

URGENT ACTION

SEVERAL MEN ARBITRARILY HELD IN POOR CONDITIONS

George Livio Bahara, one of the men arbitrarily detained at a prison at the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in Juba, was released on 25 May. Mike Tyson, another detainee, died on 29 June at the NSS prison. Twenty-one men remain held at the NSS prison under poor conditions with lack of access to appropriate medical treatment.

George Livio Bahara – a Radio Miraya journalist – was arrested on 22 August 2014 in Wau, the capital of former Western Bahr el Ghazal State. He spent two nights in NSS detention by the Riverside in Wau before being transferred to the NSS headquarters in Jebel, Juba on 24 August 2014. The directive to release him was issued by the Office of the President on 24 May. He was released on 25 May without charge. **Justine Wanawila** and **Martin Augustino** were arrested in Wau at around the same time as George Livio, and remain in detention.

Mike Tyson died on 29 June at the NSS prison and his body was taken to Juba Teaching Hospital. He was arrested in mid-2014 in Ikotos in Equatoria State where he lived and was initially detained at the Riverside facility in Juba before being moved to the NSS headquarters at the end of 2016. We believe that poor prison conditions and lack of medical care contributed to his death.

Amnesty International is concerned about the physical and mental health of at least 21 remaining detainees, most of whom are accused of communicating with or supporting the SPLM/A-IO, but have not been charged with any offence. They have been denied the right to be brought promptly before a judge and the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. Some of these detainees are being held incommunicado, without access to family members or a lawyer. Amnesty International has received reports that feeding of detainees has become intermittent, with detainees not getting even one meal a day. **James Gatdet**, who was unlawfully refouled from Kenya on 3 November 2016, has now spent close to seven months in solitary confinement, with no access to sunlight or physical activity, and extremely limited human interaction.

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

- Insisting that the South Sudanese authorities, if credible evidence of a recognised offence exists, charge the remaining NSS detainees promptly and present them in court or release them immediately;
- Urging them to ensure that detainees are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urging them to grant the detainees access to adequate medical care, access to lawyers of their own choosing, and also allow visits from their families;
- Calling on them to initiate prompt, effective and impartial investigations into NSS detention practices, including enforced disappearances, deaths in custody, torture and other ill-treatment, to publicly disclose the findings, and to hold perpetrators accountable in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty;
- Calling on them to provide prompt and adequate reparation to individuals released without charge, including medical and psychological rehabilitation.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 AUGUST 2017 TO:

President of the Republic of South Sudan

Salva Kiir Mayardit
@RepSouthSudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister for National Security in the

Office of the President

Obuto Mamur Mete

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice

Paulino Wanawilla Unango

Salutation: Your Excellency

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. This is the sixth update of UA 87/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/af65/6283/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the beginning of South Sudan's ongoing non-international armed conflict in December 2013, there has been an increase in arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions, and enforced disappearances of perceived government opponents conducted by South Sudan's National Security Service (NSS) and the national army's Military Intelligence Directorate. Amnesty International has documented numerous arbitrary detentions by the NSS in multiple facilities where detainees are often subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. Amnesty International is concerned that in addition to these 21 men, there are many others arbitrarily detained not only at the NSS headquarters in Juba but also in other NSS or military places of detention across the country and subjected to poor conditions of detention.

The NSS Act of 2014 granted the NSS sweeping powers to arrest and detain, without ensuring adequate judicial oversight or safeguards against abuse of these powers. The Act does not specify that detainees may only be held in official places of detention or guarantee basic due process rights, such as the right to counsel or to be tried within a reasonable period of time. The law effectively gives a *carte blanche* to the NSS to continue and extend its longstanding pattern of arbitrary detention, with total impunity.

In the NSS prison at the headquarters in the Jebel neighbourhood, detainees are fed a monotonous diet of beans and *posho*. Most detainees sleep on the floor. Some have been beaten, especially during interrogation or as a form of punishment. Detainees are only allowed outdoors once a week, for approximately one hour. Due to the poor conditions as well as inadequate access to medical care, the health of several detainees has seriously deteriorated. Some are reportedly unable to walk and have experienced symptoms including blood in their urine, stool and vomit. Some detainees have pre-existing medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, that have deteriorated during their detention. In July 2016, one detainee died, reportedly following a tapeworm infection that went untreated. James Lual and Anthony Nyero are UNMISS staff who also remain detained and have not been charged or presented before court.

Name: Angelo Banaveso, Ayume Dada, Chandiga Felix, Daniel Bakumba, Davide Peter, Emilio Paul, James Gatdet, John Mboliako, Justin Wanis, Justine Wanawila, Lado James, Lokolong Joseph, Martin Augustino, Michael Sokiri, Ochaya Godfrey Saverio, Ocitti Richard Okumu, Otihu Lawrence, Sokiri Felix Wani, Tartisio Oshini, Timothy Nyewe Mori, William Endley

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 87/16 Index: AFR 65/6747/2017 Issue Date: 20 July 2017