

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/057/2003

09 July 2003

Further Information on UA 122/03 (AFR 54/030/2003, 06 May 2003) and follow-up (AFR 54/032/2003, 9 May 2003) Torture/ Fear of Torture/Incommunicado Detention New Concern: Unfair Trial

SUDAN	Hana Mohamed Ali (f)]	
	Mawahib Ali (f)]	
	Huda Da'wood (f)]	
	Intisar Abdel Rahman Fadl (f)]	
	Mohamed Al Hassan Rahma (m)]	
	Mohammed Ahmed Khalid (m)]	all students at the Zalingei University
	Da'wood Abdel Rhaman (m)]	
	Abdel Azim Daw El Beit (m)]	
	Haythem Samba (m)]	
	El Tayeb (m)]	
	Tagelsir (m)]	
	Al Noor (m)]	
	Um Al Hassan Sharoofa (f)]	
	Asha Sharoofa (f)]	
	Hassan Harri (m)]	
	Ashraf Alhillo (m)]	
	Muna Hassan (f)]	
	Wafa Abdalla Yousif (f)]	
	Safa Abdalla Yousif (f)]	
	Hasana Abkr Gamoos (f)]	

All the students named above have been released on bail. Hassan Harri and Ashraf Alhillo were released at the beginning of May, whilst the other students were released at the end of the month. All have been charged with "Rioting" and "Disturbance of Public Peace". The students' trial began on 4 June and on 8 July all were convicted following what Amnesty International considers to be an unfair trial. The students had no legal representation in court, because lawyers attached to the case were allegedly intimidated by the authorities.

The students were each fined 100,000.00 Sudan Dinars (£238.00), except Asha Sharoofa and Um Al Hassan Sharoofa who were each fined 80,000.00 Sudan Dinars (£191.00) and Mohammed Al Hassan Rahma and Mohammed Ahmed Khalid who were each fined 200,000.00 Sudan Dinars (£477.00). Amnesty International considers the fines to be excessive.

The students are considering appealing against their sentences. However, due to the rainy season the location for the appeal will have to be moved and the students cannot afford to travel to the new venue.

Asha Sharoofa, Um Al Hassan Sharoofa, Mawahib Ali, Intisar Abdel Rahman Fadl, Wafa Abdalla Yousif and Hana Mohamed Ali have also been dismissed from Zalingei University, for alleged non payment of fees.

The authorities have indefinitely closed Zalingei University.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The students were arrested after a student protest on 1 May at Zalingei University, Western Darfur Province, over financial issues such as payment of grants and food and transport allowances. The riot police

intervened, reportedly using tear gas and sticks against the students. One university building was burnt down during the protest. The students were held in incommunicado detention at the office of the Security Services in Zalingei before being transferred to the Police Station.

Two female students, Um Al Hassan Sharoofoa and Asha Sharoofoa, arrested and detained incommunicado with the others, were transferred to hospital in Zalingei. This was reportedly for treatment of injuries sustained when they were severely beaten by security personnel in detention.

According to Amnesty International's information no investigation into the disturbances has yet occurred.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will use longer campaigning methods on behalf of the students. Please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic or your own language:

- raising concerns about the conduct of the students' trial and calling on the authorities to ensure that if the students do appeal against their sentences that the appeal is held in accordance with international standards;
- urging the authorities to open an independent investigation into the incommunicado detention of the students and the reports of beatings of Um Al Hassan Sharoofoa and Asha Sharoofoa by members of the security and to bring the perpetrators to justice;
- calling for an independent and impartial investigation into the conduct of the police on 1 May, for its findings to be made public and any member of the security forces who is found to have acted in breach of international standards on law enforcement to be brought to justice;

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 771479
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
Salutation: Dear Minister

General Ibrahim Sulayman
Governor of North Darfur
c/o People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Governor of North Darfur, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 731 42696
Salutation: Dear Sir

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

Telegram: 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 20 August 2003.