

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

16 April 1991

SUDAN:

Professor Moses Macar

Professor Richard Hassan Kalam Sakit

Amnesty International is concerned that Professor Moses Macar and Professor Richard Hassan Kalam Sakit, who were arrested at the end of March 1991 in Khartoum, may have been tortured. They are believed to be held incommunicado at secret detention centres in Khartoum, without having been charged with any offence. Amnesty International believes that they may be prisoners of conscience, arrested solely because of their peaceful opposition to the government. It is reported that the government suspected them of having contacts with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which is fighting government forces in the south of the country. The two are well known academics at the University of Juba.

Professor Moses Macar is a lecturer of Mathematics and the Principal of the University of Juba. He has been a staff member at the same university since the early 1980's. He is 45 years old and is married with children.

Professor Richard Hassan Kalam Sakit is a surgeon and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Juba. He was a lecturer at the University of Khartoum before he decided to move to Juba in the early 1980's. He is in his late forties and is married with children.

The two academics were arrested in Khartoum at the end of March 1991. Due to the ongoing fighting between government forces and the SPLA in the south, the staff and students of the University of Juba were transferred to Khartoum University at the beginning of 1990.

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 before they were transferred to Kober Prison in the capital or to provincial prisons. 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 members of the Dinka ethnic group from Bahr al-Ghazal province in the south of the country.

Although the authorities have claimed on a number of occasions that all political prisoners have been released, this does not seem to have happened. While there have been some releases from time to time, arrests are reported to be continuing.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of the two people named above and about reports that they are being held incommunicado at secret detention centres in Khartoum;
- expressing concern that they may have been tortured;
- requesting assurances that the two are now being humanely treated and given access to all appropriate medical attention;
- requesting clarification of the exact reasons for their arrest;
- urging the authorities to inform the two prisoners' 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 to be charged promptly with offences of a genuinely criminal nature.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of
the 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: Brig Gen 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 28 May 1991.