

# **SUDAN: BREAKING NEWS: Czech aid worker Petr Jašek released from Sudanese prison**

HRWF (27.02.2017) – Czech Christian aid worker, Petr Jašek, has been released from prison in Sudan after being pardoned and freed by President Omar Bashir. Jašek, 52, had been detained in Sudan since December 2015. The release apparently comes after the Czech Foreign Minister, Lubomir Zaoralek, visited Sudan this past weekend.

Petr Jašek was originally detained in December 2015 and in January 2017, was sentenced to 23 ½ years in prison for various charges including waging war against the state, violating restrictions in military areas, spreading rumors to defame the state, and inciting strife between communities.

Petr Jasek was arrested alongside two Sudanese church leaders, Hassan Taour and Abdulmonem Abdumawla, who were both sentenced to twelve years imprisonment after being found guilty of 'aiding and abetting' Jasek in his alleged spying. Taour and Abdumawla have launched appeals against their sentences, which have yet to be ruled on.

The charges against the three men revolve around their support (both vocal and financial) for a Sudanese student who was injured during a protest in 2013. As Christian Solidarity Worldwide explains, "The case further illustrates the politicization of the criminal justice system by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), which, under the pretext of investigating national security crimes, has brought charges against members of the political opposition, human rights defenders and leaders of minority religions".

To learn more about Jasek, Taour, and Abdumawla's cases, please visit our prisoner's database.

Human Rights Without Frontiers would like to thank all of those who contributed to our campaign to release Petr Jašek.

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