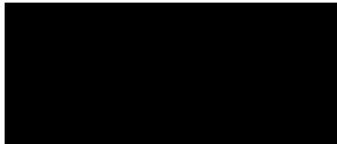




January 10, 2017

Dr. Awad Al-Hassan Al-Noor  
Minister of Justice

VIA E-Mail and Facsimile



*Re: Urgent Request for Engagement of Criminal Case Against Hassan Abduraheem*

Your Excellency:

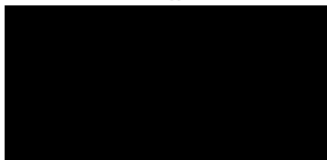
We would like to bring to your attention the criminal case against Christian Reverend Hassan Abduraheem, and respectfully request your help in ensuring he is released based on the government's lack of evidence presented at trial as to his guilt and that he be acquitted on all counts.

Rev. Abduraheem has been detained for over a year as the result of an act of kindness he bestowed on a young boy in need of medical attention. In November 2015, Rev. Abduraheem, along with Rev. Kuwa Shamal, attended a Christian conference in Sudan where Rev. Abduraheem was a speaker. During his speech, Rev. Abduraheem showed the audience a picture of a young man who had been badly beaten for attending a demonstration, and explained that he was helping pay for his medical treatment.

In December 2015, Sudan's National Intelligence Security Service (NISS) arrested the pastors on national security charges associated with helping the injured man. Rev. Abduraheem was held in a NISS detention center until he was transferred to the custody of the Attorney General on May 9, 2016. He is currently being held in al-Huda Prison in Omdurman.

Rev. Abduraheem is now on trial facing the death penalty because he tried to live out his Christian faith through charity. He has been charged under Sudan's Penal Code of 1991, with charges ranging from waging war against the state and espionage to agitating hatred between classes. On Monday, January 2, 2017, the judge decided to drop all charges against Rev. Shamal, but to proceed with the charges against Rev. Abduraheem. The defense began putting on their proof of his innocence on Monday, January 9, 2017.

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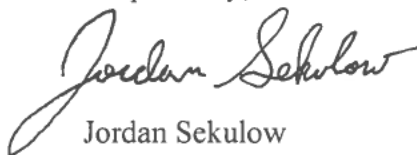


This case has attracted significant international attention out of concern that these men have been targeted because of their religious beliefs without evidence of any criminal wrongdoing and that they will not receive a fair trial. Enclosed with this letter, we provide you with 106,240 individuals who petition the Sudanese government to ensure that Rev. Abduraheem receives a fair trial and that, unless the government proffers significant new evidence of guilt hereafter, the case be dropped for a lack of evidence. Though time is of the essence, the Sudanese government still has time to ensure that it upholds its obligations under various international agreements.

Under international treaties to which Sudan is a signatory, the Sudanese government has an obligation to allow for peaceful freedom of expression and belief and to treat its citizens with basic human dignity. According to the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States pledge themselves to “promote . . . universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to [inter alia] religion.”<sup>1</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights also states: “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection under the law.”<sup>2</sup> Specifically, “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.”<sup>3</sup> The ICCPR provides even stronger provisions: “Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference,” and “[e]veryone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds.”<sup>4</sup> Such rights necessarily include the right to hold religious opinions, to obtain and disseminate information, and to live out one’s faith. This right is also articulated in the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Articles 2, 3, and 8.

In light of these obligations and the lack of evidence presented in this case, we respectfully request your immediate engagement in this matter to ensure that Rev. Abduraheem is given a fair trial. Moreover, because the government has failed to proffer relevant and convincing evidence against him, we urge Sudan to immediately drop his case.

Respectfully,



Jordan Sekulow  
Executive Director  
American Center for Law & Justice

*Enclosures:*

Petition signed by 106,240 individuals (names provided only by email)

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<sup>1</sup>U.N. Charter arts. 55, 56.

<sup>2</sup>Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G.A. Res. 217 (III) A, art. 7. U.N. Doc. A/RES/60/1 (Dec. 10, 1948)

<sup>3</sup>*Id.* art. 19.

<sup>4</sup>Int’l Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, *adopted* Dec. 16, 1966, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), art. 19, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (*entered into force* Mar. 23, 1976).