

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Medical Concern/Incommunicado Detention

26 February 1991

SUDAN: Dr. Omar NOUR-AL-DAIM
Salah ABDEL-SALAM
Bakri ADIL
Khalid Mohamed IBRAHIM
Fadel AL-NOUR
Abdel-Mahmoud al-Haj SALEH
Al-Fadel Adam ISMAIL
Yousif AL-DAKIM

The eight people named above are reported to have been detained incommunicado in a secret detention centre in Khartoum since their arrest in mid-November 1990. All are prominent members of the Umma Party and appear to have been arrested for political reasons. The first four of the eight were reportedly arrested while attending a meeting in Omdurman. All are being held without charge or trial. They are not allowed visits and are being denied medical care. It is reported that there are at least 50 detainees at the same secret detention centre and that some of these suffer from serious illnesses such as malaria. Moreover, the quality of food is reportedly bad and there is a shortage of water.

Dr. Omar NOUR-AL-DAIM was the general secretary of the Umma Party (one of the political parties in power, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, at the time of a military coup in June 1989). After the coup, the new government banned all political party activities. Members of the Umma Party have repeatedly been arrested and accused of conspiracy against the government. Dr. NOUR-AL-DAIM was also a Minister of Agriculture and then a Minister of Finance. He is in his fifties and married. He was previously detained from July 1989 to November 1989.

Salah ABDEL-SALAM was a Minister for Presidential Affairs in Sadiq al-Mahdi's government. He was first arrested immediately after the 1989 coup and later released. He is in his late fifties, married with children.

Bakri ADIL is a member of the general secretariat of the Umma Party and was a Minister of Education and then a Minister of Energy. He was first arrested in March 1990 and released in mid-1990. He is in his forties, married with children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hundreds of people have been arrested since a military government overthrew the elected civilian government of Sadiq al-Mahdi in June 1989. Although a number of detainees have been released uncharged, many remain in detention without charge or trial. These include trade union activists, academics, medical doctors, lawyers, journalists and politicians.

More than 60 people arrested since November 1989 are known to have been tortured by members of a new security organization called the "Security of the Revolution" while detained in "safe houses" and secret detention centres in Khartoum. One of them, Ali Fadul, a medical doctor, is reported to have died as a result of torture on 22 April 1990 after being detained in secret since 13 March 1990.

At the end of September 1990 and following a reported coup attempt, at least 11 southern politicians and retired army officers were arrested and detained in secret detention centres. Some of them were Dinka from Bahr al-Ghazal province in the south of the country.

Following strikes and demonstrations in Atbara, Port Sudan and Darfur at the end of 1990, during which people protested against food shortages, deteriorating working conditions and inflation, the military authorities arrested many people. Trade unionists were among the people targeted.

Although the authorities have reportedly released around 50 political prisoners recently, at least 260 prisoners of conscience are still held, most of them in Kober Prison in Khartoum.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the arrest and detention of the eight people named above and about reports that they are being held incommunicado at a secret detention centre in Khartoum;
- requesting clarification of the exact reasons for their arrest;
- requesting assurances that all of them are now being humanely treated and given access to all appropriate medical attention;
- urging the authorities to inform their relatives and lawyers where they are being detained and requesting that they be allowed immediate access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging the government to release them immediately and unconditionally if they are not being charged with committing offences of a genuinely criminal nature.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of
National Salvation Revolution Command Council
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Telex: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KAID SD

Brigadier General Mohamed Saleh al-Zubeir
Vice President of the National Salvation Revolution
Command Council
People's Palace PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: BrigGen Mohamed Saleh al-Zubeir, Khartoum, Sudan

Telex: 22736 PROC SD or 22380 AUAC SD

Lieutenant-Colonel Bakri Hassan Saleh
Member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Col Bakri Hassan Saleh, Khartoum, Sudan

Telex: 22736 PROC SD or 22380 AUAC SD

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Sudan in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 April 1991.