

PUBLIC

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Torture/ill-treatment/medical concern

18 March 2004

SUDAN

Dr. Ali Ahmed Daoud (m), veterinary doctor
Ali Hussain Dossa (m), MP for North Nyala

Dr Ali Ahmed Daoud and Ali Hussain Dossa were arrested on 15 March. They are now held in Nyala security centre, South Darfur, in western Sudan. Both men were reportedly so severely tortured that a doctor was sent for. They have reportedly been charged with spying for the armed opposition group the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), a charge that carries the death penalty. Neither has had access to a lawyer.

Dr Ali Ahmed Daoud was attending a meeting in Ali Hussain Dossa's house with about 20 other people, all believed to be members of the Fur ethnic group. They were discussing ways of lobbying the government to take firm steps to end attacks against villages in the region by the government-backed *Janjawid* militia. Members of the Sudanese security forces are said to have broken up the meeting and detained Dr. Ali Ahmed Daoud, Ali Hussain Dossa and the estimated 20 others who were present, accusing them of having links with rebel groups. The others have reportedly been released.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past few years hundreds of civilians in Darfur, western Sudan, mostly from agricultural ethnic groups like the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa, have been killed or wounded by armed nomadic groups. Their homes have been burnt and herds stolen. The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) took up arms against the government in February 2003, because of what they perceived as the lack of government protection for their people and the marginalisation and underdevelopment of the region. Since then, the Sudan government appears to have given free rein to the nomadic militias known as the *Janjawid* to kill and abduct civilians, mainly from the agricultural ethnic groups, and destroy their property. More than 700,000 people have fled from their burnt villages and most have taken refuge in towns in Darfur, while more than 90,000 have crossed the border into Chad.

Over the past month scores of people from the Darfur region have been arrested. They were apparently suspected of contacts with the armed opposition in the region. Those arrested have been held under Article 31 of the National Security Forces Act, which allows detention for up to nine months without access to judicial review.

Many of those detained in Darfur before September 2003 were released under the terms of a ceasefire between the SLA and the government, which was sponsored by the Chadian authorities. However on 17 December 2003, negotiations in Chad to end the conflict in Darfur collapsed. Since then, the local authorities have imposed a curfew in El Fasher, Nyala and Geneina, the capitals of North, South and West Darfur. While the peace process between the Sudan government and rebels of the SPLA has been reaching a final agreement, the conflict in Darfur has not been included in the talks.

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

- expressing grave concern at reports that Dr Ali Ahmed Daoud and Ali Hussain Dossa have been tortured in custody, which violates the prohibition of torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment in Article 7 of the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Sudan is a state party, and calling for an immediate investigation;

- reminding the authorities that as a signatory to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment they have committed themselves to the eradication of torture;
- reminding the authorities that torture constitutes an offence under Article 115(2) of the 1991 Sudan Penal Code;
- calling on the authorities to allow Dr Ali Ahmed Daoud and Ali Hussain Dossa immediate access to a lawyer;
- reminding the authorities that, under the Convention against Torture, statements made as a result of torture may not be used in evidence except against a person accused of carrying out the torture;
- urging the authorities to end the targeted repression of those who speak out about the situation in Darfur, and to ensure that meaningful measures are taken to end attacks on villages by the *Janjawid* militia.

APPEALS TO:

Lieutenant-General Adam Hamid Musa
Governor of Southern Darfur State
c/o People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: **Governor of South Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan**
Fax: **+ 249 11 771 024**
Salutation: **Dear Sir**

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan
Telegrams: **Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan**
Fax : **+ 249 11 779383**
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**

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**

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 29 April 2004.