

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/31/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 224/93

Fear of torture/Legal concern

9 July 1993

SUDAN:

Mohamed Hamad Kowa, former Minister of Tourism
Mustafa Angelo, member of Sudan National Party
Khamis Farajallah Kortel, priest
Angelo, teacher
Idris Shameila, teacher

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above five leading members of the Nuba community in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, who are reported to have been detained in late June 1993. They were arrested by security officers at a number of different places in the city and are being held incommunicado in an unknown location. The reasons for their arrest are unknown but the authorities are thought to suspect them of being opponents of the government. There is grave concern that they may be being subjected to torture.

At least two of those arrested, Mustafa Angelo and Mohamed Hamad Kowa, were members of the banned Sudan National Party (SNP) which was formed in 1986 by the veteran Nuba leader Father Philip Ghabboush. Mohamed Hamad Kowa served as a minister in the government of Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's Prime Minister, ousted in a military coup on 30 June 1989.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A long-lasting and bloody civil war is being fought in the Nuba Mountains and southern Sudan. The SNP and other Nuba political groups have been active in seeking to alert the international community to government policies being followed in the Nuba Mountains which have included deliberate attacks on Nuba villages, the arrest and "disappearance" of local Nuba leaders and extrajudicial executions.

The Nuba are a loose federation of ethnic groups occupying the remote mountain ranges of the southern part of South Kordofan, in the west of Sudan. They regard themselves as non-Arabs and as culturally closer to southern Sudanese than to the Arab nomads whose stock graze the plains between the mountain Nuba communities. The Christian church has many Nuba members, although many others are Muslims.

The Nuba Mountains has been politically tense since the start of the civil war in 1983. Some Nuba have joined the SPLA, the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army, which became active in the area in mid-1987, and many, particularly those with education, have since been suspected by the authorities and pro-government militias of being sympathetic to the SPLA.

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

either in English or Arabic, or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest in late June 1993 of the individuals above;
- 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;
- urging that they be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

Page 2 of UA 224/93

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

Faxes: + 249 11 71724

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

Faxes: + 249 11 71724/76554/77900/73046/70186

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)

Faxes: + 249 11 74063

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 representatives of Sudan in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 August 1993.