

PUBLIC

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Fear of torture/ incommunicado detention/legal concern

12 November 2003

SUDAN

**Suleiman Mohammed Idris, (m)
Daw al-Bait Omer Idris, (m)
Adam Dood Khamis, (m)**

The three men named above were reportedly arrested on 21 September by men in army uniform in the town of Kabkabiya in Darfur, western Sudan. Since then there has been no information about their whereabouts though there are unconfirmed reports that they may be held by army intelligence. Amnesty International fears they are at risk of torture in incommunicado detention.

The three men are said to be in their early 20s and all from the Fur ethnic group. They have reportedly been arrested under suspicion of belonging to the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), mostly formed of members of the Fur and Zaghawa ethnic groups, took up arms against the government authorities in Darfur, in the west of Sudan. They stated that they were fighting because of the lack of government protection of their people from raiding Arab ethnic groups and the marginalisation of the region. More than 400,000 people are said to have been internally displaced or left the country as refugees, because of attacks by government and raiding groups sometimes said to be allied to government forces. A ceasefire between the government and the SLA was signed in September and renewed in November but attacks by raiding Arab groups on villages in west Darfur have continued over the past week.

The security forces have carried out widespread arrests to detain suspected opponents who have been held in prolonged incommunicado detention without access to lawyers. Most of those arrested before September were released under the terms of the ceasefire, but since then widespread new arrests are reported to have taken place. Amnesty International has received a number of reports of torture on people detained by the security forces in Darfur.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Suleiman Mohammed Idris, Daw al-Bait Omer Idris and Adam Dood Khamis, who have been held incommunicado since being arrested on 21 September 2003;
- urging the authorities to publicly reveal their whereabouts and calling for assurances that they will not be ill-treated or tortured;
- calling on the government to allow the three men immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical care they may need;
- calling on the government to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge the three detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and give them a fair trial in accordance to international standards or set them free immediately.

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 771025
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 770883
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Osman Mohamed Yusif Kubor
Governor of North Darfur
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: Governor of North Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 731 42696 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 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 24 December 2003.