

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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U/A 430/93 Fear of Torture

9 December 1993

**SUDAN** Osman Omar al-Sharif, senior member of Democratic Unionist Party

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Amnesty International is concerned that Osman Omar al-Sharif is at serious risk of being tortured following his arrest on 27 November 1993 in Wad Medani in Central State, Sudan.

Osman Omar al-Sharif, a member of the Political Bureau of the banned Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), is reportedly being held for investigation due to his alleged involvement in a one day strike by shopkeepers in Wad Medani which took place on 27 November 1993. His whereabouts are not known.

Osman Omar al-Sharif, a former member of parliament for Wad Medani and a former member of the cabinet, may have been arrested solely for his non-violent opposition to the government and may be a prisoner of conscience.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Democratic Unionist Party was one of the two major political parties that formed the coalition government that was ousted in the military coup of 30 June 1989.

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

Other prominent members of the DUP have recently been arrested, including Sid Ahmad al-Hussain, who was arrested in Khartoum on 17 November 1993 and remains in incommunicado detention (see U/A 411/93, AFR 54/41/93, 19 November 1993).

**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 on 27 November 1993 of Osman Omar al-Sharif who appears to be a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern at his continuing incommunicado detention without charge or trial and fear that he may be subjected to torture;
- requesting assurances that he is being humanely treated and urging that his whereabouts in custody be made public and that he be granted immediate and regular access to his family, legal council and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that he be released unless he is 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  
President of the Republic of the Sudan  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegramms:** Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams:** 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 RFD SD

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegramms:** Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams:** 22842 WZFRF SD or 22604 POL SD

**Salutation:** Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu  
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegramms:** Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams:** 22459 KHRJF SD or 22461 KHRJF SD (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

#### COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi  
Chief Justice  
Law Courts  
Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussain Sulaiman 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 20 January 1994.