

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 157/99

Fear of forcible repatriation /
Fear of torture

10 November 1999

GERMANY Fathelrahman Abdallah, Sudanese national

Fathelrahman Abdallah, a Sudanese asylum seeker, is due to be deported to Sudan on 12 November 1999. Amnesty International is concerned that, if he is returned to Sudan, he would be at risk of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary imprisonment and torture.

The organization is also concerned that his accompaniment to Sudan by police officers and medical staff on a special flight will bring his return to the attention of the Sudanese authorities.

Following several stays of deportation ordered by the courts in mid-1999 in order for further evidence in his case to be considered, the authorities permitted him to remain until 22 November on medical grounds. However those authorities have now issued a deportation order to take effect on 12 November.

Fathelrahman Abdallah is currently being held in a detention facility in Nuremberg, pending his deportation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fathelrahman Abdallah, an active member of the opposition Democratic Union Party of Sudan (DUP), reportedly fled the country after being repeatedly imprisoned and tortured.

The DUP is part of the Sudanese opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) which is involved in an armed struggle against the Army of the Sudanese Government. The Government of Sudan considers members of the NDA to be public enemies.

Germany is a state party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Under the principle of *non-refoulement*, enshrined in this Convention, Germany is obliged to ensure that no person is returned to a country where they would face serious human rights violations.

The German authorities have attempted to forcibly return Fathelrahman Abdallah three times, in September, October and November 1998 after his asylum claim was first rejected. All these attempts were abandoned when he put up strong resistance. He was allegedly ill-treated by police officers during the second and third attempts.

Amnesty International has expressed concern to Bavarian and federal authorities and asked that he not be forcibly returned, and that he be given effective and durable protection.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/e-mails in English, German or your own language:

- urging the German authorities to respect their international obligations under the principle of *non-refoulement*, and not forcibly return Fathelrahman Abdallah to Sudan where he would be at risk of severe human rights violations.

APPEALS TO:

The Minister of the Interior Otto Schily
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Telegrams: Otto Schily, Interior Minister, Bonn, Germany
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E-mails: posteingang@bmi.bund400.de
Salutation: Sehr geehrter Herr Innenminister / Dear Minister

The Minister of the Interior of Bavaria Dr. Günter Beckstein

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Salutation: Sehr geehrter Herr Innenminister von Bayern / Dear Minister

Federal Chancellor Herrn Dr. Gerhard Schröder

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COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister Herrn Joseph Fischer

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and to diplomatic representatives of Germany accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.