

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/048/2006

07 September 2006

UA 241/06      Fear of unlawful killings/ medical concern

SUDAN      Saraf Osman Ibrahim (m)  
Yasir Jabir Juma (m)  
Mohamed Adam Ali (m)  
Ismail Adam Omar (m)  
H A A (f), aged 13 ]  
K M A (f), aged 15 ]  
A M A (f), aged 20 ] full names known to Amnesty International  
K M A (f), aged 23 ]  
I A A (f), aged 16 ]  
Civilians in areas under rebel control in North Darfur

---

Amnesty International fears for the lives of the civilians named above and all civilians living in areas under rebel control in North Darfur, as a military offensive of the Sudanese government continues there.

On 31 August, the four men named above were reportedly captured near the town of Um Sider by government troops and Janjawid militia, with three other men. The three men captured with them were reportedly found shot dead in a valley near barracks occupied by government troops in Um Sider. Their bodies apparently had tyre marks on them. The whereabouts of Saraf Osman Ibrahim, Yasir Jabir Juma, Mohamed Adam Ali and Ismail Adam Omar are unknown. They are at grave risk of being killed or "disappearing".

On 5 September, the five women and girls named above were reportedly abducted by the Janjawid and government soldiers in a village called Tarmakera south of Kulkul, some 40 km away from al-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. They were reportedly taken away, raped and severely beaten before being released. Two of them are reportedly critically injured.

Humanitarian agencies, who have provided the bulk of medical assistance and food to civilians affected by the Darfur conflict, withdrew from the area of Kulkul and Um Sider some three months ago, since tensions between signatories and non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement increased. The areas of fighting are thought by the United Nations and African Union (AU) to be too insecure for peacekeepers to investigate abuses of human rights and humanitarian law.

The Sudanese government started to build up troops in North Darfur and South Darfur in mid-August. A military offensive on the Kulkul area began on 28 August, involving bombings by military aircraft and the use of government troops and government-supported militias, the Janjawid (see UA 235/06, AFR 54/045/2006, 31 August 2006). Since 28 August, Amnesty International has received the names of at least nine people killed by bombs or shot dead.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) took up arms against the Sudanese government in Darfur in 2003, the Sudanese government armed and supported local militia, known as the Janjawid, as a proxy force against the rebels. The Sudanese government and the Janjawid deliberately targeted civilians of the same ethnicity as the rebel groups as a counter-insurgency strategy. Some 85,000 people have been killed, around 200,000 have died as a result of conflict-related hunger or disease, and more than two million people have been displaced. Rebel groups have also committed human

rights abuses, including targeting humanitarian convoys and workers. Amnesty International and the UN have called the attacks committed in Darfur crimes against humanity and war crimes.

In May 2006, the Sudanese government and one rebel group, a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army led by Minni Minawi (known as the SLA/ MM), signed the Darfur Peace Agreement. The other SLA faction and the JEM refused to sign the agreement, saying it did not have enough guarantees on compensation, militia disarmament and political representation. Since the signing of the agreement, insecurity has worsened in Darfur, causing more killings of civilians, rapes and displacement.

Peacekeepers from the AU have been present in Darfur since 2004 with a mandate to "protect civilians under imminent threat and in the immediate vicinity". However, citing a lack of resources and a limited mandate, they rarely protect civilians under attack. On 31 August, the UN Security Council passed a resolution to send UN peacekeepers in Darfur to take over from the AU. The Sudanese government has previously stated that it would refuse to allow the UN to deploy troops in Darfur, and has instead proposed to send more of its troops to "restore security" in the region. It is now apparent that the government is massing troops in Darfur in order to attack areas under the control of armed groups which have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to the Sudanese government, to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or Arabic or your own language:**

- urging the Sudanese government to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of the four men named above and ensure their safety; and to give them access to UN human rights monitors, AU peacekeepers and the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- urging the Sudanese government to end direct and indiscriminate attacks on civilians;
- urging the Sudanese government to guarantee secure access for humanitarian agencies, AU peacekeepers and UN human rights monitors.

**APPEALS TO:**

Ali Osman Muammad Taha  
Second Vice-President  
President's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax : + 249 183 779977**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Dr Barsila Joseph  
Chair of the Human Rights Committee, National Assembly, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax: + 249 187 560 950**

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country.

**Please send appeals to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or Arabic or your own language:**

- welcoming the efforts made by AMIS to protect civilians in Darfur;
- urging AMIS to act immediately to protect civilians under threat of attack in Darfur;
- urging AMIS to seek access to those detained, and to promptly investigate reports of unlawful killings, "disappearance", rape and other violations of international humanitarian law.

**APPEALS TO:**

Ambassador CRU Ihekire  
Commander-in-Chief, African Union Headquarters Ceasefire Commission, El-Fasher, Sudan  
**Fax: + 249 731 831 457**  
**Email: [aucfc2005@yahoo.com](mailto:aucfc2005@yahoo.com)**  
**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 October 2006.