

PUBLIC

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UA 285/04 Human Rights Defender/Fear for Safety

SUDAN Adib Abdel Rahman Yusuf (m), aged 30

Adib Abdel Rahman Yusuf, a human rights defender from Darfur, was arrested in the capital, Khartoum, on 10 September by National Security and Intelligence Agency officers. He is now held incommunicado at the political section of the National Security and Intelligence Agency offices in Khartoum. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful pursuit of his lawful occupation. In the experience of Amnesty International, detainees held incommunicado are more likely to be tortured.

Adib Abdel Rahman Yusuf heads the office of the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO) in Zalingei, West Darfur State. SUDO, one of the few human rights organizations working in Darfur, provides assistance to people forced to flee their homes in Darfur, and organizes training workshops for human rights defenders.

Scores of people from Darfur, including lawyers and human rights activists, have been arrested since January 2004, in Darfur, Khartoum and other parts of the country in connection with the internal armed conflict in Darfur, where government-backed nomad militias known as the *Janjawid* are attacking farming communities and destroying their villages.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sudanese government has given free rein to the *Janjawid* to attack farming villages, kill, rape and abduct the inhabitants and drive them out of the villages, burning homes and looting property, crops and cattle.

More than one million people have fled rural areas and taken refuge in settlements around towns in Darfur. More than 30,000 people have been killed, thousands of women have been raped, and at least 170,000 people are now living as refugees on the Chad border or inside Chad. The people in the camps in Darfur are among the most vulnerable: they receive less assistance and protection from the international community than the refugees in Chad. They still face serious human rights violations by government forces and the *Janjawid* militia, including armed attacks and rape.

Human rights activists and others who have tried to document human rights violations committed by the government of Sudan or the *Janjawid* have been arrested, frequently tortured, and held incommunicado without charge or trial for weeks or months.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Adib Abdel Rahman Yusuf, arrested in Khartoum on 10 September, and asking for assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated in custody;
- calling for Adib Abdel Rahman Yusuf to be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful pursuit of his lawful occupation;
- urging the authorities to allow him immediate and unrestricted access to his family, legal counsel and any medical attention he may need;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that human rights activists are not harassed or detained, and to respect their obligations under international law.

APPEALS TO:

Please persevere with fax numbers to Sudan. Often the fax numbers rotate so try all options and if none of the numbers work, please try again at a later time. If +249 11 does not work, please try +249 183.

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
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Fax : + 249 11 771651 / 779977
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
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COPIES TO:

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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 19 November 2004.