

PUBLIC

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Incommunicado detention / Fear of torture or ill-treatment

14 March 2003

SUDAN

Adam Abdel Hamid Adam (m), trainee advocate

Trainee advocate, Adam Abdel Hamid Adam was arrested at 9 pm on 3 March by members of the security forces outside the Abdelmajeed Imam Cultural Centre in Khartoum North. He is being held in incommunicado detention, where he is at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Adam Abdel Hamid Adam, a member of the Abdelmajeed Imam Cultural Centre, was arrested along with journalist Mona Zahir Alsadati. They were reportedly taken to the offices of the National Security Agency near Farouk cemetery in Khartoum for interrogation. Mona Zahir Alsadati was released after two hours and asked to report to security offices the next day.

Detainees who have been held in the National Security Agency offices have been tortured and then transferred to a secret political wing of Kober prison in Khartoum. It is feared that Adam Abdel Hamid Adam may suffer the same fate.

The Abdelmajeed Imam Centre carries out various cultural activities related to peace and human rights. The Centre's activities were suspended for a period last year and it has reportedly been under surveillance by security forces in the past.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Political opposition and freedom of expression, assembly and association have been severely curtailed since President Omar al-Bashir came to power in 1989. Some opposition political parties, trade unions and student associations are restricted in their activities. Sedition charges and offences defined as *against the State* have been used arbitrarily in the past against suspected political opponents. Under the State of Emergency and the National Security Act, amended in July 2001, 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 Adam Abdel Hamid Adam, who was detained by the Sudanese security forces on 3 March and has not been seen since;
- calling on the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Adam Abdel Hamid Adam and to give assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated @;
- urging the authorities to allow Adam Abdel Hamid Adam immediate and unrestricted access to his relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid he 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 detainee with a recognizably criminal offence and give him a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set him 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

Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651/ 787676 / 783223
Salutation: Your Excellency

Maj-Gen Tayyib Ibrahim
Muhammed Khayr
Adviser to the President on Security Affairs
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Maj-Gen Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammed Khayr, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651/ 787676 / 783223
Salutation: Dear Major-General

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

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 779383
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

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

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 2003.