

# URGENT ACTION

## TWO RELEASED, 33 STILL IN ARBITRARY DETENTION

**Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek, was released without charge on 25 April. Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro was released without charge on 27 April. Amnesty International has confirmed that 33 other men are still in arbitrary detention at the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in the Jebel neighborhood of Juba, the capital of South Sudan.**

**Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek** was released on 'humanitarian grounds' and without charge by the NSS on 25 April. Since his arrest on 7 December 2015, Prof Onek did not have access to a lawyer and did not know why the NSS were holding him. During his detention, the NSS allowed Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek to periodically leave the detention facility to seek medical assistance in Juba.

**Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro**, former governor of Western Equatoria state, was released on 27 April without charge. He was arrested on 22 December 2015 at around 3pm after being summoned to the NSS headquarters in the Jebel neighbourhood. He was kept in *incommunicado* detention until early March when he was allowed family visits.

Amnesty International has knowledge of **33 other men** still in NSS detention. They have been denied the right to be brought promptly before a judge and the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. Some detainees are being held *incommunicado*, without any access to family members or the outside world.

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

- Urging the South Sudanese authorities to either charge each of the 33 men with a recognizable offence, consistent with international law and standards, or immediately release them;
- Urging them to ensure that the 33 men are not subjected to torture or any other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urging them to grant the 33 men access to adequate medical care, access to lawyers of their own choosing, and also allow visits from their families;
- Urging the authorities to initiate prompt, effective and impartial investigations into NSS detention practices, including enforced disappearances, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 JUNE 2016 TO:

Minister for National Security in the office  
of the President  
Obote Mamur Mete  
Ministry of National Security in the Office  
of the President  
Juba, South Sudan

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice  
Paulino Unango Wanawilla  
Ministry of Justice  
Airport Road  
Juba, South Sudan  
Email: molacdgossjuba@yahoo.com

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**And copies to:**  
Presidential Legal Advisor  
Lawrence Korbandy  
Office of the President  
Juba, South Sudan

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** HIS EXCELLENCY MR SABIT ABBE ALLEY, Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan, 16 Upper Woburn Place WC1H 0B8, 020 3741 8083, [info@embrss.org.uk](mailto:info@embrss.org.uk)

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 87/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/af65/3833/2016/en/>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented an increase in violations committed by the NSS and other security agencies since conflict began in mid-December 2013. Cases of enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, extra-judicial killings and prolonged detention have been on the rise, with reports of torture and ill-treatment while in custody.

Amnesty International is concerned that in addition to these 33 men, there are others who are arbitrarily detained not only at the NSS headquarters in Juba but also in other NSS or military places of detention across the country. Detainees are fed a monotonous diet, and sometimes only eat once a day. They sleep on the floor and do not have access to adequate medical care. Some have been beaten, especially during interrogation or as a form of punishment. These poor conditions amount to ill-treatment and may also amount to torture in some cases.

The NSS Act of 2014 grants 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.

Name: Ayume Dada, Lado James, Jrem Eseru, George Livio Bahara, Justine Wanawila, Martin Augustino, Emilio Paul, Chandiga Felix, Benjamin Taban, Sokiri Felix Wani, Alison Mogga Tadeo, Aloro John, Andria Baambe, Angelo Banaveso, Daniel Bakumba, Davide Peter, Eli Duku Nimaya, Gwagbwe Christopher, John Mboliako, Joseph Ngec, Justin Yasir, Justine Peter, Kennedy Kenyi, Lokolong Joseph, Loreom Joseph Logie, Mike Tyson, Ochaya Godfrey Saverio, Ocitti Richard Okumu, Otihi Lawrence, Paul Baba, Richard Otti, Sokiri Michael, Tartisio Oshini and Yahiya Babu

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 87/16 Index: AFR 65/3916/2016 Issue Date: 29 April 2016