

22 November 2001

Further information on UA 279/01 (AFR 54/016/2001, 2 November) and follow-up (AFR 54/019/2001) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/ Detentions without charge/ Possible prisoners of conscience

SUDANYousef Hussein (m), Communist Party member
Abbas Mohamed al Tahir (m), Communist Party member
Adil Mohamed (m), lawyer
 Mohamed al Hassan Ibrahim (m), lawyer
 Omar Sidahmed (m), lawyer
 Bakri Gibreil (m), lawyer
 Jalal Mohamed al Said (m), lawyer
 Nasr Aldeen Yousef (m), lawyer
 Haydar Abdelrahman (m), lawyer

Communist Party members, Yousef Hussein and Abbas Mohamed al Tahir were reportedly not released on 2 November, when the group of lawyers named above, were freed. They remain in incommunicado detention and have not had any contact with the outside world since 3 November. Amnesty International fears that they are at risk of torture or ill-treatment and of prolonged detention.

Adil Mohamed was released on 17 November and told to report to the Security Service Office near Farouk Cemetery, North Khartoum for further questioning.

All the released lawyers except Jalal Mohamed al Said and Nasr Aldeen Yousef, still have to report daily at 8am to the Security Service Office. Due to the onset of Ramadan however, they are allowed to leave at 4pm instead of 9pm. Jalal Mohamed al Said and Nasr Aldeen Yousef have been given a temporary reprieve from daily reporting for medical reasons.

Since his release, Omar Sidahmed has reportedly been ill-treated by security service officers. On 17 November, he was made to stand for one hour in a small room, apparently because of the complaint he made to the Director of the Security Services about the torture and ill-treatment he and the others suffered in detention.

Security service officers have reportedly told the lawyers that they will have to continue to report daily to the Security Service office until the election of a new Chair of the Sudanese Bar Association, which is due to take place in December.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in English or Arabic or in your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Yousef Hussein and Abbas Mohamed al Tahir and to give them immediate access to their family, lawyers and any medical assistance they may need;
- calling for them to be released immediately and unconditionally, as Amnesty International believes they are prisoners of conscience, held solely for the peaceful expression of their political opinion;
- calling for security service officers to immediately stop ill-treating and harassing the lawyers;
- urging the authorities to immediately suspend all security officers responsible for torturing or ill-treating the lawyers;
- calling for the security forces to stop making the lawyers report to them daily, as this constitutes harassment and a restriction to their fundamental right to freedom of movement.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
President' s Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +24911 771651/ 787676 / 783223
Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +24911 788941 / 774842/ 774906
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +24911 779383
Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

Dr Ahmed al-Mufti
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: +24911 779173

COPIES TO:

Mr Hafez al-Sheikh al-Zaki
Chief Justice, Supreme Court
Khartoum, Sudan

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 3 January 2002.