

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/12/96

UA 157/96 Fear of ill-treatment /  
Possible prisoners of conscience

28 June 1996

SUDANTaha Mohamed Taha  
al-Haj Osman  
Abdallah Abdel Aziz  
Kamal Abdel Karim Mirghani  
Abdel Karim Karouma  
Abdallah Malik  
Omar Abdallah Jadallah  
Dhali Rahmtalla  
Mohamed Suleiman  
Ali Issailat  
Kamil Abdel Rahman al-Siq  
Mohamed Mahjoub  
Taha Souraj  
al-Ustaz al-Bushra  
Mohamed al-Hafiz

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The men named above are reported to have been arrested between 18 and 24 June 1996 on suspicion of being political opponents of the Sudan Government. They have not been brought to court or charged and are currently in detention in a Sudan Security-run section of Kober Prison, Sudan's main prison located in Khartoum North. There are reports that some of the detainees have been beaten. Amnesty International is concerned that they are possible prisoners of conscience and that they are at risk of ill-treatment.

The arrests appear to be part of a round-up of suspected opponents of the government following a public challenge to the authorities issued by the National Democratic Alliance, an umbrella grouping of banned political parties and trade unions, on 10 June 1996. This challenge, which was signed by leading political opponents living inside Sudan, called on the government to step down in favour of an interim administration.

For further background information, see *Sudan: Progress or public relations?*, AFR 54/06/96, 29 May 1996.

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

- expressing concern at the detention without charge of these 15 men, who may be prisoners of conscience imprisoned for their suspected opposition to the Sudan Government;
- asking assurances that they are not being ill-treated;
- urging that they be given immediate and regular access to their families, legal representatives and any necessary medical attention;
- appealing for them to be released if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and brought promptly to a fair trial.

**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**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Mr 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Minister of Justice 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Telexes: c/o 22411 KAID SD or 22604 IPOL SD**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 873  
Khartoum, Sudan

**Telegrams: Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Khartoum, Sudan**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Obeid Haj Ali  
Chief Justice  
Law Courts  
Khartoum, Sudan

Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly,  
Omdurman, Sudan

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 17 August 1996.