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…………………………………………………………. Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit

President of South Sudan

c/o Embassy of South Soudan

Avenue de France 23

1202 Geneva

Switzerland

…… March 2023

Dear Mr. President,

As a member/sympathizer of ACAT-Switzerland, I am writing to you to express my deep concern for the South Sudanese human rights defender Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak.

On 4 February 2023, he was attacked at his home in Nairobi and arbitrarily arrested by the Kenyan armed security forces and a civilian, presumably South Sudanese. His wife was beaten.

It is feared that Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak has been transferred to Juba. He has reportedly been held in solitary confinement and incommunicado since February 5 or 6 in a National Security Services (NSS) detention center. Detention without contact with the outside world favors torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as enforced disappearances. This form of detention may itself constitute torture or other forms of ill-treatment.

South Sudan is a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Article 2 of which provides that each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.

Therefore, I ask you to interfere with the South Sudanese authorities to ensure that:

* **Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak be released immediately, permanently and unconditionally, and be given the opportunity to leave South Sudan if he so wishes;**
* **Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak be protected from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment;**
* **Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak has access to his family and relatives, to legal counsel of his choice, and to appropriate medical care;**
* **the abduction of Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak be independently and impartially investigated in order to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.**

Yours respectfully,