

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 201/93 Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention

22 June 1993

**SUDAN: Yousif Hussein
 Abdel Karim Abdel Jaliel
 Nadir Mahjoub Mohamed Salih**

The reported arrests on 11 June 1993 of Yousif Hussein, Abdel Karim Abdel Jaliel and Nadir Mahjoub Mohamed Salih, who are all members of the banned Sudan Communist Party, are the latest in a widespread clampdown on suspected political opponents of the Sudan government.

All three men have been arrested on previous occasions. Yousif Hussein, a geologist in his late 50s, was detained without charge or trial for over two years after he was arrested in January 1990. Abdel Karim Abdel Jaliel, a retired civil servant in his 60s, was reportedly held for several months in early 1992, when he was apparently tortured. Nadir Mahjoub Mohamed Salih, who is in his 30s, has been detained on four previous occasions.

The reasons for their current arrest, which took place in Khartoum North, are not known. There is fear that they may be being subjected to torture. They have not been seen since their arrest and their place of detention is unknown.

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.

As a matter of routine detainees are badly 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 in March 1993 the authorities claimed 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.

Since April there have been scores of detentions in towns and cities across northern Sudan. The government, which professes an ideology of militant Islam, has recently stepped up its action to deal with 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.

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

either in English, Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest on 11 June 1993 of Yousif Hussein, Abdel Karim Abdel Jaliel and Nadir Mahjoub Mohamed Salih;
- expressing concern at their continuing detention without charge or trial and fear that they may be subjected to torture;
- requesting assurances that they are being humanely treated, that their whereabouts in custody be made public and that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;
- inquiring why they are being detained and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial.

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APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General **Salutation: Your Excellency**
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
Faxes: + 249 11 71724

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn **Salutation: Dear Deputy** Deputy Prime
Minister, Minister of the Interior **Prime Minister**
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
Faxes: + 249 11 71724/76554/77900/73046/70186

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu **Salutation: Dear Minister**
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)
Faxes: + 249 11 74063

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 representatives 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:

The 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 3 August 1993.