

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 54/09/94
Distr: UA/SC

25 March 1994

Further information on UA 100/94 (AFR 54/06/94, 11 March 1994) and follow-up (AFR 54/08/94, 17 March) - Fear of Torture / Prisoners of conscience

SUDAN 'Izzat Mirghani Taha
 Khalifa Khader Kemair
 Kamal Abu al-Gassim

 Hamuda al-Sheikh - released

'Izzat Mirghani Taha, Khalifa Khader Kemair, and Kamal Abu al-Gassim, are reported to still be in detention. They were arrested with several others on 10 March 1994 during a gathering to commemorate the anniversary in the Islamic calendar of the summary execution of 28 army officers on 24 April 1990.

Amnesty International has received information that the three are being held in small unventilated cells with no windows, and that they are being subjected to ill-treatment. It seems that they are being made to sleep on the floor, have to ask for permission for water and have been denied a change of clothing since their arrest. There are fears that they may be at risk of beatings and torture. Their place of detention is still unknown.

Amnesty International has received confirmation that Hamuda al-Sheikh was released on 17 March. His health apparently deteriorated in custody as he was denied medicine he needed following an eye operation he had undergone before his arrest. As with those released on 16 March (see follow-up AFR 54/08/94, 17 March), Hamuda al-Sheikh was made to sign an undertaking which prohibits him from taking part in gatherings, opposing the government in the future, and which bars him from leaving Khartoum without prior permission from the authorities.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or Arabic, or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the continuing detention of 'Izzat Mirghani Taha, Khalifa Khader Kemair and Kamal Abu al-Gassim who were arrested on 10 March 1994 and who Amnesty International believes are prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely for exercising their internationally recognised rights to freedom of expression and association;
- seeking information about the reasons for their continuing detention;
- requesting assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and urging that their whereabouts in custody be made public and that they are granted immediate and regular access to their family, legal counsel and any necessary medical attention;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released;
- welcoming the release of the other individuals who were arrested on 10 March.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of the Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KAID SD
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior
 People's Palace
 PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu
 Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
 Ministry of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign
 Affairs)
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
 Chief Justice
 Law Courts
 Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 PO Box 873
 Khartoum, Sudan

Dr A. al-Mufti
 Secretary of Human Rights Commission*
 Khartoum, Sudan

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, but apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

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 6 May 1994.