President Salva Kiir Mayardit

Presidential Palace

Kololo Road, Juba

Juba

South Sudan

 2024

Mr. President,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding the situation of Mr. **Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak**.

On February 4, 2023, according to witnesses, Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak was abducted from his exile home in Nairobi and taken to South Sudan. There, he was reportedly held in the detention center known as the “Blue House”, run by the NSS. For over a year, his whereabouts were unknown. According to family members, he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in solitary confinement.

In April 2024, he was charged with defamation against NSS Director General, Akol Koor Kuc. Although he was released on bail the same month, the NSS continues to detain him under the pretext of investigating him for offences against the state**.**

On June10, 2024, Minister of Justice Ruben Madol Arol ordered his release and quashed the charges of ‘insulting the president and undermining the authority of the head of state’. Despite this order of release, Morris Mabior is still being detained by the NSS.

South Sudan is a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Article 9 of the ICCPR states that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, and that anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release.
South Sudan is also a party to the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT), Article 2 of which stipulates that Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.

**In view of the above, we respectfully request that you use your influence and take the appropriate steps to respond to the following requests:**

* **the immediate and unconditional release of Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak;**
* **his protection from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment;**
* **the possibility for him to leave South Sudan if he so wishes;**
* **the granting of unlimited access to his family and lawyers, as well as full medical care.**

**Finally, we demand that the abduction of Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak be independently and impartially investigated, so that those responsible can be identified and fairly tried in accordance with international standards.**

Yours sincerely,

Copy: Embassy of South Soudan, Avenue de France 23, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.