

URGENT ACTION

ONE FREED, HEAVY SENTENCES FOR THREE OTHERS

Kuwa Shumal A. Zumam was set free by the court on 2 January after the prosecution failed to provide sufficient evidence to sustain the charges against him. Petr Jezek was sentenced to life imprisonment on 29 January, while Hassan A. Kodi and Abdulmonem Abdumawla were sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment.

A judge dismissed the case against **Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam** on 2 January due to insufficient evidence provided by the prosecution.

A court in Khartoum on 29 January handed down heavy prison sentences for **Petr Jezek, Hassan A. Kodi, and Abdulmonem Abdumawla**. Petr Jezek was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined 100,000 Sudanese pounds (SDG) (about 15,475 USD). He was found guilty of 'Espionage' under Article 53 of the 1991 Penal Code. Hassan A. Kodi and Abdulmonem Abdumawla were each sentenced to 12 years in prison for 'Assisting in committing an offence' under Article 26 of the 1991 Penal Code. The lawyers will be appealing the court's decision.

Between 19 December 2016 and 9 January 2017 the four accused attended five court sessions at Khartoum Centre. During a trial session on 28 December 2016, the defendant Petr Jezek complained that the translator did not correctly translate some his statements from English to Arabic. He claimed that the translations provided information that he had not given and omitted other information he had given, the court ignored this complaint.

The NISS arrested Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam and Petr Jezek in December 2015 and charged them on 18 May 2016. Abdulmonem Abdumawla was also arrested in December 2015, but was only charged on 5 August 2016.

Amnesty International believes that the three men have been imprisoned solely for 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 Petr Jezek, Hassan A. Kodi and Abdulmonem Abdumawla, as their detention, conviction and sentencing, are solely as a result of the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association and religion;
- Urging them to ensure that pending their release, they are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to ensure that pending their release, they are allowed access to their family and lawyers.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 MARCH 2017 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 Abdul-Rahman Zain Al Abdin
Ministry of Interior
P.O. Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR MOHAMMED ABDALLA ALI ELTOM
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row St James's SW1A 1DD, 020 7839 8080, info@sudan-embassy.co.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 260/16. Further information:
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr54/5146/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hassan A. Kodi, Kuwa Shamal A. Zumam, Peter Jazek and Abdulmonem Abdumawla were 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 without charge on 28 May 2016, after six months in custody.

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 2016. 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 Jazek is a journalist and missionary of Czech nationality. He was arrested on 12 December 2015 by the NISS for interviewing Ali Omar Mousa Hassaba-Alla. He had also attended the October 2015 conference in Addis Ababa that was organized by Hassan A. Kodi. He was charged on 18 May 2016 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 Jazek 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 he was charged with 'joint acts in execution of a criminal conspiracy' under the 1991 Penal Code.

Amnesty International has documented several cases of individuals being persecuted owing to their religious affiliation in Sudan. The 1991 Penal Code contains legal provisions which amount to a denial of fundamental human rights including limitations on the rights and freedoms of non-Muslims. Since 1989, a specific interpretation of Islam was allowed to dominate the country's laws, institutions and policies. As a result, thousands of non-Muslims, priests and church leaders have been persecuted and punished according to Shari'a (Islamic law).

Further information on UA: 260/16 Index: AFR 54/5565/2017 Issue Date: 9 February 2017