

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Legal concern/Fear of torture

29 April 1992

SUDAN: **Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman - politician**
 al-Haj Mudawi - politician
 Said Haroun - politician
 Farouq Ahmad Adam - politician
 Musa al-Hussein - politician
 Abdel Rahman Idris - retired judge

Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman, a prominent member of the banned Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Minister of Supply in the former government of Sadiq al-Mahdi, and the five other men named above are reported to have been arrested in mid-April 1992.

The authorities are reported to suspect them of involvement in a plot to overthrow the government. The authorities have reportedly alleged that **Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman**, who was arrested on 14 April 1992, was providing financial backing for a coup attempt. Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman is thought to be detained at the security headquarters in Khartoum, although the authorities have reportedly refused to disclose his place of detention and his family has been denied access to him.

The government has claimed that the men were meeting at a petrol station owned by **al-Haj Mudawi**, another prominent member of the banned DUP. Al-Haj Mudawi, who is elderly and in poor health, is reported to have been released from custody at the security headquarters in Khartoum around 26 April 1992. It is thought, however, that he is being held under house arrest at his home.

The place of detention of **Said Haroun** and **Farouq Ahmad Adam**, who are both former members of parliament, **Musa al-Hussein**, a member of the DUP, and **Abdel Rahman Idris**, a retired judge and former Governor of South Kordofan province who was a member of the banned Sudan National Party (SNP), is unknown.

Amnesty International is concerned that the five men who remain in detention are at risk of torture, which is routine in the security headquarters and at secret detention centres run by the security authorities, which are known as "ghost houses" in Sudan.

Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman has been imprisoned on two previous occasions by the Sudanese authorities and on one occasion is reported to have been tortured. He was among the many politicians and others arrested in the first few months after the current government came to power in a military coup on 30 June 1989. He was arrested again in August 1991 for alleged involvement in a coup plot and was reportedly tortured. Fifty three of those arrested in connection with this alleged plot were tried in October 1991. Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman, who was again reportedly suspected of providing financial backing for the alleged coup attempt, was not among them and he remained in custody until February 1992 when he was granted bail. On 19 April 1992, five days after he had been re-arrested on new charges, the authorities

dropped the charges against him relating to August 1991.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 30 June 1989 the authorities claim to have thwarted several coup attempts. Twenty five army officers arrested in March 1990 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment in summary military trials in May 1990. Eighteen remain in prison - seven escaped in late 1991. On 23 April 1990, 28 officers were arrested for taking part in an alleged coup attempt. They were executed after summary hearings on 24 April 1991. At least 41 civilians and soldiers were arrested in September 1990 - again the authorities announced that they had foiled an

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attempted coup plot. All remain in prison. Of the over 80 people arrested in August 1991, 46 were sentenced to prison terms. Eleven were originally sentenced to death, but their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. On 2 February 1992 another 41 army and airforce officers were reportedly arrested for allegedly plotting against the government. They have yet to be brought to trial.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of Mirghani Abd al-Rahman Suleiman, al-Haj Mudawi, Said Haroun, Farouq Ahmad Adam, Musa al-Hussein and Abdel Rahman Idris, of whom all except al-Haj Mudawi are reportedly held incommunicado in an unknown place without charge or trial;
- expressing concern that the five who remain in detention are at risk of torture;
- requesting information about where they are being held and what steps are being taken to ensure that they have immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers and any necessary medical attention;
- requesting information about whether al-Haj Mudawi is under house arrest and, if so, what the legal basis of the restrictions on him is;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State and Chairman of the NSRCC
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Your Excellency

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

2) Brigadier-General al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior
and Deputy Chairman of the NSRCC
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Dear Brigadier-General

Telegrams: Brig-Gen al-Zubeir Mohamed Saleh, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD

3) The Acting Minister of Justice and
Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan

Dear Minister

Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan

Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD
(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

COPIES TO:

1) Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
Chief Justice
Law Courts
Khartoum

2) Mr Ali Sahloul
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO BOX 873, Khartoum

and 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 10 June 1992.