

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death penalty

19 May 1992

SUDAN:

Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr, former embassy official
Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr, agriculturalist, businessman
Fadul Sultan Karkola, domestic employee
Mohamedein Suleiman Bakheit, domestic employee

On 19 May 1992 it was announced in Khartoum that a military court had sentenced Brigadier Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr to death. His execution is reportedly scheduled for Saturday 23 May 1992. It is feared that the other three men named above may also have been sentenced to death.

Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr, an official at the Sudanese Embassy in Saudi Arabia until he was recalled to Khartoum and dismissed from the army in December 1991, was arrested on 30 December 1991 at his home in Khartoum North. Arrested with him were his brother, Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr, who is an agriculturalist and businessman, and **Fadul Sultan Karkola** and **Mohamedein Suleiman Bakheit**, domestic employees of the family. The four men went on trial in February 1992 accused of spying for a foreign country and opponents of the military government. It has been reported that they were tortured while in the custody of the security services. (See UA 09/92, AFR 54/01/92 of 8 January 1992 for more information about Nasr and Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr).

It is not clear if Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr has had the opportunity to appeal to a higher court against his conviction and sentence. Amnesty International has also been unable to discover so far whether sentence has been passed on the other three men.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over 50 people have been executed since the coup of 30 June 1989 which brought the current government to power. This figure includes 28 army officers executed on 24 April 1990 after being summarily convicted in a military court of involvement in a coup attempt which allegedly took place the previous day. Since then a number of men have been sentenced to death by military courts for alleged involvement in attempts to overthrow the government, but their sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment by the Head of State.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr is reported to have been sentenced to death;
- seeking information on the sentences passed against Zaki Hassan Bashir Nasr, Fadul Sultan Karkola and Mohamedein Suleiman Bakheit;
- enquiring whether Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr's trial was fair, and in particular whether the judges had legal training and were independent and impartial;

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- asking whether Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr has been allowed the right to appeal to a higher court, referring to this as one of the basic safeguards adopted by the United Nations in May 1984 to protect the rights of anyone facing the death penalty;
- explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right of life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- appealing for commutation of Nasr Hassan Bashir Nasr's death sentence.

APPEALS TO:

1. His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command
Council (NSRCC)
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD; 22411 KAID SD

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; 22604 IPOL SD

3. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD; 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum, Sudan

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO BOX 873, Khartoum
Sudan

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 23 May 1992.