



13 May, 2016

H.E. Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir  
President of Sudan  
Office of the President  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

Via e-mail: [info@presidency.gov.sd](mailto:info@presidency.gov.sd)

Your Excellency,

We write to you representing an organization of over 100 parliamentarians, of all faith backgrounds, from 60 countries, committed to the promotion and protection of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief for all people. We had written to you in a letter dated February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, regarding the imprisonment of two Sudanese men – Mr. Telahoon Nogosi Kata Rata and Rev. Abduraheem Kodi Taour – on the grounds of merely expressing their Christian faith. We have enclosed a copy of our correspondence for reference.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Sudanese prosecutor for the release of Mr. Rata on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. It is our hope that Mr. Rata will now be free to practice the beliefs of his choosing without intimidation or interference by government authorities.

We must now appeal once more for the release of Reverend Hassan Abduraheem Kodi Taour, who remains in custody under the care of the Attorney General. In addition to still being deprived of access to his family, the charges laid against Mr. Taour – namely those related to undermining national security – are serious and carry the death penalty. We continue to fear that the charges laid against him are unsubstantiated and are an attempt by Sudanese authorities to draw attention away from a troublesome record of religious persecution. The continued imprisonment of Rev. Taour is just the latest offence in increasingly-frequent arrests of religious minorities for no more than their faith.

As was the case with Mr. Rata, we believe Rev. Taour was originally detained simply for choosing to manifest his inalienable right to religious belief.

We ask you to personally consider our appeal and ensure Rev. Taour's timely release, ever-mindful of Sudan's international legal obligations under Article 18 of the *International*

*Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, as well as Article 38 of *The Interim National Constitution of Sudan (2005)*.

Yours sincerely,

David Anderson, M.P.  
Canadian House of Commons  
Member, IPPFoRB Steering Committee

Baroness Elizabeth Berridge of the Vale of Catmose  
British House of Lords  
Member, IPPFoRB Steering Committee

Leonardo Quintão, M.P.  
Brazilian Chamber of Deputies  
Member, IPPFoRB Steering Committee

Abid Raja, M.P.  
Norwegian Parliament  
Member, IPPFoRB Steering Committee

cc. H.E. Awad Al Hassan Alnour  
Minister of Justice

H.E. Ismat Abdul Rahman Zain Al-Abdin  
Minister of Interior