

URGENT ACTION

HEALTH CONCERNS FOR DETAINEES ARBITRARILY HELD

Three men arbitrarily detained at a prison at the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in Juba died in February and March as a result of poor prison conditions and lack of appropriate medical treatment. There is concern for the health of at least 23 other men arbitrarily detained at the NSS prison.

Alison Mogga Tadeo was arrested by the NSS in Kajokeji on 25 July 2014. He died while at the NSS prison on 23 February. **Andria Baambe** was arrested by NSS in 2014 in Tombura and died on 2 March. **Richard Otti** was arrested in Magwi in 2014 and died at the NSS prison on 10 March. None were ever charged with any offence. Amnesty International believes that poor conditions at the NSS prison, including a lack of timely or adequate medical care, contributed to their deaths.

Amnesty International is concerned about the physical and mental health of **at least 23 remaining detainees**, most of whom are accused of communicating with or supporting the SPLM/A-IO, but have not been charged with any offence. They have been denied the right to be brought promptly before a judge and the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. Some of these detainees are being held incommunicado, without access to family members or a lawyer. Amnesty International has received reports that some of the detainees are unable to walk or are vomiting and defecating blood. **James Gatdet**, who was unlawfully refouled from Kenya on 3 November 2016, has now spent close to seven months in solitary confinement, with no access to sunlight or physical activity, and extremely limited human interaction. Five detainees were released without charge—one in January, two in March, one in April, and one in May.

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

- Insisting that the South Sudanese authorities, if credible evidence of a recognised offence exists, charge the NSS detainees promptly and present them in court or release them immediately;
- Urging them to ensure that detainees are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urging them to grant the detainees access to adequate medical care, access to lawyers of their own choosing, and also allow visits from their families;
- Calling on them to initiate prompt, effective and impartial investigations into NSS detention practices, including enforced disappearances, deaths in custody, torture and other ill-treatment, to publicly disclose the findings, and to hold perpetrators accountable in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty;
- Calling on them to provide prompt and adequate reparation to individuals released without charge, including medical and psychological rehabilitation.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 JULY 2017 TO:

President of the Republic of South Sudan

Salva Kiir Mayardit
@RepSouthSudan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister for National Security in the office of the President

Obuto Mamur Mete
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice
Paulino Wanawilla Unango

Salutation: Your Excellency

Please send your appeals in the care of diplomatic representatives accredited to your country, listed below. If there is no South Sudanese embassy in your country, please mail the letter to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations, 336 East 45th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA. 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. This is the fifth update of UA 87/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr65/5293/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the beginning of South Sudan's ongoing non-international armed conflict in December 2013, there has been an increase in arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions, and enforced disappearances of perceived government opponents conducted by South Sudan's National Security Service (NSS) and the national army's Military Intelligence directorate. Amnesty International has documented numerous arbitrary detentions by the NSS in multiple facilities where detainees are often subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. Amnesty International is concerned that in addition to these 23 men, there are many others arbitrarily detained not only at the NSS headquarters in Juba but also in other NSS or military places of detention across the country and subjected to poor conditions of detention.

The NSS Act of 2014 granted 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.

In the NSS prison at the headquarters in the Jebel neighbourhood, detainees are fed a monotonous diet of beans and *posho*. Most detainees sleep on the floor. Some have been beaten, especially during interrogation or as a form of punishment. Detainees are only allowed outdoors once a week, for approximately one hour. Due to the poor conditions as well as inadequate access to medical care, the health of several detainees has seriously deteriorated. Some are reportedly unable to walk and have experienced symptoms including blood in their urine, stool and vomit. Some detainees have pre-existing medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, that have deteriorated during their detention. In July 2016, one detainee died, reportedly following a tapeworm infection that went untreated.

Name: Angelo Banaveso, Ayume Dada, Chandiga Felix, Daniel Bakumba, Davide Peter, Emilio Paul, George Livio Bahara, James Gatdet, John Mboliako, Justin Wanis, Justine Wanawila, Lado James, Lokolong Joseph, Martin Augustino, Michael Sokiri, Mike Tyson, Ochaya Godfrey Saverio, Ocitti Richard Okumu, Otihi Lawrence, Sokiri Felix Wani, Tartisio Oshini, Timothy Nyewe Mori, William Endley
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 87/16 Index: AFR 65/6283/2017 Issue Date: 24 May 2017