

## PC(USA) issues call to prayer for safety and release of two pastors detained in Sudan



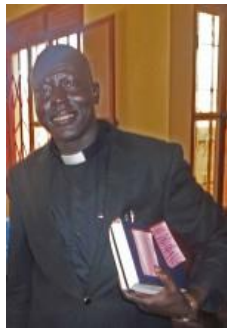
Church partners in Sudan and South Sudan have asked for prayers for the safe release of two pastors, [Rev. Yat Michael and Rev. Peter Yen Reith](#), South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, who have been detained without charge in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, since December 2014 and January 2015, respectively. **The court hearing started May 21.** Please

read the following communication received from Middle East Concern and join in prayer for these pastors.

“Christians in Sudan request our prayers for two South Sudanese pastors on trial in Khartoum.



On 14th December Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) detained **Pastor Yat Michael** (49) in Khartoum at the end of a church service. The church, Bahri Evangelical Church, has been repeatedly harassed by the authorities in recent months. Pastor Yat Michael is a minister in the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC).



On 11th January the NISS detained a second pastor from the SSPEC, **Pastor Peter Yen Reith** (36). He was detained after attending a prayer meeting in Khartoum.

Both pastors were detained incommunicado until 1st March, when their case was referred to the Prosecutor for State Security (rather than an attorney-general who deals with normal criminal cases).

On 4th May there was a procedural hearing, at which charges were declared. The pastors are charged under Sudan's Criminal Act of 1991 with the following offences: responsibility for joint criminal acts (Article 21 of the Act); undermining the constitutional system or endangering the unity and independence of the country (Article 50); waging war against the State (51); espionage (53); unlawfully obtaining or disclosing information or official documents (55); agitating hatred (64); disturbing the peace (69); and blasphemy (125).

Articles 50, 51 and 53 are crimes against the State, punishable by a life sentence, the death penalty, or lesser detention and confiscation of property. Article 55 is also a crime against the State and may be punished by two years' imprisonment and/or a fine. Articles 64 and 69 may be punished by a two-year jail sentence. Article 25 is punishable with a one-year jail sentence, a fine or 40 lashes.

The next court hearing is scheduled to take place, 19th May.

Christians in Sudan ask us to pray:

- a. that Pastors Yat Michael and Peter Yen Reith and their families will know the Lord's peace and protection
- b. that the hearing will go well and that all charges will be dropped
- c. that church leaders across Sudan will know the Lords guiding wisdom in the face of the continuing pressures against them
- d. that all officials involved will love mercy, act justly, learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him”