

URGENT ACTION

FORMER GOVERNOR DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE

Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, former governor of Western Equatoria state in South Sudan, was detained by the National Security Service (NSS) on 22 December 2015. Family members have been denied access to him on multiple occasions and he is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, former governor of Western Equatoria state, was detained at around 3pm on 22 December 2015 by the National Security Service (NSS). He had gone to the NSS headquarters in the Jebel neighborhood of Juba after being summoned by authorities.

NSS officials have restricted his access to family members. His family was allowed to see him on 2 February for the first time in three weeks. They were only allowed to speak with him for 15 minutes. His family reported that he looked physically weak and complained about exposure to mosquitos. Authorities refused his family access to him on 6 February.

He has not been charged with any offence or presented in court.

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

- Urging the South Sudanese authorities, to immediately release Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro unless promptly charged with a recognizable offence;
- Urging them to ensure that he is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urging them to grant him access to lawyers of his own choosing, and allow him regular visits from his family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 MARCH 2016 TO:

Legal Advisor to the President

Lawrence Korbandy
Office of the President
Juba
South Sudan
Email: kkodis@yahoo.co.uk
Salutation: Mr.

Minister of National Security

Hon. Obutu Mamur Mete
Office of the President
Juba
South Sudan
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice
Hon. Paulino Wanawilla Unango
Airport Road, Opposite Juba Hotel &
Next to Ministry of Education, Munduria
Round About, Central Equatoria
Juba
South Sudan
Email: molacdgossjuba@yahoo.com

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Joseph Bakosoro was removed as governor of Western Equatoria state in August 2015 by President Salva Kiir, together with the governors of Central Equatoria (Clement Wani), Warrap (Nyadeng Malek) and Upper Nile (Simon Kun Poch) states.

Joseph Bakosoro was detained for five days immediately after being removed from office. According to family members, he was detained in the Giyada military barracks in Juba, where he was beaten and his arms and legs tied. The reason for his arrest remains unclear.

Even though Joseph Bakosoro has not been charged, family members believe he has been detained due to his suspected links with the Arrow Boys, an armed local defence force originally formed to protect local communities from attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army. In the second half of 2015, these community defence forces increasingly came into confrontations with Dinka cattle herders and government soldiers.

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS) of 2011 mandates the NSS to 'focus on information gathering, analysis and advice to the relevant authorities' and established the civilian police service as the only law enforcement authority in South Sudan. Despite this provision, the NSS have for a long time gone outside their mandate and performed policing functions.

In October 2014, a National Security Service bill passed by the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly sought to give the NSS extensive and broad powers of arrest, detention and seizure without adequate safeguards against abuse. The bill does not specify permissible detention sites or guarantee basic due process rights, such as the right to counsel or to be tried within a reasonable period of time as guaranteed by the TCSS. In March 2015, the Justice Minister announced that the Bill, passed by the Legislative Assembly on October 8 2014, had become law. This is despite domestic and international opposition to its passage, the absence of the President's signature, its unconstitutionality and other views rejecting this position.

Name: Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro

Gender m/f: m

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