

The solution to the transport requirements of the mental health services, and indeed of the population at large, is surely cheap, efficient, comfortable public transport, cycling and in only exceptional circumstances the use of the private motor vehicle. Fiona Godlee (1992) in her excellent article, outlined the policies which have been demonstrated to promote public transport use and cycling, but the responses of our political leaders at the recent World Summit illustrate their reluctance to impose restraints on private motoring. All the more imperative then that we speak out both as individuals and a body of professionals if we are to preserve a safe, healthy community in which to develop services.

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Reference

GODLEE, F. (1992) Transport: a public health issue. *British Medical Journal*, **304**, 48–50.

Psychiatry in Albania

DEAR SIRS

With pleasure I received your *Psychiatric Bulletin*. It is the first time that this *Bulletin* comes to our country.

Thank you very much for your effort to announce our needs to the College members. (*Psychiatric Bulletin*, June 1992, **16**, 383).

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Notice

Appeal on behalf of Dr Ahmed Osman Sirag

Dr Ahmed Osman Sirag is a 48-year-old married man with three children. He held the post of Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, Sudan, until he was detained by the Muslim Fundamentalist Military Junta in August 1989. With many medical doctors, university lecturers, trade unionists and other professionals, Dr Sirag was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by the London-based International Secretariat of Amnesty International. He was released briefly in May 1990 and was re-arrested in July 1990. Following a 'show trial' before a secret military tribunal, Dr Sirag was initially sentenced to death for alleged treason.

Dr Stuart Checkley (Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry), Professor Andrew Sims (President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists), Dr James Birley and Dr Thomas Bewley (Past Presidents), Dr Sirag's colleagues at Runwell Hospital and many other individuals, together with organisations including Amnesty International, Africa Watch (the Sudanese human rights organisation), the Sudanese Medical

Association, the British Medical Association, the Sudanese Democratic National Alliance, numerous human rights organisations in the United States, and the Association of American Psychiatrists have vigorously campaigned for the release of Dr Sirag for the last three years. His death sentence was commuted to 15 years imprisonment and he was held with many other detainees in a remote prison in the western part of Sudan (Shalah Prison).

In response to the international campaign for the release of Dr Sirag the leader of the Military Junta in Khartoum, Lieutenant General Omer Hassan Ahmed Elbasheer, finally decided to release him on 20 July 1992.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Institute of Psychiatry have invited Dr Sirag to come to London for personal and academic recuperation.

Donations to support Dr Sirag and his family can be made by sending cheques made payable to the Royal College of Psychiatrists to the Finance Officer, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.