

URGENT ACTION

FOUR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE ON TRIAL

Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam, Petr Jezek and Abdulmonem Abdumawla are on trial in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, for various charges related to the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association and religion. They were arrested in December 2015 by Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and charged in May and August 2016.

Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam, Petr Jezek and Abdulmonem Abdumawla were arrested on different dates by the NISS in December 2015. However, Kuwa Shamal. A Zumam was released on 21 December 2015 on condition that he reports to the NISS office daily. Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam and Petr Jezek were charged on 18 May. Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam was then re-arrested on 24 May and held at the NISS office in Khartoum along with the other three men. The four men were all transferred from the NISS detention Centre in Khartoum North to Al Huda Prison in Omdurman in August. Abdulmonem Abdumawla was charged on 5 August after his transfer to Al Huda Prison.

Hassan A. Kodi and Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam are pastors with the Sudanese Church of Christ. Petr Jezek is a journalist and missionary of Czech nationality. Abdulmonem Abdumawla is an engineering graduate student at the University of Khartoum and a human rights activist.

Hassan A.Kodi and Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam are facing charges under the 1991 Penal Code for 'provoking hatred amongst or against sects', 'publication of false news', and 'joint acts in execution of a criminal conspiracy'. Petr Jazek is charged with capital offences including 'waging war against the state' and 'espionage against the country', both of which carry the death penalty. Abdelmonem Abdumawla is charged with 'joint acts in execution of a criminal conspiracy'. Their trial started in August but hearings have been adjourned several times. The next hearing is set for 21 November. According to their defense lawyer, the arrest, detention and trial of these four men is hinged on suspicion that they are trying to encourage Muslims to convert to Christianity and for publicly speaking out against the ill-treatment of Christians in Sudan. Amnesty International believes that the charges against the four men stem solely from the peaceful exercise of their rights and considers them prisoners of conscience.

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

- Calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the four men, as the charges stem solely from the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and religion;
- Urging them to ensure that pending their release, they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to ensure that pending their release, they are allowed unrestricted access to their family and lawyers;
- Urging them to abolish the punishment of the death penalty in law and practice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 DECEMBER 2016 TO:

The President

Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
Office of the President
People's Palace
P.O. Box 282
Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister for Justice

Awad Al Hassan Alnour
Ministry of Justice
P.O. Box 302
Al Nil Avenue
Khartoum, Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Ismat Abdu;-Rahman Zain Al Abdin
Ministry of Interior
P.O 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.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During the arrest of Petr Jezek, Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam and Abdulmonem Abdumawla in December 2015, their houses were searched and their computers, mobile phones, documents, cameras and other belongings were confiscated.

The four men were involved in supporting the medical treatment of Ali Omar Mousa Hassaba-Allah, a student from Darfur who was hit by a Molotov cocktail, also known as a petrol bomb, during violent student clashes in December 2013 in a university in Khartoum. Ali's face, neck, chest and hands were severely burned, and he was in need of long-term medical treatment. Ali was also arrested on 18 December 2015 and was questioned repeatedly about the source of the money used to cover the cost of his medical treatment. He was released after six months in custody without charge on 28 May 2016.

Hassan A. Kodi and Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam are pastors with the Sudanese Church of Christ. They were arrested on 18 December 2015. Both were charged on 18 May. Hassan A. Kodi had organized a conference for Christians from Sudan and South Sudan held in October 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The charges levied against him relate to a paper he presented on the oppression of Christians in Sudan during this conference. Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam was also present at this conference.

Petr Jezek is a journalist and missionary of Czech nationality. He was arrested on 12 December 2015 by the NISS for interviewing Ali Omar Mousa Hassaba-Allah. He had also attended the October 2015 conference in Addis Ababa that was organised by Hassan A. Kodi. He was charged on 18 May under the 1991 Penal Code with 'waging war against the state', 'espionage against the country', 'provoking hatred amongst or against sects', 'publication of false news', 'entering and photographing military areas or works'. He is also facing the charge of 'running activities for a charity organization without license' under the Organisation of Voluntary and Humanitarian Activities Act. He is also charged with 'illegal entry' under the 1994 Immigration and Passports Act. The prosecution has submitted photographs of Petr Jezek from 2012 on a trip in the armed opposition controlled territory of the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan.

Ali's best friend Abdulmonem Abdumawla, an engineering graduate student at the University of Khartoum and a human rights activist, was arrested by the NISS on 18 December 2015. Abdulmonem Abdumawla provided support to Ali while he was undergoing medical treatment in Khartoum. He was then transferred on 5 August to Al Huda Prison in Omdurman where he was charged with 'joint acts in execution of a criminal conspiracy' under the 1991 Penal Code.

Name: Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam, Petr Jezek and Abdulmonem Abdumawla
Gender m/f: m

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