

# URGENT ACTION

## UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ARBITRARILY DETAINED

**Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek was arrested on 7 December 2015 in Juba, South Sudan and taken to the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in the Jebel neighbourhood. He has had no access to his family while in detention and has not been allowed legal representation.**

**Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek** was arrested on 7 December 2015 at around 4pm while driving from the University of Juba campus to his home in the University's faculty compound. Two beige vehicles carrying six NSS officers blocked his car on the road. Three of the officers, one of them armed with an AK-47, pulled him out of his car, handcuffed him and drove him to the NSS headquarters where he is currently being held without access to his family or a lawyer.

The NSS have not charged Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek or disclosed any reason for his prolonged arbitrary detention.

Since his detention, the NSS has allowed Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek to periodically leave the detention facility to seek medical care in Juba. His condition, however, requires medical analysis and treatment that is unavailable in South Sudan. The NSS has not permitted him to leave the country to access this treatment.

Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek holds a PhD in biochemistry from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. He has taught at the University of Juba since 2010 and was appointed Dean of the College of Applied and Industrial Sciences in 2014.

### Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Urging the South Sudanese authorities to either charge Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek with a recognizable offence, consistent with international standards, and present him before a competent judicial authority or immediately release him;
- Urging them to ensure that he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urging them to grant him access to lawyers of his own choosing, and also to allow visits from his family;
- Urging them to ensure that Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek is able to effectively exercise his right to the highest attainable standard of health.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 MAY 2016 TO

Minister for National Security in the office  
of the President

Obote Mamur Mete  
Ministry of National Security Service in  
the Office of the President  
Juba, South Sudan

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister for Justice

Paulino Wanawilla Unango  
Ministry of Justice  
Airport Road  
Juba, South Sudan

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**And copies to:**

Minister of Information and Broadcasting  
Michael Makuei Lueth  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,  
Ministries Road  
Juba, South Sudan  
Email: makueimichael@yahoo.com

**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**



# URGENT ACTION

## UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ARBITRARILY DETAINED

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In October 2014, South Sudan's National Legislative Assembly passed a National Security Service bill that granted the NSS sweeping powers to arrest, detain, conduct searches and seize property without adequate independent oversight or safeguards against abuse of these powers. The bill did 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. It did, however, provide that NSS detainees should be brought before a magistrate or judge within 24 hours of their detention. In March 2015, the Minister of Justice announced that the bill, passed by Parliament on 8 October 2014, had entered into effect on controversial procedural grounds.

Amnesty International has documented numerous human rights violations by the NSS and other government security organs, including the national army, since the country's independence in 2011. Enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, extra-judicial killings, prolonged arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment have been common, especially since the beginning of South Sudan's internal armed conflict in mid-December 2013. The NSS has also harassed, intimidated, and arbitrarily detained journalists and dissenting voices; shutdown newspapers and seized or held entire print runs of newspapers several times.

Amnesty International has repeatedly recommended that the NSS powers should be limited to intelligence gathering, as envisioned by the Transitional Constitution, which mandates the NSS to "focus on information gathering, analysis and to advise the relevant authorities." The powers to arrest, detain, conduct searches, seize property and use force should be explicitly excluded from the NSS's powers and exercised by an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Name: Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek  
Gender m/f: m

UA: 64/16 Index: AFR 65/3675/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016