

PUBLIC

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UA 135/03 Fear for safety / fear of torture / incommunicado detention

SUDAN Yusuf Arkoi Minawi (m), aged 45
Sherif Ahmad Ilaga (m), aged 38
Ramadan Jabir Nahar (m), aged 35
Dawood Mohammad (m), aged 55
Zakaria Mohammad (m), aged 70
Yunis Mohammad Banni (m), aged 25
Mandi Mamoun (m), aged 55

The seven people named above were all arrested in Darfur state, western Sudan. They being detained incommunicado and are at risk of torture. Amnesty International is gravely concerned for their safety.

The seven were all detained by the national security service in connection with the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) attacks on the airport in the town of El Fasher in Darfur on 24 April. They are currently being held incommunicado at an unknown location and are at risk of torture by security forces in detention. It is not known whether they have been charged with any offence. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety, especially after reported statements by the President suggesting that those who supported rebels might receive extrajudicial punishment.

Ramadan Jabir Nahar was detained in al-Tina, North Darfur near the Sudan/Chad border on 26 April. Yusuf Arkoi Minawi, Dawood Mohammad, Sherif Ahmad Ilaga and Zakaria Mohammad were all detained in El Fasher on 27 April. Yunis Mohammad Banni was detained in Furawiyia, in Kutum, Western Darfur on 27 April and Mandi Mamoun was detained in El Fasher on 12 May.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SLA 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.

On 24 April, the SLA reportedly attacked the airport in El Fasher. According to Sudanese Government figures, 75 soldiers were killed and four combat aircraft were destroyed in the attack. Since then, the SLA has continued their attacks, attacking Mellit, a district capital, on 11 May.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Ramadan Jabir Nahar, Yusuf Arkoi Minawi, Dawood Mohammad, Sherif Ahmad Ilaga, Zakaria Mohammad, Yunis Mohammad Banni and Mandi Mamoun who were all detained in connection with the Sudan Liberation Army attack on El Fasher on 24 April;
- 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 Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: First Vice-President, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 11 771651/783223/ 779977

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 799031

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 : + 249 11 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 : + 249 11 779383

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Osman Mohammad Yusuf
Governor of North Darfur
C/o People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Governor of North Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : + 249 11 771651/783223

Salutation: Dear Governor

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 26 June 2003.