

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/059/2003

15 July 2003

UA 213/03 Fear for safety/fear of torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention

SUDAN El Fadil Adam Mohammed Ahmed Noorein (m), aged 30

El Fadil Adam Mohammed Ahmed Noorein is being held incommunicado and without charge at the headquarters of the security forces in the town of Nyala, South Darfur province, western Sudan. Amnesty International fears that he may be tortured or ill-treated in detention.

He was reportedly arrested at his office in Nyala on 10 July by two plain clothed security forces officers. He is a manager of Kayia Company, which used to provide radio communication services in the Darfur region. The security forces allegedly suspect him of helping the armed opposition group, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) by providing them with communication tools. On 12 July, Security Forces reportedly searched El Fadil Adam Mohammed Ahmed Noorein's office and confiscated radios and other equipment.

El Fadil Adam Mohammed Ahmed Noorein, a member of the Fur ethnic group, was a member of the ruling National Congress (NC) party until 1999. On the same day he was arrested, former NC member and former South Darfur Education Minister Salah Mohammed Alfadul, also a member of the Fur ethnic group, was reportedly arrested and taken to the security forces' headquarters in Nyala. He was reportedly questioned for two hours about El Fadil Adam Mohammed Ahmed Noorein's activities before being released.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past few years hundreds of civilians, mostly from agricultural ethnic groups like the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa, have been killed or wounded in the Darfur region, homes have been burnt and herds looted by nomadic groups. This has led to the deaths of scores of civilians.

In February 2003 members of non-nomadic ethnic groups announced that they had formed the "Sudan Liberation Army" (SLA); it has called for more development in the Darfur region and attacked government targets. Amnesty International urged the government to solve problems by reconciliation, rather than by human rights violations such as detention without charge or unfair trials. In April 2003, Amnesty International called for Darfur to be included in the human rights monitoring which was set up in the context of peace negotiations to end a 20-year-long war in the south (at present, Darfur is not included in the peace talks or the monitoring mechanisms). Amnesty International has also called for an independent international commission of inquiry to be sent to Darfur to investigate the deteriorating situation. No commission has yet been set up, despite reports that the situation of civilians is worsening because of the fighting between the government and the SLA.

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, English or your own language:

- expressing grave concern for the safety El Fadil Adam Mohammed Ahmed Noorein, held incommunicado by security forces since 10 July;
- urging the authorities to allow him immediate and unrestricted access to his relatives, legal counsel, and any medical aid he may need;
- calling for the authorities to give assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated;

- calling the authorities to abide by their commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge the detainee with recognizably criminal offence and give him a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set him free immediately.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegram: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 771479

Salutation: Dear Minister

Major General Abdul-Rahim Muhammed Hussein
Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Minister of Internal Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 773046 / 770186 / 777900

Salutation: Dear Minister

General Ibrahim Sulayman
Governor of North Darfur
c/o People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Governor of North Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 731 42696

Salutation: Dear Sir

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

Telegram: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 779383

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883

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 26 July 2003.