

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 53/95 (AFR 54/09/95, 28 February 1995) - Death threats / Torture / Fear of Torture and new concern: Fear of "disappearance"

SUDAN Widad Hassan Ali Karrar (f)

Samira Hassan Ali Karrar (f)

Alia Hassan Ali Karrar (f)

Mahasin (family name unknown), wife of Bashir El Tayid

Souad Abdelrahim (f)

Awadis Mirgani (f)

and 22 other members of the families of 28 army officers executed on 24 April 1990 after an unfair trial

new name: Kamal Abualgasim

Amnesty International fears that Kamal Abualgasim, arrested for taking part in the annual family commemoration of the execution of 28 army officers in 1990, faces torture in incommunicado detention and is at risk of "disappearance".

Kamal Abualgasim was present at the memorial service for the executed officers held at the home of a relative on 27 February 1995, which was disrupted by security forces and after which Samira Hassan Ali Karrar and Alia Hassan Ali Karrar were harassed by members of the security forces (see UA 53/95). On the morning of 28 February, Kamal Abualgasim visited the home of the family of Bashir Mustafa, another of the executed officers. When he left the house, witnesses reportedly saw him arrested and driven away by security force officers. Since then his family have not heard from him and there has been no information on any charges brought against him.

Amnesty International fears that Kamal Abualgasim may be detained in one of the security force's unofficial "ghost houses", notorious for torture and long-term incommunicado detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kamal Abualgasim has been detained in the "ghost houses" and tortured numerous times by Sudanese security forces. He is a political activist and outspoken critic of the government, and the security forces believe he prompts the female relatives of the executed officers in their demonstrations and political activities. These relatives believe that detaining and torturing Kamal Abualgasim is a technique used by the security forces deliberately to threaten their families, as he is routinely among the first to be detained after their demonstrations or meetings, even when he has not participated himself. For instance, he has been detained and tortured every year after the women's commemorative demonstrations like the one held last weekend, after which several women were detained and tortured (see UA 53/95).

PLEASE CONTINUE ACTION AS RECOMMENDED IN ORIGINAL UA AND IN ADDITION:

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Kamal Abualgasim was witnessed being taken into

security force custody on 28 February 1995, and that his family have not heard from him since;

- seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- calling on the Sudanese authorities to make the whereabouts of Kamal Abualgasim public and to release him immediately if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

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

Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Muhammad Kheir
Minister of the Interior
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Dr al-Tayib Ibrahim Muhammad Kheir, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

- 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 20 April 1995.