

PUBLIC

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Fear of Torture/Incommunicado Detention/Fear for Safety

14 October 2004

SUDAN

Salah Beshir Ahmed (m)
Haroun Ibrahim Adam (m)
Al-Sadeq Abdallah Abdel Karim (m)
Abdallah Jibril Arbak (m)
Amir Bakhit Nour (m)
Abdallah Ahmed Adam (m)
Saleh Suleiman Adam (m)
Al-Sadeq Abdallah Abdel Mawla (m)
Yunis Ahmed Abdallah (m)
Jamal Fakhreddin Hussein (m)
Abdallah Haroun Hussein (m)
Adam Adam Mohamed Ibrahim (m)

The twelve men named above were arrested in the town of Tawila, North Darfur State, on 4 October. They are being held incommunicado and Amnesty International fears that they are at risk of torture or other ill treatment.

They were arrested by the criminal investigation department and some are said to have been moved to Shalla Prison in al-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State. The prison reportedly has a special political section where even the prosecution service (*niyaba*) is not allowed access.

The twelve were arrested a few days after an attack by an armed group against the Commissioner (*Muhafez*) of al-Fasher, as he accompanied a humanitarian convoy to Tawila. One policeman and one member of the Popular Defence Force were reportedly killed in the attack.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Two armed groups, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) have been fighting against the Sudanese government in the west of Sudan since early 2003. They are protesting at the marginalization of Darfur and the failure of the government to protect the farming population from nomad attacks. In response the Sudanese government gave free rein to nomad militias, known as the *Janjawid*, to devastate villages and kill people. More than one million people have fled rural areas and taken refuge in camps for displaced people as well as settlements in and around towns in Darfur. Conflict continues in many parts of Darfur and civilians are still at risk of unlawful killings and forced displacement.

Torture has been frequently reported in cases involving detainees believed to be linked to armed opposition groups; Amnesty International delegates who recently visited al-Fasher documented cases of detainees being hospitalised after extremely severe beatings at the hands of the security services. In September 2004, two students arrested in Omdurman and Khartoum died in custody.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the 12 detainees named above, who were arrested in Tawila in North Darfur State on 4 October 2004;
- asking for assurances that they will not be tortured or ill-treated in custody;
- urging the authorities to allow them immediate and unrestricted access to their families, legal counsel and any medical attention 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 them with a recognizably criminal offence and bring them to justice in accordance with international standards for fair trials, or release them immediately.

APPEALS TO: (as there are currently difficulties with the fax numbers please send appeal letters)

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Osman Mohamed Yousif Kubor
Governor of South Darfur State
Presidential Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Dr Abdel Moneim Taha
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

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 25 November 2004