

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 141/93 Fear of torture\extrajudicial execution

30 April 1993

SUDAN: Major-General al-Fatih Mohamed Abdel A'al, retired army officer
Colonel Mustafa Ahmad al-Tai, retired army officer
Colonel Mohamed Hassan Osman al-Zubeir, retired army officer
Lieutenant al-Tayib Nuor al-Daim Mohamed, retired army officer
Haidar al-Tigani, retired army officer
Gaafar Yassin Ahmad, doctor
Osman Mohamed Ali Gumma
al-Tiraifi al-Tahir Fadul
Yasir Abu Zeid Ahmad
al-Hassan Ahmad Salih Mohamed
Mubarek Mohamed Abdalla Gadeen

There are reports of several arrests in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, where the authorities claim to have uncovered a plot to overthrow the government. The men named above were arrested between the 21 and 24 April 1993. There are reports of other arrests but the numbers of detainees or their identities are as yet unknown.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned that those detained are at risk of severe torture. Some of the men named above were shown on Sudanese television on 26 April 1993. They were shackled and are reported to have been bruised suggesting that they had been beaten. Their place of detention is unknown. It is likely, however, that they are being held either in the security headquarters in Khartoum or a secret detention centre, commonly known as a "ghost house" in Sudan.

Any detainee arrested by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment.

Those who the authorities believe may have information are at risk of severe torture.

In the past year the authorities claim to have clamped down on torture which they blame on undisciplined security officials.

Amnesty International believes, however, that torture is systematic. The organization has recently confirmed the death under torture of a former army officer from southern Sudan arrested in Khartoum following a rebel assault on the major southern city of Juba in mid-1992. Camillo Odongi Loyuk, who was an elderly man, was tied spread-eagled to the window bars of a room. A rope with a sliding noose was tied around his testicles which tightened if he moved. He was then beaten to death. The government denies his death and claims that Camillo Odongi Loyuk is a free man.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of the eleven men named above (please select two or three names) and others who are reportedly being held incommunicado

after their arrest on suspicion of involvement in an alleged coup plot;

- expressing concern that when some of the men named above were shown on Sudanese television on 26 April 1993 they reportedly showed signs of having been beaten;

- expressing concern that they remain at risk of torture;

- requesting information about where they are being held and what steps are being taken to ensure that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;

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- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are 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 National Salvation Revolutionary Command
Council

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, Minister of the Interior and Deputy Chairman of the National
Salvation Revolutionary Command Council

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, 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts, Khartoum
Sudan

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

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

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, 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 11 June 1993.