

PUBLIC

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UA 318/02 Fear for safety/ Fear of torture or  
ill-treatment

25 October 2002

SUDAN Ahmed Isameldin (m), 25 years old ]  
Amnuel Abeigel (m), 26 years old ] students  
Mao Rominio (m), 28 years old ]  
Yaser Mohamed Abdallah (m) ]  
And an unknown number of other students

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the students named above, who were arrested by the security forces between 19 and 24 October. They are reportedly being held at various security offices and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

On 19 October, security officers reportedly surrounded the University of Bahr-El-Ghazal, which is situated in a suburb of Khartoum. Tear gas and plastic bullets were used to disperse students. Ahmed Isameldin, Amnuel Abeigel, Mao Rominio and eleven other students were arrested. The next day, the eleven were released, after reportedly being beaten in custody. The arrests apparently followed an earlier violent clash between students and two security officers at the University of Bahr-El-Ghazal.

Between 22 and 24 October, there were violent clashes between students from the University of Khartoum and riot police, armed with sticks and rubber bullets. Students and policemen were reportedly injured and scores of arrests were made. On the night of 23 October, some 60 students were released from several police stations, and charged with a public disturbance. However, many students including Yaser Mohamed Abdallah, allegedly remain in security force detention. The clashes were sparked by the intervention of riot police at a student celebration, to mark the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of demonstrations against the military government of General Abboud in October 1964.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The National Security Act, amended in December 2000, gives the security forces arbitrary powers to arrest and detain people in prolonged detention. Many are held incommunicado, without charge, and are tortured and ill-treated. The Act is often arbitrarily used to detain those suspected of opposing the government, including political opponents, lawyers and students.

Political opposition and freedom of expression, association and assembly are severely curtailed in Sudan. The Students Union at the University of Khartoum is not allowed to register or function. Meetings, demonstrations and other student political or social activities have been broken up by riot police and security forces, who often use excessive force.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the four students named above and other students from the University of Khartoum, who were reportedly arrested and detained by the security forces;
- seeking assurances that no student will be tortured or ill-treated while in detention;
- urging the authorities to reveal the whereabouts and the names of all the students arrested by the riot police or the security forces;
- urging that they be granted immediate access to any medical aid they may need, as well as relatives and legal counsel;

- calling on the authorities to either charge the students with a recognizable criminal offence or release them;
- calling on all law enforcement officials to exercise restraint and to respect international standards on the use of force;
- asking for an investigation to be opened into the circumstances of the clashes between riot police, security forces and students.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir  
President of the Republic of Sudan  
President=s Palace  
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Fax: + 249 11 771651/ 787676 / 783223**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Fax: + 249 11 788941 / 774842 / 774906**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Major General Abdul-Rahim Muhammed Hussein  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Telegrams: Minister of Internal Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan**  
**Fax: + 249 11 774339 / 776554/ 773046 / 770186 / 777900**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed  
Advisory Council for Human Rights  
PO Box 302  
Khartoum, Sudan  
**Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883**  
**Salutation: Dear Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed**

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 6 December 2002.