

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/35/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 312/93

Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

7 September 1993

SUDAN:

El-Fadil Adam, member of the Umma Party

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of El-Fadil Adam, a member of the banned Umma Party, who was arrested in late August 1993 in Khartoum apparently on suspicion of producing and distributing leaflets critical of the government. His place of detention is not known.

Amnesty International is concerned that El-Fadil Adam has been arrested solely for his non-violent opposition to the government and considers him to be a prisoner of conscience. Amnesty International is also concerned that he is at risk of being tortured on account of his opposition to the government.

Between April and July 1993 there have been widespread arrests in towns in northern Sudan. The majority arrested have been members of the Umma Party and of the three major religious orders of traditional Sudanese Islam, the Ansar, the Khatmiya and the Ansar Sunna. The arrests appear to be part of a crackdown on opposition coming from these Islamic orders and the Umma Party.

Prisoners are held without charge or trial in Sudan on the basis of Decree Two of the emergency laws issued by the new government immediately after the 30 June 1989 coup. Section Seven of the decree bans the "showing of any political opposition by any means to the regime of the Revolution for National Salvation" and allows the authorities to arrest and detain anyone "suspected of being a danger to political or economic security".

Detainees in Khartoum are normally held in the security headquarters or in secret detention centres, known as "ghost houses", in Sudan. Detainees are commonly beaten on arrival at "ghost houses" and torture during interrogation of prisoners suspected of being active opponents of the government is systematic.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest in late August 1993 of El-Fadil Adam who appears to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his internationally recognized right to freedom of expression;
- urging that he is humanely treated while in custody, that his place of detention be made public and that he has immediate and regular access to his family, a lawyer and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that he is immediately and unconditionally released.

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

Minister of the Interior

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, but apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

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 19 October 1993.