

URGENT ACTION

FORMER GOVERNOR ARBITRARILY DETAINED

Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, former governor of Western Equatoria state has been in arbitrary detention without charge or trial since 22 December 2015, at the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in Juba. He has also been denied access to a lawyer, though his family now has access to him.

Since early March, **Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro's** family has been allowed to visit him regularly in detention. However, he is yet to be charged with an offence by the authorities and has no access to legal representation.

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

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

- Urging the South Sudanese authorities to immediately charge Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro with a recognizable offence in proceedings which meet international fair trial standards or release him;
- 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 a lawyer of his own choosing, and continued regular visits from his family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 MAY 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
Ministry of Justice
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. HIS EXCELLENCY MR SABIT ABBE ALLEY, Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan, 16 Upper Woburn Place WC1H 0B8, 020 3741 8083, info@embrss.org.uk, www.embrss.org.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 30/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr65/3371/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Joseph Bangasi 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 Bangasi 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 up. Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro's detention is believed to be in connection with suspicions to his being linked 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, the Arrow Boys increasingly came into violent confrontations with cattle herders from the Dinka ethnic group and government soldiers.

In October 2014, a National Security Service bill passed by the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly gave the NSS extensive 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 Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (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, and its unconstitutionality.

Amnesty International has repeatedly recommended that the NSS powers should be limited to intelligence gathering, as envisioned by the TCSS of 2011, which mandates the NSS to "focus on information gathering, analysis and to advise the relevant authorities." The powers to arrest, detain, conduct searches, seize property and use force should be explicitly excluded from the NSS's powers and exercised by an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Name: Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 30/16 Index: AFR 65/3712/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016