

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write to express our grave concerns regarding the Sudanese court's decision to sentence eight-month pregnant Mariam Yahya Ibrahim to death due to her Christian beliefs.

Earlier this year, Ibrahim was arrested and charged with apostasy and adultery for simply converting to Christianity and marrying a Christian man. Even though Ibrahim was raised by her Christian mother, Sudanese courts consider Ibrahim a Muslim since she was born in Sudan to Muslim father. In Sudan, Muslim women are prohibited from marrying Christians. As a result of her marriage to a Christian, the court sentenced Ibrahim to 100 lashes.

What is even more concerning is that the court ordered Ibrahim to recant her faith. When Ibrahim refused by stating, "I am a Christian, and I will remain a Christian," she was sentenced to death. Awaiting her appeal, Ibrahim currently remains imprisoned with her 22-month-old son, who according to various news reports, is an American citizen.

Additionally, in response to Ibrahim's case and other systemic human rights abuses, students at Khartoum University mounted a series of protests in recent weeks calling for more freedoms and improved social and economic conditions. In response, Sudanese authorities decided to close Khartoum University indefinitely.

Both Ibrahim's case and Khartoum University's closure exemplify Sudan's continued suppression of internationally recognized human rights and freedoms, including the freedom of religion. The United States has a responsibility to promote religious freedom, and it is vital to our national security interests to support freedom in Sudan and neighboring countries. Unfortunately, under President Omar-al-Bashir, Sudan's government has continued to engage in egregious violations of freedom of religion.

We urge the State Department to condemn the ruling handed down by Sudan's court and call upon the Sudanese government to respect human rights and free Mariam Yahya Ibrahim and her young son immediately.

Sincerely,



SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



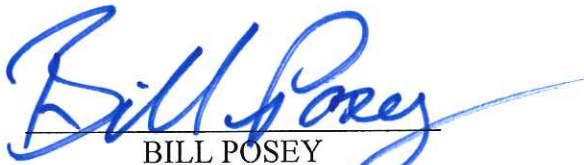
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Member of Congress



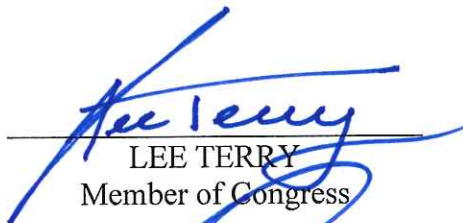
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Member of Congress



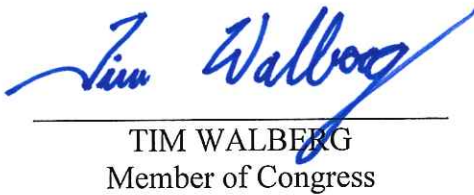
MICHELE BACHMANN
Member of Congress



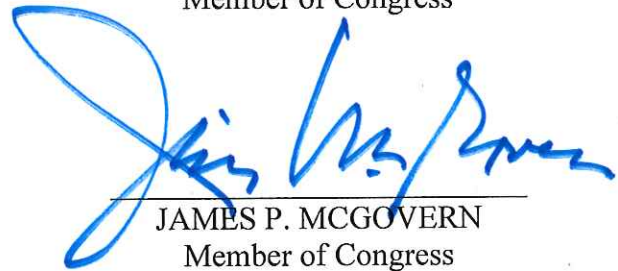
JOHN S. DUNCAN
Member of Congress



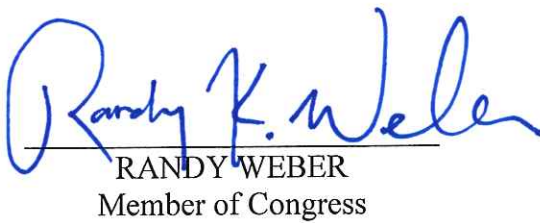
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