

PUBLIC

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18 June 2003

UA 175/03 Fear for safety/fear of torture or ill-treatment /incommunicado detention

SUDAN **Elhadi Tangur (m), member of the Blue Nile community
An unknown number of others arrested in Blue Nile state**

Elhadi Tangur, from Blue Nile state, eastern Sudan, was reportedly arrested at his home in the capital Khartoum on 16 June. He is being held incommunicado without charge at the headquarters of the security forces in Khartoum East, and is at risk of torture. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

Elhadi Tangur was reportedly arrested at 8am on 16 June by plain clothed members of the security forces. His arrest was allegedly in connection with his recent participation in a meeting in Khartoum, in which members of the Blue Nile community shared their views on the ongoing peace process in Sudan with the main international mediator for the Sudan peace talks, General Sumbeiyu. According to reports, the security forces suspect Elhadi Tangur of supporting the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), which has been fighting against the Government of Sudan in the 20-year-old civil war. Elhadi Tangur has not been charged with any offence.

There are also concerns for the safety of an unknown number of other people allegedly arrested by the security forces in the town of Demazin, Blue Nile State on or around 16 June. It is not known where they were taken or if they are being held by security forces. It is thought that they were also arrested in connection with the meeting on the peace process.

Since General Sumbeiyu left Khartoum, civil society and community representatives in Khartoum who shared their concerns with him have reportedly been threatened and intimidated by the security forces. On 2 June, 38 women from the Nuba Mountain Women's Association were arrested by security forces while on their way to a conference on peace and development. The women were detained overnight, and at least one was freed on condition she continued to report to police. Some of their belongings were confiscated and the non-governmental organization which convened the meeting was closed down by the authorities shortly afterwards.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In July 2002, under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East-African inter-governmental organization, and international mediators, the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A signed "The Machakos Protocol", paving the way for a future peace agreement. General Sumbeiyu, the Kenyan government's special envoy for peace in Sudan, is the main mediator in the peace talks.

Under the 1999 State of Emergency Act and the National Security Forces Act, the security forces can hold people in incommunicado detention without access to judicial review for up to nine months. Detainees are often tortured while held by security forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic and English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Elhadi Tangur, who has been held incommunicado since being arrested by the security forces in Khartoum on 16 June, and urging the authorities to publicly reveal his whereabouts;
- expressing concern at the reported arrests in Demazin, Blue Nile State, and calling on the authorities to publicly reveal the names and whereabouts of those arrested;

- calling on the authorities to give assurances that Elhadi Tangur and the other detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow all detainees immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid that they may need;
- calling on the government to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge Elhadi Tangur and the other detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and either give them a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately;
- expressing concern at reports that a number of civil society activists concerned with the peace process have been threatened and intimidated by the security forces.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: First Vice-President, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 11 771651 / 779977

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 771479

Salutation: Dear Minister

Dr Nafie Ali Nafie
Minister of Federal Government
Office of the Presidents People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Federal Government Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 11 779383

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Abdallah Osman al-Hajj
Governor of Blue Nile State
C/o People's Palace
PO Box 281Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Governor of Blue Nile State, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 11 771651/ 779977

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

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Advisory Council for Human Rights

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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 30 July 2003.