



31st August 2016

Update (2)

On

COURT TRIAL OF NISS/SUDAN AGAINST PASTORS AND ACTIVIST

On 29th August 2016, the court proceedings started at 01:00 pm and the hearing was before Justice Dr. Osama M. Abdalla. The security at the court was heightened with the presence of National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), the court police, the rescue and operations police as well as prisons police.

The attendance was restricted with a limited number of Christians and the number of seats in the courtroom was not many. Regardless of objections from the defendant's lawyer, the investigator/prosecutor displayed a projector showing/exhibiting photos that he claimed belong to the first defendant. At the same time, electricity in the building went off and accordingly the judge adjourned the court to 1st September 2016 at 12:30 pm.

Summary of the court session

The judge Dr. Osama M. Abdalla started the session at Khartoum Centre Court; in attendance was the investigator, complainant, the defendants and their lawyers' committee.

The investigator counsel/ Abdurrahman displayed a projector showing photos for the first defendant/ Peter in Nuba Mountains/ SPLA-N territory with some other photos showing the air bombardment damages in schools and churches. Those photos as he mentioned were found in the defendant's memory-stick and were taken in 2012 while he was there without permission from Sudan government. The defendant's lawyer runs a hard talk with the judge when the judge ordered him not to talk directly with his client in English except through the interpreter. The lawyer objected that, the confidentiality between him and his client is a right and his discussion with him about the photos doesn't concern the judge or the translator. At last the judge promised that, he will allow the defendant's lawyer to display the photos again for the purpose of his comment.

Notes;

- The first and second defendants (Peter and Hassan) were brought with hand cuffed.
- The number of people who attended the court session was bigger than the previous one.
- Diplomatic missions' representatives and some journalists were attended the session.



HUDO Centre

- Compare to the previous session, more activist and defendants' supporters were gathered under the bridge which faces the court building.

Recommendations/ Appeal

Ensure that the international standard of justice is followed;

- HUDO urges the Sudan court to allow the public to attend.
- HUDO urges the EU, USA and other embassies to continue attending.
- HUDO urges the activists and defendants' supporters to keep on attending the trial.

End

For any further information please write to

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