

June 6, 2014

Emad Mirghani Altohamy
Chargé d'Affaires of the Sudan to the United States
2210 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Altohamy:

Last month a court in Khartoum convicted Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Christian mother of two children, whose Father is U.S. citizen Daniel Wani, of abandoning Islam and adultery. These convictions carried sentences of death and one hundred lashes, respectively. Though Meriam is a Sudanese national, this matter greatly affects the affairs of your office because the conviction and sentence, which violate both the Sudan's interim constitution and the Sudan's international obligations, affects the lives and welfare of a U.S. citizen and his children.

While we recognize that your office has stated publicly that the convictions are a matter solely for the Sudanese judiciary and a legal, not religious, matter, we must respectfully disagree. The apostasy law by which Meriam was sentenced to death contravenes both the 2005 interim constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a document that the Sudan ratified more than two decades ago. By ratifying the ICCPR, the Sudan guaranteed that Meriam and all Sudanese citizens "have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." The Sudan guaranteed that under its national laws this right included the "freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of [an individual's] choice" and to protect these individuals from "coercion which would impair his [or her] freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his [or her] choice." The Sudan affirmed its commitment to its international obligations in article 27(3) of the 2005 interim constitution, which holds that "[a]ll rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights treaties, covenants and instruments ratified by the Republic of the Sudan shall be an integral part of this Bill [of rights]." And while article 38 of the 2005 interim constitution states that "every person shall have the right to the freedom of religious creed and worship, . . . to declare his/her religion or creed and manifest the same, . . . [and that] no person shall be coerced to adopt such faith, that he/she does not believe in," this guarantee is meaningless if not implemented by the judiciary. Regardless

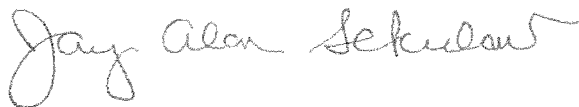
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of whether Meriam's legal name was Abrar Elhadi Muhammad Abdallah Abugadeen, as alleged by your recent press release, or she was born to Muslim parents, these foregoing principles remain the same – Meriam has the right to believe and practice the faith of her choice without legal repercussions from the government of the Sudan.

Moreover, this case has reached an intense level of international attention that has shifted the world's perception of the Sudan. Specific to your mission, this case also directly affects the Sudan's relationship with the United States. American citizens have expressed their deep concern for the resolution of this case -- over 350,000 have signed our petition urging the Sudan to uphold its international obligations to respect religious freedom and calling on the Sudanese government to immediately and unconditionally release Meriam. As a prisoner of conscience, convicted solely because of her religious beliefs and identity, we join with these 350,000 to urge the Sudan to ensure that Meriam Yehya Ibrahim is released immediately and unconditionally.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Alan Sekulow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jay Alan Sekulow
Chief Counsel