 5

Gordan Micah Kur, a Human Rights Worker Detained without Charge or Trial 6

Academic Unfairly Tried 7

Prisoner of Conscience Sentenced to 14 years' Imprisonment 8

Torture and Ill-treatment of Detainees 8

Reports of Flogging 9

Prison Conditions 10

Prisoners in Poor Health 11

Human Rights Violations in Southern Sudan 11

Abuses by the SPLA 12

The Use of the Death Penalty 13

Amnesty International's Appeals to the Government 14

Annex I 15

Annex II 17

Annex III 18

Annex IV 19

Annex V 20

£SUDAN

@Human rights violations during the military government's second year in power

Introduction

In late April 1991 the Sudanese authorities announced a general amnesty for all political prisoners, members of organizations involved in armed opposition and opponents living in exile. In a public statement Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan al-Bashir said that 299 political prisoners would benefit, including deposed Prime Minister Sadiq al Mahdi and Communist Party leader Mohammed Ibrahim Nugud, both arrested during the June 1989 military coup and under house arrest since their release from prison in January 1990.

Within weeks of the announcement of this amnesty, it emerged that it was only partial. Although numerous prisoners of conscience were released in early May 1991, more than 60 others are still being held without charge or trial in various prisons. Prisoners who were not released include trade unionists and members of opposition groups and members of the armed forces arrested in April 1990 following a coup attempt (see Annex I for a list of political prisoners still detained in early June 1991). Furthermore, many of those released have had their movements restricted: they are not allowed to leave the capital, Khartoum; some must report to the security forces on what they are doing in Khartoum; others have been forced to sign undertakings that they will not oppose the government. There were also further arrests of suspected government opponents at the beginning of May 1991 in Port Sudan. The victims included two doctors who had been detained previously because of their peaceful opposition to the military government. At least a dozen others were arrested in mid-May 1991 following anti-government demonstrations in Khartoum and other towns.

On numerous previous occasions since June 1989 the military government has made public announcements suggesting that some or all political prisoners were being freed. For example, in January 1990, following a visit to Sudan by a European Parliament delegation, the authorities announced that 54 prisoners were being released. However, it subsequently emerged that more than 25 of those named as being released were not being set free; in addition five of those who were released were rearrested shortly afterwards. As a result of misleading information issued by the authorities on a number of occasions about the number and identity of those released or still held, the precise identity of all the political detainees currently held is not known.

The position of human rights in Sudan has been deteriorating ever since the June 1989 coup which brought a new military government to power. Numerous human rights violations have been recorded since then in virtually every part of the country. Hundreds of real and suspected government opponents have been jailed as prisoners of conscience. Dozens of them are still being detained without charge or trial and torture is still frequently inflicted. Political prisoners continue to be kept in secret detention centres in Khartoum. There have been reports of an increasing number of floggings of both criminal offenders and political prisoners, and more people have been sentenced to death since June 1989 than in previous years.

This report does not describe all the human rights abuses perpetrated in Sudan over the past two years; it is an update of a more detailed report entitled *Sudan: the Military Government's First Year in Power - a*

AI Index: AFR 54/11/91 Amnesty International June 1991

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

Permanent Human Rights Crisis (AI Index : AFR 54/10/90) which was published by Amnesty International in August 1990.

The pattern of human rights violations described in the August 1990 report has not changed, despite government statements that all prisoners of conscience were being released or having their cases reviewed. As in late April 1991 occasionally government officials have made periodic statements that all political prisoners have been released. However, information gathered by Amnesty International from a variety of sources indicates that although there have been periodic releases of groups of prisoners since August 1990, the largest number being in early May 1991, many other people have been arrested. These arrests are still continuing regularly. The victims come from many different walks of life and include southerners, particularly members of the Dinka ethnic group, senior members of the now banned trade unions and of political parties from the Arabic speaking and Muslim community in Khartoum, and army officers and students.

The nationwide state of emergency declared by the National Salvation Revolution Command Council (NSRCC) following the June 1989 military coup is still in force. Fighting in the South between government forces and the armed opposition Sudan Peoples's Liberation Army (SPLA) is continuing. The SPLA forces now control large areas in the South, and since March 1990 have belonged to the National Democratic Forum (NDF) - a coalition of opposition groups - and have endorsed its charter, which calls for the resumption of democratic rule in Sudan.

On 31 December 1990, head of state, Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan al-Bashir announced that Shari'a law (Islamic law) was to be implemented with immediate effect in northern Sudan. These laws, based on the NSRCC's own interpretation of Islamic jurisprudence, permit the judicial amputation of limbs, flogging as a punishment for numerous offences and other harsh penalties. A number of religious scholars from the Muslim community have declared their opposition to these laws, maintaining that they are in conflict with the spirit of compassion inherent in Islam. Sudan's judicial system has been thoroughly overhauled in recent months. Numerous judges have been dismissed since the June 1989 coup, many of them being replaced by National Islamic Front (NIF) supporters. The new Islamic law-inspired penal code came into force in March. It makes apostasy (in the case of a Muslim who renounces Islam) a capital offence. Concern has been voiced by critics of the government and human rights activists in Sudan that both members of the Sudan Communist Party and the secular opposition, and members of various religious orders that challenge the government's and the NIF's interpretation of Islam, may be prosecuted for apostasy.

Following the head of state's announcement at the end of April 1991 that political prisoners were to be freed, the Chief Justice said that in future those arrested for political reasons would be referred to the judicial authorities rather than detained without charge or trial, as had been the fate of most political prisoners arrested since June 1989.

Sudan is now facing the prospect of a third major famine in six years, caused by serious drought and crop failure in different parts of the country. Relief agencies have warned that several million people in Sudan face a famine that could result in a death toll exceeding that of the 1984/1985 famine disaster. However, the Sudanese Government, although admitting that there are food shortages, has denied these famine warnings, and in February 1991 dissolved the Ministry for Relief - to the dismay of most relief agencies. The purge of suspected government opponents has continued. Ever since the NSRCC seized power in June 1989 thousands of civil servants, including judges, doctors and engineers, have been dismissed from their jobs. Many of them are known to have been opposed to the policies of the NIF - the only political party in Sudan that supports the military government.

Political Arrests

Amnesty International June 1991 AI Index: AFR 54/11/91

The May 1991 Arrests

At least four people were arrested in the town of Port Sudan in early May 1991, shortly after the authorities announced that all political prisoners would be released. Those arrested include two medical doctors, Abdallah Abu Sine and Mohamed Abu Amer; a trader, Hassan Hamidan; and an engineer, Abderrahmane Haj Moussa. The four were suspected by the security services of supporting the NDF. Dr Abdallah Abu Sine, a former prisoner of conscience, was reported to have been arrested for writing a document said to be critical of the military government's policies. He was reported to have been brought to a military tribunal shortly after he had been charged with "waging war against the government" under article 51 of the 1991 penal code, which is a capital offence. However, the court decided to release him because his arrest occurred at the time when the authorities announced an amnesty for all political prisoners. The other three arrested in early May 1991 remain detained. Amnesty International believes that they are prisoners of conscience detained solely for their political beliefs.

There were further arrests in Port Sudan in late May 1991. Two brothers, Ja'far and Mansour 'Atta are reported to have been arrested by members of the security forces because their cousin, al-Fagiri¹, an Imam (religious scholar) has evaded arrest. Al Fagiri, a critic of the government and a supporter of the now banned Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) went into hiding when he heard that the security service was about to arrest him, and is now reported to have left the country. His two cousins, the 'Atta brothers, were tortured while they were in the custody of the security service in Port Sudan. According to unofficial reports Ja'far 'Atta is alleged to have died as a result of torture shortly after his transfer to Omdurman military hospital in late May 1991. However the authorities have not disclosed any information about what happened to him. His brother Mansour 'Atta is believed to be still detained in Port Sudan prison. Several people were arrested in previous months because of their family connections with government opponents. Abdel-Aziz Mohamed Salman, a 46 year-old businessman was detained without charge or trial from September 1990 until his release on January 1991 because his brother, Fatih Mohamed Salmane, an active member of the opposition, had evaded arrest and left the country

Arrests of Army Officers

Dozens of army officers were reportedly arrested in Khartoum in September 1990 and accused of conspiring to overthrow the government. Most of them seem to be non-commissioned officers from Darfur in the west, or from Southern Sudan. Certain unconfirmed reports suggested that some of them were brought before military courts shortly after arrest and executed as soon as they had been sentenced to death. However, the authorities refused to disclose any information about the arrests or what happened to these prisoners: their fate and whereabouts remain unclear.

A group of retired senior army officers were among those arrested in September 1990. They included Albino Akol Akol, former Governor of the province of Bahr al-Ghazal. He belongs to the Dinka ethnic group and is known to have called for a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the South. He is 50, married and has children. No charges have been brought against him and in March 1990 he was reported to be in incommunicado detention at the headquarters of the national security service in Khartoum. Stanislaus Apping is another retired officer who was arrested. He too belongs to the Dinka ethnic group. He chairs the now-banned Sudan African Congress and was a member of parliament until the June 1989 coup. He is in his fifties, is married and has seven children.

¹*Other names not known*

Henri Chol Tong (also a Dinka), a former minister, is another member of this group. He too is in his early fifties, and is married and has children. In March 1990 he was reported still to be in incommunicado detention without charge or trial at security headquarters in Khartoum.

The three are now believed to be still detained at Kober prison in Khartoum.

Arrests of Senior Members of the Umma Party

"Dozens" of senior members of the now banned Umma Party were arrested immediately after the June 1989 coup. However, by November 1989 most of them had been released uncharged. Party leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, Prime Minister until the June 1989 coup, was freed from prison in January 1990 and put under house arrest until his release in early May 1991. But in March 1990 several senior members of the Umma Party were arrested and held uncharged in secret, apparently in retaliation for the activities of party leaders abroad who had formed a new alliance with the SPLA. At least nine were arrested in mid-November 1990, apparently at a secret political meeting in Omdurman. There were some suggestions that these senior Umma party members had been arrested as a form of reprisal for Sadiq al-Mahdi's refusal to cooperate with the military authorities. They were detained without charge until their release in early May 1989. They include the following people:

- Salah Abdelsalam. He is a prominent Umma party figure and was Minister for Presidential Affairs in the previous government (formed in March 1989) of ex-Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi. He is in his fifties, is married and has children.

- Bakri Adil. He belongs to the Umma Party General Secretariat, is a former Minister of Education and was Minister of Energy in the previous government. He was first arrested in March 1990, then released several months later. His second arrest was in mid-November 1990. He is in his forties, is married and has children.

- Dr Omar Nur Al-Daiem. He is former Umma Party General Secretary also former Minister of Agriculture, then Minister of Finance in Sadiq al-Mahdi's government. He was previously arrested in early July 1989 and sent to Kober prison in Khartoum. On 6 November 1989 he was released uncharged but not allowed to leave Khartoum, his hometown. He is in his fifties, is married and has children.

All these detainees were held incommunicado for several months at a secret detention centre in Khartoum, not allowed visits by relatives or lawyers. Their prison conditions were reported to be harsh. According to reports received by Amnesty International, before their transfer to Kober prison in early 1991 they were held at a secret detention centre in Khartoum containing at least 54 political prisoners. They were not allowed medical treatment although some of them were reported to have malaria and other illnesses. They also suffered from a shortage of drinking water and from deliberate ill-treatment.

No charges were brought against them and the authorities have not explained why they were detained - although all of them were reportedly set free uncharged in early May 1991.

Arrest of Trade Unionists, Academics and other Government Opponents

Numerous people were arrested following peaceful demonstrations against government policy last November. The demonstrations took place in various parts of Sudan, including Atbara, Wad Medani, al-Obeid and Khartoum. In Atbara, the demonstrations followed the start of a railway workers' strike. The authorities responded by arresting trade union activists and threatening to dismiss the workers who had joined in the strike. Most of those arrested in connection with the demonstrations were later released but others are believed still to be held. Many of them are known to be trade union activists and members of banned political parties. They include the following people:

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

- Mirghani Babiker. He is a prominent member of the Democratic Unionist party and former Deputy Governor of Kordofan province. He is reported to have been arrested in mid-November 1990 following demonstrations in al-Obeid, during which people are said to have burned down the local market as a protest about food shortages. In March 1991 he was reportedly still being held without charge or trial in an al-Obeid prison. It is not clear if he is still held.

- Awad Salatin Darfur. He is a former senior police officer, is married and has five children. He was arrested following a demonstration, mainly by students, against the dismissal of many University of Gezeera lecturers. No charges have been brought against him. He was initially detained at security headquarters in Wad Medani, but his present whereabouts are not known.

- Omar Ali Serabal. He is an Umma Party official in Omdurman. He was first arrested immediately after the NSRCC seized power in June 1989, but was released uncharged two months' later. His second arrest occurred following student demonstrations against the dismissal of lecturers at Gezeera University. He is in his forties, is married and has one child. In March 1991 he was reportedly still being held without charge or trial in Wad Medani prison.

- Mohamed Sayegh Hassan Yousif. He is a civil engineer who worked in the United Arab Emirates for several years before returning to Sudan in 1986. He is known to be Acting General Secretary of the now banned Sudan Engineers Trade Union and a member of the Democratic Unionist party. He is 50, is married and has children. He is reported to have been in a secret detention centre in Khartoum ever since his arrest late last December. Reports indicate he was tortured by members of the security forces shortly after arrest.

Fresh arrests were reported in March 1991 including those of two academics, Professor Moses Macar and Professor Richard Hassan Kalam Sakit, who were arrested by the security forces in Khartoum at the end of March. In April 1990 they were believed to be still held incommunicado at a secret detention centre in Khartoum, without having been charged with any offence. Unofficial sources suggest that they were arrested on suspicion of being in touch with the SPLA.

Professor Moses Macar is a Mathematics lecturer and the Principal at Juba University. The university was originally based in Juba, one of the main towns in the South, effectively under siege since 1988. The university has moved to Khartoum for security reasons. He has been on the university staff since the early 1980s. He is 45, is married and has children.

Professor Richard Hassan Klam Sakit is a surgeon and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Juba University. He was a lecturer at the University of Khartoum before moving to Juba in the early 1980s. He is in his forties, is married and has children.

Gordan Micah Kur, a Human Rights Worker Detained without Charge or Trial

Gordan Micah Kur

Human rights activists have been particular targets for arrest since the NSRCC's seizure of power in June 1989. One of them, Gordan Micah Kur, was arrested on 10 September 1989 and is being held without charge or trial in Kober Prison in Khartoum. In protest against his continuing imprisonment, he went on hunger strike for one day on 12 May 1991, then for 3 days from 18 May 1991, and most recently for 6 days from 26 May 1991. He is a 34-year-old Christian and member of the Dinka ethnic group, is married with one daughter and has five other dependants. He attended elementary and intermediate schools in Juba, then went to Rumbek Secondary School (in Bahr al-Ghazal). After that he went to the Sudan Police College in Khartoum, later joining the police. On 29 September 1985 he was arrested and detained for several months, allegedly accused of involvement in a "coup attempt". Later he was released. He then left the police and became a social worker for the Amputees' Association in Khartoum, a body set up after the overthrow of President Gaafar Nimeiri in 1985. Its purpose was to help those whose hands or feet had been amputated as a punishment between 1983 and 1985 when the September laws (based on an interpretation of Islamic law) were in force. It is estimated that between September 1983 and April 1985 (when the regime was overthrown), about 200 people, many of them said not to be Muslims, had their limbs cut off.

After the June 1989 military coup, the Amputees' Association, like all other professional and political bodies, was dissolved. Gordan Micah Kur was arrested, apparently because of his connections with the association and probably also because of his suspected opposition to the September laws, which the new government has just restored, albeit in a new guise. During the first few months of his detention he was not allowed family visits. His family is reported to be suffering severe hardship, almost two years after his arrest.

Academic Unfairly Tried

Dr Ahmed Osman Siraj, the head of the Psychology Department at the University of Khartoum and the cultural secretary of the now banned Sudan Medical Association, is reported to have been sentenced to death by a military court in Khartoum in late 1990. Amnesty International is disturbed by reports that his trial lasted only a few minutes and that he was not allowed any legal representation or to appeal to a higher court. Furthermore Dr Ahmed Osman Siraj was not allowed to hear the court's verdict and it appears that he has not been informed officially that he has been sentenced. According to recent

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

unofficial reports received from Sudan it seems that his death sentence was commuted to 15 years' imprisonment by the Head of State.

Dr Ahmed Osman Siraj was first arrested in September 1989 and detained in Shalla prison. He was rearrested in September 1990 following the arrest in Khartoum of a group of army officers who were suspected of conspiring to overthrow the government. The security service have accused him of complicity with these officers. According to unofficial reports, Dr Ahmed Osman Siraj was contacted by some army officers who asked him to participate in a planned coup. He refused but did not report the matter to the security service. However the authorities have not disclosed any information about the reason for his arrest or about his trial. He is believed to be still detained at Kober prison in Khartoum.

Prisoner of Conscience Sentenced to 14 years' Imprisonment

Only a handful of prisoners of conscience out of hundreds arrested since June 1989 have so far been brought to trial. Amnesty International is concerned because those who have been tried have not been allowed proper legal representation or the right to appeal to a higher court against their conviction. Their trials fell short of international standards. One of them is Al-Fatih al-Mardi, chief editor of the now banned business journal, *al-Saha al-Tijaria*, The Trade Arena. He was convicted and sentenced in late August 1990 to 14 years' imprisonment on charges concerning the security of the state. Two other journalists who were brought to trial with him, Ibrahim Bakhit and Abdel Moneim Rei'ih, were apparently acquitted and later released.

Al Fatih-al Mardi's trial started on 25 July 1990 at Special Court No 1 in Khartoum, with three army officers as judges. Members of the public were not allowed to attend. The charges against him included fomenting hatred of the state, under Articles 96, 97 and 123 of the penal code which carry the death penalty. These charges were based on an allegation that the security forces had found him in possession of a typewriter and two Roneo duplicating machines, as well as leaflets distributed by the opposition National Democratic Forum. A group of lawyers were reportedly refused permission to defend him - although a single lawyer was apparently allowed to do so. He is not known to have advocated the use of violence and appears to be a prisoner of conscience.

Torture and Ill-treatment of Detainees

Amnesty International still receives reports of the ill-treatment and torture of political detainees, particularly of those held incommunicado by the security services in various secret detention centres in Khartoum. The apparent purpose of such treatment is to obtain information or confessions which could lead to the arrest of political and trade union activists, and also to punish people suspected of opposing the military authorities. Typical torture methods reported include beatings with rifle butts, mock executions and sleep deprivation. Victims have also been burned with cigarettes, suspended from trees, and forced to crouch during interrogation with stones gripped between their legs while being whipped.

Amnesty International continued to receive further torture testimonies from prisoners describing their ordeals in secret detention centres. Other reports of torture have come from prisoners' families and independent human rights activists. Some of these testimonies have been corroborated by medical examinations and suggest that the use of torture is still rife in secret detention centres despite the concern expressed by both Sudanese and international public opinion following the death of medical doctor Dr Ali Fadul under torture in April 1990.

The following testimony was given to Amnesty International by a trade union activist arrested in mid-1990. His experience resembled that of other prisoners of conscience who have recently been tortured in secret detention centres.

"I was arrested at my family home in Asabafa by four officers of the Sudan security service. They searched the house and found nothing. I was then taken to the security headquarters ... they blindfolded me and led me to an unknown place where I was subjected to physical and psychological torture by three of the people who had arrested me. The torture took the following forms:

- beatings with a length of hose pipe all over the body;*
- punches on the face and chest;*
- kicks all over the body;*
- beating on the back with the butt of a rifle concentrating on the lower back and buttocks;*

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

- beating the sole of the feet with truncheons.

In addition I was forced to do strenuous physical exercise for a long time, and I was prevented from sitting down, resting or sleeping. I was forced to eat food which contained a huge quantity of salt. Then I was taken to a place about four metres high, and still blindfolded, forced to jump off. I was subjected to psychological torture, such as threats to kill me, and being made to stand on a wall with my arms raised. They told me to recite my last prayers and loaded the rifle ready for firing. Again one security officer placed the rifle butt on my stomach and someone said: "We have killed Ali Fadul from the suburbs and we have chosen you from Asahafa to kill next.

They also threatened to lock me in a room with police dogs, and threatened me with several assaults, and to throw me off the North Khartoum bridge into the river or down a well. At the same time they insulted me and my family throughout the whole of that day. I was returned to the Sudan security building at 2 am and at 10 am the same day I asked for medical treatment. I was taken then to the casualties section at the military hospital and was examined by a doctor. I asked him to confirm the marks of torture by writing a medical report. He replied that he would not write a report unless requested to do so by the security authorities, and gave me treatment for two weeks."

This torture victim wrote to the Sudanese authorities too, after he had been moved to Kober prison, requesting the following:

"1- requesting an investigation into the torture to which I was subjected, and the bringing to trial of those who ordered my torture as well as those who carried it out. I am ready to offer all possible assistance to establish the acts of torture to which I was subjected.

2- as no charges have been brought against me, I request my immediate release."

Many other prisoners of conscience submitted similar torture complaints to the authorities, but so far no official investigation is known to have been carried out. Senior government officials have simply denied these reports and refused to conduct any investigations into what had happened to prisoners held incommunicado or in secret detention.

Reports of Flogging

Recent reports from various sources in Sudan suggest that since June 1989 public floggings have been on the increase. Street vendors operating without a licence (most of them women) have been summarily tried in market places by Public Order Courts and convicted vendors have been flogged on the spot. Numerous Gezeera University students in Wad Medani faced public floggings last November. They were among at least 170 students who were briefly detained following peaceful demonstrations against the dismissal of university lecturers and in support of various student demands. They were beaten and abused by members of the security forces, and at least 30 of them had their heads shaved shortly after arrest. Five of them were evidently taken to hospital, including one who sustained a spinal injury as a consequence of flogging. At least 17 women students and 16 men students received 30 lashes by order of the Deputy Governor of Wad Medani (see Annex II, for a list of students flogged by the security forces). Allegedly the floggings were inflicted in the presence of the Governor and the University President. They seem to have been inflicted without the victims receiving any form of trial. Both students and lecturers protested about the floggings and the security forces' brutality but as far as is known there has been no official investigation of the matter.

Prison Conditions

Many political prisoners have not been allowed family visits or proper medical treatment and some have

AI Index: AFR 54/11/91 Amnesty International June 1991

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

been kept incommunicado for months. Conditions are known to be particularly bad at the Khartoum headquarters of the national security services, where prisoners are held incommunicado. Countless prisoners have been in this detention centre for weeks or months before being sent to prison. Many prisoners here are kept out in the open air on the roof of the headquarters' main building. In early August 1990 nearly 100 prisoners were detained there. A report compiled in 1990 by human rights activists in Sudan who investigated conditions at the security headquarters has reported the following:

"there is no shelter from the suffocating heat, the prisoners have access to only 25 sitting places in two small rooms during the day and there is only one bathroom between them. The pressure on this facility is so great that the prisoners are forced to line up twice a day in order to use it. It is only when the numbers on the roof grow too great that a few people are moved, first to other secret detention centres and then eventually to prisons. Some of the detainees have collapsed as a result of their prolonged exposure to the conditions on the roof. Two prisoners who had undergone surgery at the military hospital were immediately returned to the roof following their release from hospital."

Prisoners at the security headquarters are not allowed visits by their families or lawyers. Kober prison inmates, however, are occasionally allowed to have items sent in by relatives and friends. Food is poor and water limited in detention centres. Occasional family visits seem to be allowed, but only under strict supervision (see Annex III, open letter from prisoners of conscience in Kober prison).

Shalla prison, a remote prison situated in the western province of Darfur, about 20 kilometres from the nearest town in the Darfur desert, is particularly notorious for its very harsh conditions. It is very difficult for prisoners' families to reach from other parts of the country. In March 1991, 28 prisoners of conscience were known still to be in this prison, without charge or trial, but it is not clear how many are still held there. They repeatedly complained to the authorities about insufficient water and sanitary facilities (see Annex V, letter from Shalla prison).

Prisoners in Poor Health

Amnesty International has received the names of some 40 prisoners of conscience in various Sudanese prisons who have health problems requiring medical treatment. Prisoners are reported to have heart or kidney disease, parasitic diseases, skin problems, ulcers and other disorders. Many political prisoners are thought not to get adequate attention even though they are plainly ill.

Mustafa Taieb Farah, an almost blind civil servant, was held incommunicado for several weeks at a secret detention centre without receiving proper medical attention. Before his arrest, he was receiving medicine for Behget's disease, which he contracted after eye surgery and four months' medical treatment in Moscow.

On 23 January 1991 Abdelmoniem Salman, a Ministry of Education employee, died in Kober prison. He is reported to have received inadequate medical care while in Shalla prison (in western Darfur province). He was later admitted to hospital in Khartoum, but he died soon after being returned to Kober prison. Evidently his treatment for diabetes mellitus, coronary atheroma and glaucoma was deficient. Following his death, details emerged about the illnesses of 20 individual prisoners of conscience held at Shalla and Kober prisons, and also elsewhere, in Halfa and Kassala. Despite numerous appeals on their behalf, the authorities are not known to have taken any action to provide them with appropriate medical attention (see Annex V).

Human Rights Violations in Southern Sudan

Amnesty International has received further reports of human rights abuses carried out by government

Amnesty International June 1991AI Index: AFR 54/11/91

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

forces and the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) in the conflict-ridden area of Southern Sudan, although the number of raids by other militia forces which in the past were responsible for numerous extra-judicial executions, appears to have diminished over the past year.

In late May 1990 four men, including two Roman Catholic teachers of religion, were arrested by government troops in Meridi in Southern Sudan on suspicion of being SPLA supporters. Together with several women they were going to Juba via the Rokon road. On the way they encountered SPLA units operating in the area who gave them a safe-conduct pass to get them through other SPLA check-points in the Juba area. The town of Juba has been besieged by the SPLA ever since 1988 and cannot be reached overland without crossing SPLA lines in the area. However, when this group of travellers passed by a government forces' camp more than 25 kilometres from Meridi they were arrested by soldiers who found in their possession the safe-conduct passes given to them by the SPLA. The four men were then severely beaten. According to a testimony received from people in the area, the soldiers soaked the four men in petrol then set them on fire. One of them, Louis Laku, died as a result in hospital in Juba. The others survived but were badly burned. They were later sent to a hospital in Juba by order of a local senior military officer. But the authorities do not seem to have carried out any investigation into the matter. This incident is typical of the pattern of persistent abuse by government troops in war zones. Many people were killed between February and May 1990 when an armed government convoy, comprising 13,000 soldiers, moved from Malakal to Juba. It apparently burned and looted several villages near Ayod, killing many unarmed villagers, among them four elderly men who were burned alive in their barn by soldiers in Dior, near Ayod.

Following the collapse of President Mengitsu Haile-Mariam's government in May 1991, thousands of refugees from Southern Sudan began moving back from Ethiopia to SPLA-occupied areas inside Sudan. They were attacked by Sudanese airforce planes and dozens of unarmed civilians were killed as a result of the aerial bombardment.

Abuses by the SPLA

Amnesty International received information from a variety of sources indicating that at least seven SPLA military and political leaders are currently imprisoned in secret by the SPLA in areas under its control in Southern Sudan. They were apparently arrested in 1988 for criticizing Colonel John Garang, the SPLA leader. Some are believed to have been first arrested in Ethiopia, either by Ethiopian security officers or by SPLA officers with the approval of the Ethiopian security forces. The prisoners were later transferred by the SPLA to areas in Southern Sudan under its control, where they are still believed to be detained. They have not been allowed access to their families. No independent humanitarian organizations have been permitted to see them and their whereabouts are unknown. The most well known of these prisoners is Joseph Oduho, former SPLA secretary for foreign affairs, previously a minister in Sudan's Southern region government under President Nimeiri's government in Sudan. He had reportedly been detained by the SPLA on three previous occasions and has now been held since 1988.

There have also been reports that the use of torture is frequent in SPLA held areas. Both SPLA dissidents and criminal offenders are reported to have been beaten and forced to lie under burning sun in extreme temperatures for long hours.

A number of prisoners held by the SPLA are alleged to have died in detention as a result of torture and medical neglect. One of them, Benjamin Bol, a former minister in the Southern regional government, is alleged to have died while detained by the SPLA in May 1988. It has been reported that his death occurred after he had been tortured. It is also known that no medical care was made available to him when his health deteriorated as a result of torture.

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

Dozens of children are known to have been taken from their parents by SPLA officers with the understanding that the children would join schools in other parts of Southern Sudan and forced to join the army. It seems that residents of towns held by the SPLA in the South who are of Northern origin are the object of some discrimination and are often restricted in their movements. For example since the town of Torit was captured by the SPLA in February 1989 a number of traders from Northern Sudan who had been living there have been restricted in their movements and are still not allowed to leave the town. The SPLA is detaining large numbers of government soldiers, possibly as many as 1500, who appear to be regarded by the SPLA as prisoners of war. Their whereabouts are not known and it seems that they have in most cases not been visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross. In December 1989 Amnesty International wrote to SPLA leader John Garang detailing reports of alleged killings of prisoners by SPLA forces, urging that they be investigated and that steps be taken to prevent any recurrence of such abuses. The organization has not received any reply. Details of these abuses were published in an Amnesty International report entitled *Sudan: Human Rights violations in the context of civil war* (AI Index: AFR 54/17/89) in December 1989.

The Use of the Death Penalty

Since June 1989 the military government has increased the number of capital offence to include drugs offences, black-marketing, disobeying currency regulations, corruption, embezzlement, fomenting opposition to the government and calling or organizing strikes. In March 1991 apostasy too became a capital offence.

Hani Shakour

At least 33 people have been executed since the June 1989 coup, including 28 army officers executed on 24 April 1990 and two others executed in July 1990. Gergis al-Ghous, sentenced to death in December 1989 for attempting to smuggle foreign currency out of the country, was hanged on 5 February 1990. Two further hangings in August 1990 were reported. The victims, convicted of theft and murder, were hanged in public in al-Fasher in Darfur in front of a large crowd. Then their bodies were taken down, crucified and displayed in public.

An army colonel, Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Salih, from the Cadet Military Academy in Jebeet in the country's eastern province, near the Red Sea), was sentenced to death in early December 1990 after he had been convicted of embezzling public funds. Last February, however, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. This was the first death sentence passed for embezzlement since the military take-over in June 1989. Siddik Mohamed Ahmed, a merchant, was sentenced to death in mid-January 1990, convicted of black-marketing. He was accused of selling sorghum (one of the main staple foods) illegally.

Hani Shakour, a 40-year-old businessman, married and with five children, was also sentenced to death on 21 January 1991. He was charged with disobeying new currency regulations in that he had tried to engage in smuggling the currency out of the country.

Dawina Mohamed Dawina was sentenced to death on 30 September 1990, convicted of murder in relation to an incident in which three members of the security forces were killed in February 1989.

People sentenced to death since the June 1989 coup have neither been allowed to appeal against conviction to a higher court nor permitted proper legal representation at their trials.

Amnesty International's Appeals to the Government

Amnesty International has kept urging the Sudanese Government to release all prisoners of conscience and let everyone detained since the 1989 coup challenge their imprisonment in court. The organization has protested about the use of torture and about the increased use of the death penalty.

In oral statements to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in February 1991 and to the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August 1990, Amnesty International referred to its concerns in Sudan. In mid-1991 it submitted a communication to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights about "a series of serious or massive violations" in Sudan of human rights guaranteed by the African charter on Human and People's Rights. In March 1991, Amnesty International also submitted information about its concerns in Sudan for review by the United Nations under a procedure for the confidential consideration of communications about human rights violations (established by Economic and Social Council Resolutions 728F/1503). Despite recent releases Amnesty International remains concerned that the Sudanese authorities have not yet taken adequate steps to protect basic human rights and, indeed, that the new penal code introduced by the government in March 1991 is likely to lead to an increase, rather than a decrease, in the level of violations of human rights.

Annex I

List of political prisoners still detained in early June 1991 despite the government's announcement on 30 April 1991 that all political prisoners were being released. This list does not include prisoners held in secret detention centres or army officers who have been detained since April 1990 and September 1990:

NAME OCCUPATION

Dr. Ahmed Osman Siraj Lecturer, University of Khartoum
Albino Akol Akol Army General (RH)
Stanislaus Apping Fire Brigade Colonel (Rtd.)
Henry Chol Tong Ex-Minister
Ali Hamadan Kir Army Lt. Col. (Rtd.)
Osman Khider Abu Shuma Journalist
Asas Mohamed El Imam Teacher
Adam Abdul Rahman Worker
Himadan Fadul Al Karem Teacher
Sif El Deen Abdallah Worker
Dr. Abdul Gadir Ali Hamid Medical Officer
Haroun Hamid Yagoub Worker
Haroun Tssa Gibree Worker
Deng Mesham Farmer & Businessman
Akwey Akwey Ago Worker
Mau Poul Akout Official
Gabriel Matur Ex-Minister
Peter Panwil Yata Manager
Abdel Rahim Mohmed Ahmed Worker
Gordan Micah Kur Police Major (Rtd.)
Dr. Charles Yor Odhok Army Lt. Col. (Rtd.)
Abraham Nhor Lwong Official
Isaac Chol Alier Worker
Mohamed Ibrahim Abdou Businessman
Mokhtar Abdallah Worker
Peter Dau Water Worker
Yousif Hussein Geologist-Engineer
Sidiq Yousif Civil Engineer
Emanuel Doku Joseph Electrical Engineer
Mohamed Mahjoub Osman Journalist
Suleiman Mohamed Souheil Official
Bashir Hamad Teacher
Saudi Daraq Worker
Abdallah Koubeil Official
Abubakar Al Amin Journalist
Ali Said Lawyer
Yagoub El Feil Official
El Amin Ibrahim Jubara Worker

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

Masaud Mohmed ObeidManager

Samuel GarangNurse

Santino John AkotLawyer

Annex II

List of students flogged by the security forces in November 1990 at Al-Gezeera University.

Male Students:

Female Students:

Tariq Mohamed Hamed	Faiza Ali Sanhuri
Hussein Ali Sanhur	Safinaz Haj al-TaHER
Seif-al-Din Abdel-Rahman	Susan
Faysal Said	Hala Husni
Abdel-Halim Issa Timan	Hala Abdel-Razaq
Awad Ali Alish	Hanan Mohamed Al-Hadi
Nazzary Hashim Mohamed	
Osman	Lamfaq Yousif
Omar Ibrahim	Reem Kazzam
Faysal Ishaq	Souhayr
Amin Mohamed Hussein	Itassi Mustafa
Mounir Mohamed	Hanaida Mohamed Osman
Abdel-Nasser Osman	Amira Sayyed Taha
Abdel-Wahad Adam	Najla Abdel-Rahman
Sami Yousif Albani	Sara Al-Hilou
Abdel-Rahman Al-Mahdi Adam	Hajer Mohamed Tom
	Hend Hashim Al-Ata
	Hala Khujli

Annex III

Open letter by prisoners of conscience in Khartoum's Kober prison in 1990

"We, the undersigned, were arrested consecutively in different parts of Sudan, beginning on 30 June 1989. During our detention there have been many violations of our fundamental rights, for example, attacks and assaults on our homes at night under the threat of fire-arms alarming and terrorising our families, women and children, and searching property like savages with no regard for the law or for correct conduct.

After (our) arrest the security forces used many houses scattered around the agency's headquarters, and, in particular, houses to the east of City Bank, called "safe houses" where detainees are bound with rope and blindfolded, beaten with a stick or hose pipe, soaked with icy water and filth, held isolated in solitary confinement in narrow rooms, deprived of water and food and prevented from going to the toilet, the sick deprived of their medicines. Detainees are prevented from performing religious duties, tortured by electric shocks, deprived of sleep and abused with language too foul to repeat.

All this takes place in the presence of a number of leading members of the ruling political and security authorities, in accordance with a comprehensive criminal plan designed to crush the will and dignity of political detainees, the more so when each one who is tortured sees before him a number of those officials issuing orders to be carried out under their command and direction, including, for example, officers of the First Agency, and a member of the Salvation Council, under whose command are a number of officers using false names to conceal their true identity.

In order to substantiate cases of torture many detainees wrote detailed memoranda on the physical torture and verbal abuse they suffered and submitted these, with comprehensive medical reports, to the Minister of the Interior and others. More than nine months have passed since submitting the memoranda requesting that these practises be investigated, and we have received no reply. Instead, we continue to read in the newspapers, and hear through other media, a categorical denial of these practices, despite the fact that all these memoranda were signed. Those who have been released have found their place of residence surrounded by security forces."

Annex IV

Letter from Shalla Prison written at the end of August 1990.

"We are 50 political detainees, business men, advocates, engineers, doctors, lecturers, technicians, pharmacists, journalists. Periods of our detention range between 13 to 6 months, about 12 of us have been subjected to torture in the early weeks of our detention in Khartoum. We are living in 3 rooms and (no) cells (open cells) overcrowding, poor ventilation, leaky roofs when it rains. The food is deteriorating rapidly. It was very bad during April, improved in May-July now it is worsening. Water is brought by a tanker from outside ... it occasionally fails to bring water due to lack of fuel and other reasons or excuses. Some of us are quite ill and doctors in al-Fasher hospital have recommended that they be transferred to Khartoum for medical treatment. Months have passed without necessary approval by the authorities in Khartoum. So we are looking forward for more pressure on the regime to release the detainees or to transfer them to Khartoum.

Another source of danger to the security and lives of the detainees is the presence in Shalla prison of about 100 Chadian rebel soldiers. There are strong indication that their armed colleagues, who are inside Sudanese territories not far from Shalla may attack at any time to free them or to do otherwise.

The regime continues to deny our existence as political detainees and when confronted with reality it gives hollow promises about our imminent release and we know that this is a mere propaganda. We are targeted by the regime and they try to isolate us in the worst and remotest of Sudanese prison. We are looking forward for more support of international pressure.

As to your questions, we are trying to spend our time in a useful manner such as sports, football, volley ball and we are starting to learn German, French, Russian languages and ... read, law books, etc. Since March I have not met any of my family and I haven't received any letter since June. We are here without any interrogation or investigation or trials not even asking us about our names or anything.

This is our situation in Shalla."

Annex V

The following prisoners were reportedly in need of medical care:

Name Occupation Prison Diagnosis

- 1 Mohammed al-Amin farmer Kober ischaemic heart disease
Sir-al-Khatim
- 2 Dr Khalid al-Kid lecturer Kober angina
- 3 Al-Yas Suheil teacher Kober compound fracture of the right knee joint
- 4 Al-Fatih al-Mardi journalist Kober chronic renal failure
- 5 Galal-Eddin Mohammed lawyer Shallajaw fracture
al-Sayid
- 6 Dr Taha Karom Doctor Halfa paraplegia
al-Jadida
- 7 Yousif Hussein geologist Kassala hypertension, ischaemic
Mohamed heart disease
- 8 Dr Abdelkadir agriculturalist Halfa hypertension, prolapsed
al-Jadida intervertebral disc
- 9 Ismail al-Jack retired Kober malignant hypertension
colonel
- 10 Al-Tayb Abu Gediri lawyer Shalla angina, hypertension
- 11 Dr Kamal al-Rasheed doctor Kober hypertension
- 12 Misbah al-Safi engineer Kober acute glaucoma and loss of vision in the left eye
- 13 Hassan Abu-Zeid agricultural Kober bronchial asthma and
engineer umbilical hernia
- 14 Yousif Abdelhadig government Kober coronary atheroma
official

Sudan - Human Rights Violations

15 Ibrahim al-Khalil financial Kober duodenal ulcer
controller

16 Dr Kamil Ibrahim lecturer, Kober peptic ulcer, cutaneous
Hassan Faculty of Agriculture leishmaniasis
Khartoum University

17 Habib Sarnoube economist Kassala hypertension
Al-Daw

18 Dr Mohammed retired Kassala acute glaucoma
Osman Mahgoub Colonel

19 Abdelrahman ex-Member of Halfa hypertension, peptic Nugudallah
Parliament al-Jadida ulcer

20 Mahgoub Osman journalist Shalla chronic pancreatitis

Other prisoners reported to need treatment included:

Kober prison: Hashim Mohammed Ahmed (President of Sudan Engineers Union), Ahmed Gouda

Shalla prison: Ahmed Abdelmoula (pharmacist), Dr Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud (lecturer), Khairy
Abdelrahman (engineer), Siddik al-Zeilai (journalist), Dr Nagib Nagm-Eddin (doctor), Al-Shaikh al-
Khidir (economist), Dr Farouk Kadoda (lecturer), Ali al-Mahi al-Sakhi (foundry worker) [the last four are
reported to suffer complicated cutaneous leishmaniasis]

Kassala prison: Siddiq Yousif Ibrahim (engineer), Dr Bashir Omar Fadlallah (ex-minister and economics
lecturer), Abbas al-Subaai (printing engineer)

Halfa al-Jadida Ali al-Omda