

URGENT ACTION

CHURCH LEADERS DETAINED IN SUDAN

Reverend Yat Michael and Reverend Peter Yen of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church were arrested by Sudanese National Intelligence Service (NISS) agents in Khartoum, Sudan on 21 December 2014 and 11 January 2015 respectively. Both pastors are being detained incommunicado, in an unknown location, without access to their families or lawyers and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment and enforced disappearance.

Reverend Yat Michael, a South Sudanese pastor visiting Khartoum, was taken into custody on Sunday, 21 December 2014. He had been preaching that morning, at the Khartoum North Church of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SPEC). After the service, several men who identified themselves as Sudanese government security officers, demanded that Reverend Yat come with them. They took him away without giving any further explanation. The next day, the security forces went to Reverend Yat's home and took some of his clothes and personal belongings. They informed his wife that he was being held in relation to an ongoing investigation but did not reveal any further details about the investigation, whether the reverend was under arrest and what the charges were.

Reverend Peter Yen, another South Sudanese pastor who was visiting Khartoum, was arrested 11 January when he honoured summons to report to NISS. It appears that his arrest and detention is linked to a letter he delivered to the Religious Affairs Office in Khartoum inquiring about Reverend Yat's arrest.

Mrs Yat and her family have been trying unsuccessfully to find out where Pastor Yat is being held. They have not had any access to him since his arrest. The family of Reverend Yen have also not seen or spoken to him since his arrest. Both detainees' whereabouts are unknown.

Please write immediately in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to reveal the whereabouts of Reverend Yat Michael and Reverend Peter Yen and grant them access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention if required;
- Calling on the authorities to either charge them with a recognizable criminal offence or immediately release them;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that they are not subjected to torture or ill treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 March 2015 TO:

The President

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
PO Box 282
Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister for Justice

Mohamed Bushara Dousa
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan

Email: moj@moj.gov.sd

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamed
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By holding Reverend Yen and Reverend Yat Michael incommunicado, NISS is violating several of their civil and political rights for instance, the right to liberty, including the right to be brought promptly before a judge and to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. It is also a violation of the right of the family to access the detainee. These rights are provided in the Interim Constitution of Sudan, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, all of which legally bind the Sudanese Government and all its agents. Holding the detainees incommunicado increases their risk of being subjected to torture or ill treatment and to being disappeared

NISS have been carrying out waves of arrests against students, activists, political opposition figures, protestors, journalists, religious leaders and human rights defenders. Between 2012 and 2014, hundreds of demonstrators, were detained and held incommunicado without charge. Many detainees reported that they were subjected to torture or ill-treatment by NISS agents.

On 24 December 2013, Tajeldin Ahmed Arja, from north Darfur, was detained and held incommunicado since his arrest at a conference until his release four months later. The 26-year-old student and blogger was arrested by the presidential security guards after openly criticizing both the Chadian and Sudanese presidents during a conference holding them responsible for atrocities committed in Darfur. He was released in May 2014 without trial and was systematically tortured during his detention.

NISS agents enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution for acts committed in the 'course of their duty' or in 'good faith' unless this immunity is lifted by the NISS director. This guaranteed impunity condones the perpetration of human rights violations by NISS agents.

Name: Yat Michael and Peter Yen
Gender m/f: m

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