



IPPFoRB

International Panel of Parliamentarians
for Freedom of Religion or Belief

14 September 2016

His Excellency Ibrahim Ghandour
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Government of Sudan
Khartoum, Sudan

Dear Minister Ghandour:

We write as a global network of parliamentarians from diverse political, religious, and geographical backgrounds, committed to the promotion and protection of the freedom of religion and belief for all, to respectfully express our concern about the government of Sudan's continued imprisonment and persecution of religious leaders, confiscation of church buildings and harassment of the Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church and its members. We request that all charges against religious leaders are immediately dropped and we further request an end to the confiscation of church buildings, harassment of the pastors, their congregation, and the Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church.

We welcome the release of Talahon Nigoski Kassa Ratta of the Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church on May 10th. However, of particular concern is the continued detention of Rev. Hassan Abduraheem and the re-arrest of Rev. Kuwa Shamal, both of the Sudan Church of Christ, who are currently on trial on spurious national security-related charges. We also urge the Sudanese government to immediately release Revs. Abduraheem and Shamal, and to ensure all charges against them and their co-defendants are dropped.

We are also concerned by the government's attempt to seize church buildings belonging to the Sudan Church of Christ and the Baptist Church in Khartoum Bahri. The confiscation and demolition of the buildings and the government's policy not to issue new church licenses, would leave these communities without a meeting place and violate their right to worship.

We have written to you before about the harassment of the Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church and we are disappointed that such actions continue. Along with the trial of Revs Abduraheem and Shamal, and attempts to seize church buildings in Khartoum Bahri the government's seizure of the church's training school, and the subsequent arrest and fining of church members and leaders who protested this action are only the latest examples of the ongoing denial of religious freedom for this religious community. We call on the government

of Sudan to abide by its constitutional and international commitments to freedom of religion or belief.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The following parliamentarians support this advocacy letter in their personal capacity

and not as representatives of their government, political party or any other body

Benedek (UK)

Cheyffyn-Judley (SA)

Amirwan Pop (Guatemala)

[Signature] (CAN)

Bonner Jimenez (SV)

[Signature] (INDONESIA)
EVA SYNDARI (INDONESIA)

Malay Pattillo (HN)

José A. Vasquez HONDURAS

Narend Singh (SA)

[Signature] (CAN)

[Signature]

JACOB KASSAM (NIGERIA)

Vian el-Khalil (Iraq)

Dr. Mohammed Ali Tah Kurdi (Iraq)

[Signature] (EC)

[Signature] (Philippines)

Dr. JAMEELA AL-SAMMAR (BAHRAIN)

Vasanthi Senanayake (Sri Lanka)

Asiyah Haniffa (Pakistan)

SENAP SEPTI (Indonesia)

The following parliamentarians support this advocacy letter in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their government, political party or any other body

Leonardo Quintos ~~Prof. J. P. [Brazil]~~

~~W. P. (Macedonia)~~

Nikhil Panigrahi (UK)

~~Alma - Gabriela Pimenta~~
~~H. P. Womaneana~~

~~Victor Yelensky (C.R.)~~
(Ukraine)

~~ΣΕ~~
~~ZUMBARA~~

Ange Alvarado (Venezuela)

DR. MUHAMMAD ABUR RAZZAQUE

Fahad Hossain (Bangladesh)

~~Fahad Hossain~~

Kazem Kheir ~~1~~

EL ATRI KHADIJA

R. SHABB (LEBANON)

ZUBEDA SAKURU (TANZANIA)

Daniel Tam Jakoben

Wendy Batista (Dom-Rep.)

Susan Yap (Philippines)

~~Shwe Maung (Myanmar)~~

KASTHURI PATTO (MALAYSIA)

BAROUD (CHAD)

~~Odete Lopez (ANGOLA)~~

~~Proh. K. (Germany)~~

(Bangladesh.)

NIGEM

(Lebanon)

(Maroc)

R. Shubb

Hassan Dawood

Denmark

The following parliamentarians support this advocacy letter in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their government, political party or any other body

ABID RAZA ~~frida~~ (NORWAY)

Henriet Klu (GERMANY)

Wolter Kowalski

Benezer (UK)

Abou Hon. Elène TINE Senegal

Ngabayamzi Kwankwa (South Africa)