

PUBLIC

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UA 167/04 Fear of Torture

SUDAN Osman Adam Abdel Mawla (m), aged 39, human rights defender

Human rights defender Osman Adam Abdel Mawla, who works for a voluntary organisation created to promote sustainable development and human rights, was detained by the security forces on 5 May. He is believed to be held in the National Security Centre in Zalingei but members of his family have not been allowed to see him. Amnesty International is concerned that he is in danger of torture or other ill-treatment at the hands of the security forces.

Osman Adam Abdel Mawla works for the Nyala branch of the Sudan Social Development Organisation (SUDO) in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state. He was travelling to Zalingei, in West Darfur state, by public bus, to carry out work for SUDO, when the bus stopped at a checkpoint five kilometres from Zalingei. He was taken away by members of the National Security and Intelligence Agency. It is believed that he was arrested because of his activities in defence of human rights.

SUDO has organized a number of workshops on subjects connected with human rights. It is also engaged in humanitarian activities and has been delivering humanitarian supplies to internally displaced persons and others affected by the conflict in Darfur.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Conflict in Darfur has intensified since February 2003 when the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and later the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) took up arms against the government. They complained about lack of government protection for agricultural ethnic groups from attacks by nomad militias and the marginalisation and underdevelopment of the region. The Sudan government then gave free rein to the nomadic militias known as the *Janjawid* to attack the villages of the mainly agricultural ethnic groups, such as the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa. The Janjawid are now supported and funded by the government; they wear uniform and continue to attack, kill, rape and abduct civilians. About a million people have fled from their burnt villages and have taken refuge in towns in Darfur, while more than 110,000 have crossed the border into Chad.

Under a ceasefire agreement which came into effect on 11 April, the Sudan Government agreed to release all detainees held in connection with the conflict. However, dozens are still in detention and arrests are continuing.

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 Osman Adam Abdel Mawla, who was arrested at a checkpoint on the road to Zalingei on 5 May, and asking the authorities to reveal where he is held;
- noting that he is held without charge and incommunicado, in violation of Article 9 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Sudan has ratified. This prohibits arbitrary detention, and states that anyone arrested on a criminal charge should be brought promptly before a judicial authority and is entitled to be tried within a reasonable time or else released;
- seeking assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- calling on the government to allow him immediate access to his family, legal counsel and any medical care he may need.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Ali Osman Mohammad Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Telegram: **First Vice-President, Khartoum, Sudan**
Salutation: **Your Excellency**

General Salah Ahmed Mohammed Saleh
Minister of Presidential Affairs
People's Palace
PO Box 291
Khartoum
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 770883**
Salutation: **Dear Minister**

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

COPIES TO:

Chair of the Human Rights Committee
Dr Hamadtu Mukhtar
National Assembly, Omdurman, Sudan
Fax: **+ 249 15 560 950**

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 21 June 2004.