

PUBLIC

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28 May 2004

Further Information on UA 167/04 (AFR 54/046/2004, 10 May 2004) - Fear of Torture

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

Osman Adam Abdel Mawla was released from Zalinge national security centre on 18 May.

He had been held for 13 days, during which time he was neither interrogated nor told why he had been detained. He was not tortured or ill-treated. Following his release he was denied the necessary permit to travel outside Nyala. This restriction on his freedom of movement puts great restrictions on his abilities to conduct his human rights work and violates Sudanese constitutional guarantees.

This restriction on his freedom of movement prevents him from carrying out his vital work of reporting on human rights violations in Darfur, western Sudan, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by government-backed militias.

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.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to ensure that Osman Adam Abdel Mawla is granted free access to all areas of Darfur in order for him to carry out his work as a human rights defender in Darfur;
- expressing concern over the restriction on his right to freedom of movement, which violates Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Sudan is a party.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Ali Osman Mohammad Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Telegram: First Vice-President, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771025
Salutation: Your Excellency

General Salah Ahmed Mohammed Saleh
Minister of Presidential Affairs
People's Palace
PO Box 291
Khartoum
Fax : + 24911 771651/783223
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
Fax: + 249 11 771 024
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 9 July 2004.