

PUBLIC

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UA 08/04

Abduction/ Fear for safety

07 January 2004

SUDAN

Abdu Abdallah Hagar (m)

]

Khamis Ibrahim Adam (m)

]

Issam Yusuf Hasan (m)

]

Nureldin Fadul Issa (m)

]

Mostly children under

18

Suleiman Taher Ali (m)

]

Suleiman Taher Khamis (m)

]

Nureldin Zakaria Mansour (m)

]

Salim Mohamed Mansour (m)

]

Abdel Jabbar Mohammadain Mahmud (m)

]

Nureldin Idris Abdel Rahman (m)

]

and 3 others (f)

]

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the ten people named above and 3 unnamed females who are believed to be mostly children under the age of 18. They were reportedly abducted on 2 January by government-backed militias known as the *Janjawid* from the village of Ma'un, south of Kornoy in West Darfur State.

Amnesty International has received reports of other abductions of children in West Darfur over the past few weeks. This follows a known pattern of violations as during the war between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SLA) in southern Sudan, armed militias supported by the government abducted people living in the Bahr al-Ghazal region. At least 12,000 people, including many children, are known to have been abducted between 1983 and 2002. Of these, 10,000 are still unaccounted for. Many are believed to have been forced to work as domestic labour or field hands in northern Sudan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past few years hundreds of civilians in Darfur, mostly from agricultural ethnic groups like the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa, have been killed or wounded. Their homes have been burnt and herds looted by armed nomadic groups. The Sudan Liberation Army took up arms against the government in February 2003, because of what they perceive as the lack of government protection of their people and the marginalisation and underdevelopment of the region. Since then the number of attacks by government-backed militias has greatly increased. More than 700,000 people have fled from their burnt villages. Most have taken refuge in towns in Darfur while more than 90,000 have crossed the border into Chad.

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

- expressing grave concern over recent reports of the abductions of those named above and three unnamed females by armed government-supported militias in Darfur;
- urging the government to launch an immediate investigation into the cases of abductions, including those of children;
- calling on the government to adhere to its previous commitments "to act vigorously" to end forced abductions by launching a full investigation into the cases detailed above and ensuring that those responsible are arrested and charged in accordance with international law;
- calling on the authorities to disarm the militias responsible for forced abduction and other human rights violations.

- calling on the government to deploy monitors in Darfur, including international monitors with a human rights component.

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 11 771 025
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 779 383
Salutation: Dear Minister

Major-General Al Tayeb Ibrahim Khair
President's Advisor on Security
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: President's Advisor on Security, Office of the President, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771 651/ 783 223
Salutation: Dear Sir

Major-General Suleiman Abdalla Adam
Governor of Western Darfur State
c/o People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Governor of South Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771 024
Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Dr Hamadtu Mukhtar
Chair of the Human Rights Committee
National Assembly
Omdurman, Sudan

Fax: + 249 15 560 950

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 18 February 2004.