

URGENT ACTION

FIFTEEN RELEASED, FIVE STILL ARBITRARILY DETAINED

Fifteen individuals whom Amnesty International had previously campaigned on were among a group of detainees released from the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters on 10 August. Five men remain arbitrarily detained at the NSS headquarters, while one has been charged.

Fifteen of the 21 detainees that Amnesty International had campaigned on in previous urgent actions were released from NSS prison without charge on 10 August. Some of the men had been in arbitrary detention for close to two years.

Tartisio Oshini, Ayume Dada, Lado James, Ochaya Godfrey Saverio and William Endley remain arbitrarily detained at the NSS headquarters, while **James Gatdet** has been charged with: inciting violence – ‘Abetment’ (article 52), ‘Treason’ (article 64), ‘Publishing or Communicating False Statements Prejudicial to Southern Sudan’ (article 75), and ‘Undermining Authority of or Insulting President’ (article 76) under the South Sudan Penal Code of 2008.

There are concerns for the physical and mental health of these detainees, most of whom continue to be accused of communicating with or supporting the opposition, 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.

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

- Insisting that the South Sudanese authorities, if credible evidence of a recognized offence exists, charge the remaining 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 and are granted access to adequate medical care, lawyers of their own choosing, and are allowed family visits;
- 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 where there is evidence of the commission of criminal offences 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 30 NOVEMBER 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
Ministry of Justice

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:
HIS EXCELLENCY MR SABIT ABBE ALLEY, Embassy of The Republic Of South Sudan, Bentinck House, 3-8 Bolsover Street, London, W1W 6AB info@embrss.org.uk <https://embrss.org.uk/>

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the seventh update of UA 87/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr65/6747/2017/en/>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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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 six men still detained, 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*. Amnesty International has also previously received reports that on some days detainees are not fed. 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.