

Call to Action

****please forward widely****

18 December 2006

Fear of Unlawful detention /assassination; Need of medical treatment

SUDAN Suleiman Jamous

Suleiman Jamous, age 61, has been trapped in the UN hospital in Kadugli for over five months.

As the former humanitarian coordinator of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), Jamous worked to keep hundreds of thousand Darfurian civilians in rebel-held areas alive, arranging the delivery of humanitarian aid, thus preventing a further influx into camps for the displaced, camps that increasingly suffer from difficult conditions, under-staffing, and a rise in violence. Jamous also facilitated the safe passage of dozens of international journalists within the rebel-held areas of Darfur, enabling them to report on the atrocities that had occurred. Jamous participated in the 6th round of the Abuja negotiation process, and, according to several international eyewitnesses, demonstrated constructive leadership in that round of negotiations. Jamous is thought by many to be important to the future of peace and stability in Darfur. According to Tomo Kriznar, the Slovenian human rights envoy who was detained in July for six weeks by the government of Sudan after spending nearly six months in the rebel-held areas of Darfur, Jamous "enjoys great authority among his people, especially in camps and among educated seniors in the field...he inspired me more than any other Darfurian."

Background: On May 20, 2006, Mini Minawi, the only rebel leader to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on May 5, abducted Suleiman Jamous, an outspoken critic of the DPA, from Bir Maza, Northern Darfur. He was held in the areas of Muzbat and Abu Gamra in Northern Darfur for over a month until the UN secured his release on June 22.

The UN took him by helicopter briefly to El Fashir, but, fearing for his safety from Minawi's reach, brought him to the UN hospital in Kadugli, in Kordofan, Sudan. Jamous was reluctant to go to Kadugli, but the UN assured Jamous he would be there for four days maximum to rest and recover.

When the government of Sudan discovered that the UN had transported a rebel leader in a UN helicopter, they partially suspended the UN's operations in Darfur for several days as punishment.

The UN cannot move Jamous without the permission of the government. The government will not give that permission. He has been in the hospital, with a UN guard outside his room and a government checkpoint outside the hospital, since June 24, 2006. (The government of Sudan arrested and detained Jamous four times previously, between 2000 and 2003, prior to his joining the SLA.)

The situation has become more grave in recent weeks: on September 19, Jamous learned from a retired Sudanese official that the government of Sudan intends to try to capture and possibly assassinate him. In Mid-November, an informed source told Jamous that the government of Sudan had asked the government of Egypt, which has troops in Kadugli as part of the UN Mission to Sudan, to hand him over to their authority.

Furthermore, on December 2, Jamous, who was experiencing pain in his abdomen, was examined by Egyptian doctors with the UN Mission in Sudan in the hospital in Kadugli. The doctors believe that there is something abnormal in his digestive system causing bleeding in his stool, but do not have the equipment in Kadugli to do the further testing required. They need to move him from Kadugli in order to get him the testing and treatment he needs. The Administrator of the hospital, Dr. Amer wrote a report to that effect on December 3rd.

Jamous is seeking to leave Sudan so he can receive the necessary medical tests/treatment and is seeking asylum in any country outside of Sudan. His first preference is the United States, where his daughter and granddaughter live, but he is willing to go anywhere outside Sudan.

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

APPEALS TO THE US GOVERNMENT

- expressing concern that Suleiman has been trapped in the UN hospital in Kadugli, Sudan since June 24, 2006
- calling on the UN and US government to negotiate with the government of Sudan to allow Suleiman to leave Sudan for medical treatment and to seek asylum outside the country.

The United States Envoy to Sudan

Andrew Natsios

Email of assistant, Marlene Garcia: GarciaM7@state.gov

Fax: 202-647-0912 (c/o Marlene Garcia)

The United States Assistant Secretary for African Affairs

Jendayi E. Frazer

Phone: 1-202-547-2530

Fax: 1-202-647-0838

Email of secretary, Natasha Greer: greernx@state.gov

The United States Ambassador to Sudan

Ambassador Cameron Hume

Email: humec@state.gov

The United States Agency for International Development

Kate Almqvist

Email: Kalmquist@usaid.gov

The National Security Council

Bobby Pittman

Tim Shortly

Fax: 202-456-2461 (indicate "NSC; Africa Affairs; c/o Mary Williams)

Email: mwilliams@nsc.eop.gov (indicate for Bobby Pittman and Tim Shortly)

APPEALS TO THE UN

- expressing concern that Suleiman has been trapped in the UN hospital in Kadugli, Sudan since June 24, 2006
- calling on the UN and US government to negotiate with the government of Sudan to allow Suleiman to leave Sudan for medical treatment and to seek asylum outside the country.

President of the UN Security Council

820 Second Avenue, Suite 1600

New York, NY 10017, USA

(December) Permanent Representative, Qatar

Email: gsc@gatarmission.org

Fax: 1.212.953.2947

(January) Permanent Representative, Russia

Email: rusun@un.int

Fax: 1.212.628.0252, 1.212.517.7427

(February) Permanent Representative, Slovakia

Fax: 1.212.286.8419

Salutation: Your Excellency

APPEALS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN:

- condemning the prolonged detention of Suleiman Jamous in the UN Hospital in Kadugli
- calling on the Sudan Government to allow Suleiman to leave Sudan for medical treatment and to seek asylum outside the country

Prof. Al-Zubair Bashir Taha

Minister of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Interior

PO Box 281

Khartoum, Sudan

Fax : +249 183 774339 / 776554

Salutation: Dear Minister

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir

President and Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces

President's Palace

PO Box 281

Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 183 776603 / 777583

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: Dr Abdel Moneim Osman Taha

Advisory Council for Human Rights

PO Box 302

Khartoum

Fax: + 249 183 779173 / 770883

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.