

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/25/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 195/93 Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention

15 June 1993

SUDAN: Adlan Ahmad Abdel Aziz

Adlan Ahmad Abdel Aziz, a 33-year old teacher and reportedly a member of the banned Sudan Communist Party, is reported to have been detained by the security authorities in Khartoum on 12 May 1993. There is serious concern that he may be being subjected to torture. He has not been seen since his arrest and his place of detention is not known.

Political detainees in Khartoum are normally held in the security headquarters or in secret detention centres, commonly known as "ghost houses" in Sudan. However some reports suggest that prisoners have been recently moved from the best known "ghost houses" to other places of detention, apparently to enable the authorities to claim that secret detention centres are not in use.

Detainees are usually beaten on arrival at "ghost houses" and torture during interrogation of prisoners suspected of being active opponents of the government is systematic.

The security authorities deny that torture takes place. However, in one case known to Amnesty International, an elderly prisoner, who the authorities claimed in March 1993 had been freed, was actually beaten to death in December 1992. Camillo Odongi Loyuk, a former southern Sudanese army officer from the city of Juba, was arrested in Khartoum and then tied spread-eagled to the window bars of a room. A cord with a sliding noose was tied around his testicles which tightened if he moved. He was then brutally beaten.

Adlan Ahmad Abdel Aziz was previously detained incommunicado between September 1991 and February 1992. During this period he was badly beaten. It is not clear why he was rearrested in May 1993.

In April and May 1993 the government initiated a major clampdown on suspected opponents in towns and cities across northern Sudan resulting in scores of detentions.

The government, which professes an ideology of militant Islam, has recently stepped up its action against opposition coming from the three major religious orders of traditional Sudanese Islam, the Ansar, the Khatmiya and the Ansar Sunna. The majority of those detained have belonged to these orders.

In May, in the days immediately preceding the 'Id al-Adha, the Muslim holiday marking the end of the period of pilgrimage (*hajj*) to Mecca, the security authorities confiscated the religious complex centred on the tomb of Mohamed Ahmad al-Mahdi in Omdurman, which is one of the most important shrines belonging to the Ansar. In the days that followed, important mosques belonging to the Khatmiya and the Ansar Sunna were also confiscated.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest on 12 May 1993 of Adlan Ahmad Abdel Aziz;
- expressing concern at his continuing detention without charge or trial and fear that he may be subjected to torture while in an unidentified place of detention;

- requesting assurances that he is being humanely treated, that his whereabouts in custody be made public and that he has immediate and regular access to his family, lawyer and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial.

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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
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 or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign
Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum, Sudan

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

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 representative of Sudan accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Sudan in Austria during June at the following address:

Embassy of Sudan:

The Ambassador
Botschaft der Republik Sudan
Friedrich Schmidtplatz 3
1080 Wien
Austria

Faxes: + 43 1 403 66 42

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 July 1993.