

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/025/2003

UA 110/03

Fear of torture / incommunicado detention / detention without charge 23 April 2003

SUDAN

Abubaker Hamed Nur (m)- engineer
Yusuf Mohammad Faleh (m) - engineer
Mohammad Bashir Ahmed (m)- civil servant
Bashir Bushara (m)- businessman
Hashem al-Tayeb (m) – businessman
Abdel Rahman Ahmad (m) - businessman
Mohammad Hashem Abdel Rahman (m) - businessman
Ibrahim Mohammad Hassan (m), 55 years old- photographer

The men named above were reportedly all detained in connection with the current conflict in Darfur, between Sudanese government forces and the armed opposition group the Sudan Liberation Army. Amnesty International is concerned that they may have been tortured or ill-treated in detention.

Abubaker Hamed Nur and Yusuf Mohammad Faleh were both arrested on 8 April in Khartoum and are reportedly being held in the special political section of Kober Prison. Mohammad Bashir Ahmed and Bashir Bushara were both arrested on 18 April in Geneina, West Darfur. Hashem al-Tayeb, Abdel Rahman Ahmad and Mohammad Hashem Abdel Rahman were also arrested in April. They are all from the Zaghawa group and are believed to be held in a security centre in Geneina.

Ibrahim Mohammad Hassan, is a member of the Fur group, photographer and the owner of a photography studio in Kabkabiya, in North Darfur. He was arrested on 19 April, in Kabkabiya and transferred to Shala Prison in El Fasher. It is not known exactly why the men were arrested, though a number of other individuals have been detained under similar circumstances, accused of having links with the Sudan Liberation Army.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sudan Liberation Army has been fighting government forces since early February 2003. It accuses the government of keeping Darfur, an area that borders Chad in the western part of the country, under-developed and marginalized. Cattle and camel herders have attacked farming communities in the region, from ethnic groups such as the Fur and the Zaghawa, over scarce water resources and pasture. Dozens of villagers have been reportedly killed in such attacks; members of the security services and police were also killed. Over the past week at least three towns and villages have reportedly been attacked by the army in its actions against the Sudan Liberation Army.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights of governments to arrest individuals who have committed recognizable criminal offences but international human rights standards ratified by Sudan require that all those arrested should be brought promptly before a judge and charged. Under the State of Emergency and the National Security Act, amended in July 2001, the security services can keep people in prolonged detention for up to nine months without access to the judiciary or to relatives and lawyers. Amnesty International has received many recent testimonies of Sudanese arrested for political offences who have been tortured, usually by severe beatings, while in incommunicado detention under the national security.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:

- expressing grave concern over the incommunicado detention of Abubaker Hamed Nur, Yusuf Mohammad Faleh, Mohammad Bashir Ahmed, Bashir Bushara, Hashem al-Tayeb, Abdel Rahman Ahmad, Mohammad Hashem Abdel Rahman and Ibrahim Mohammad Hassan;

- urging the authorities to allow the detainees immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid they may need;
- calling on the authorities to give assurances that the detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- calling on the authorities to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge the detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and give them a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 799031

Salutation: Dear Minister

Major General Abdul-Rahim Muhammed Hussein
Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Minister of Internal Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 774339 / 776554/ 773046 / 770186 / 777900 / 773046 / 770186

Salutation: Dear Minister

Dr Nafie Ali Nafie
Minister of Federal Government
Office of the Presidents People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Federal Government Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 24911 771651/783223

Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 24911 779383

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302
Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883

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 4 May 2003.

