

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/013/2001

29 June 2001

Further information on UA 153/01 (AFR 54/012/2001, 20 June 2001) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention/prisoner of conscience

SUDAN Faisal el Bagir Mohamed, prominent journalist and human rights defender

Faisal el Bagir Mohamed was released on 26 June. He has stated that he was not ill-treated in custody.

Journalist and human rights defender Faisal el Bagir Mohamed had been arrested without charge on 13 June, at his home in the capital, Khartoum. He is a member of the Sudan Victims of Torture Group (SVTG), an international network of Sudanese non-governmental human rights organisations, and the Amal Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Physical and Mental Trauma, which offers free counselling and medical care for victims of human rights abuses.

Faisal el Bagir is the second person associated with the Amal Centre to be detained by security forces this year. The Centre's director, Dr Nageeb Nagmeldin el Toum, was detained in Kober prison without charge from 11 to 29 March.

The Amal Centre was closed down when Dr el Toum was arrested, but will reportedly be allowed to reopen shortly. Property seized from the centre is being returned, but it is yet not clear whether this includes confidential medical files. (See UA 61/01, AFR 54/007/2001, 15 March 2001 and follow-up, AFR 54/008/2001, 10 April 2001).

Faisal el Bagir's computer, fax and documents seized at the time of his arrest have still not been returned by the security forces.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. Would those who are able to do so please send a final round of appeals, in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Faisal el Bagir Mohamed;
- welcoming the news that the Amal Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Physical and Mental Trauma will be allowed to reopen;
- calling on the authorities to ensure the prompt return of all the Centre's property, confiscated at the time of Dr el Toum's arrest, including confidential medical files;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that Faisal el Bagir's possessions, which were seized at the time of his arrest, are promptly returned to him;
- expressing concern that human rights defenders are still being harassed by the authorities;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that patient/doctor confidentiality will be respected, and that all those working for the Centre, and their clients, are protected from harassment and threats to their security.

APPEALS TO:

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

Fax: + 24911 787676/783223

Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Dear Minister

2

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES 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 9 August 2001.