

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 375/92 Fear of extrajudicial execution/torture

30 November 1992

SUDAN:

David Koak Goak - former Local Government Minister Upper Nile State
Farouq Abdalla Gatkuoth - former Secretary General Upper Nile State
John Dak - Assistant Secretary General Upper Nile State
Kueth Kang Deng - Acting Secretary General Upper Nile State
Peter Lai Nyibek - Director Finance Ministry Upper Nile
Waragak Galuak Paguir - Director Agriculture Ministry Upper Nile
Lulut Kok Deng - vet and former Member of Parliament Upper Nile
Lazarus Lai Puol - former Member of Parliament Upper Nile State
Brigadier Gabriel Deng Wuol - former police officer
Lieutenant Colonel Simon Tut Yat - police officer
Major Bakok Galuak Paguir - police officer
John Gilla Lul - former Commissioner Sobat Province
Peter Pal Poc Mar - manager of Jonglei Rice Scheme
Jacob Duong Wuon - Acting Executive Director Sobat Province
Martin Nyang Kic - Executive Director Pibor Province
Pol Bec - civil servant Department of Taxation
Cuang Deng - civil servant Department of Taxation
Paul Kuting Gil - accountant Ministry of Commerce
Jimma Bileu Kung - accountant Ministry of Commerce
John Laa Kerac - Director Malakal Secondary School
and a reported further 115 officials

Amnesty International has just received reports of mass arrests in Malakal, the administrative headquarters of Upper Nile State in southern Sudan, which is controlled by government forces besieged by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army - Nasir faction (SPLA-Nasir). The men named above are reported to be among at least 135 civil servants, politicians and community leaders, the majority from the Nuer ethnic group, detained in late October 1992 in the days following a mutiny by Anya-Nya Two, a southern Sudanese paramilitary force controlled by the government, which led to fighting in Malakal town. The detainees are reported to be held incommunicado and there is serious concern that they are at risk of extrajudicial execution and torture.

Particular fear has been expressed for **Jacob Duong Wuon** and **Jimma Bileu Kung** who are reported to have been arrested by Military Intelligence, a security service which has a particularly severe record of torturing and extrajudicially executing prisoners in its custody. The other prisoners are reported to be held by State Security. There are also reports that an unknown number of Anya-Nya Two troops stationed in Malakal have also been arrested.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The arrests followed an attack on Malakal on 19 October by forces led by a spiritual leader or prophet from the Nuer ethnic group. The Nuer are one of the major groups in Upper Nile and the prophet is named Wutnyang who is from the Lak section of Nuer from northern Zeraf

island, west of Malakal. Over the past year and a half Wutnyang has come to prominence in Upper Nile as a mediator between southern Sudanese troops and paramilitary forces working with the government and southerners who are part of the SPLA. The attackers appear to have particularly targeted depots and posts manned by units comprising paramilitary volunteer soldiers from northern Sudan, known in Sudan as Popular Defence Forces or Mujahadeen, many of whom are supporters of the Islamist movement which underpins the Sudan government. Popular Defence Forces recruited from northern Sudan now form an integral part of many of the larger government garrisons in southern Sudan. Wutnyang's attacking forces included mutinying Lak Nuer members of the Anya-Nya Two based at the small garrison towns of New Fangak and Doleib Hill. After 32 hours the attacking forces withdrew.

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The government appears to suspect that the attack took place with the knowledge and cooperation of Malakal based Anya-Two troops and local officials. Following attacks in June and July 1992 on Juba, the largest city in southern Sudan, by the rebel SPLA (Torit faction) the authorities similarly suspected local paramilitary forces and southern Sudanese officials of cooperating with infiltrating troops and are reported to have arbitrarily detained hundreds of prisoners (see UA 293/92, AFR 54/28/92 of 18 September 1992 and follow up AFR 54/30/92 of 25 September 1992). The Sudanese authorities confirmed the execution in mid-August of an employee of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and an employee of the European Commission. However, despite international appeals, there is still no word about the fate of the others and the failure to account for them intensifies fear that they have been extrajudicially executed. The government's response to the infiltration of Juba underlines the threat to the physical safety of those reportedly arrested in Malakal.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of some 135 politicians and civilian officials (mentioning the names of several of those named above) in the days following 19 October 1992;
- expressing concern that they are reported to be in incommunicado detention and appear to be at risk of extrajudicial execution and torture;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are being humanely treated, and urging that their whereabouts in custody are made public and that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that all detainees be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

2) Brigadier-General al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh

Salutation: Your Excellency

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-Gen al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD

3) Mr Abdullah Idris

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice and Attorney-General

Ministry of Justice

Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Minister of Justice #Abdullah Idris, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or

22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi

Mr Ali Sahloul

Chief Justice

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Law Courts

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Khartoum, Sudan

PO BOX 873, 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 11 January 1993.