



H.E. Hassan Hamid Hassan
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations
305 East 47th Street, 3 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Re: Adraf Al-Hadi Mohammed Abdullah/Meriam Yeyha Ibrahim Ishag

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Center for Inquiry (CFI), an educational and advocacy organization that defends the human rights to freedom of religion, belief, and expression.

CFI is deeply troubled by the recent death sentence imposed on Meriam Yeyha Ibrahim Ishag (formerly known by her Islamic name, Adraf Al-Hadi Mohammed). Earlier today, Meriam, who is just 27 years old and eight months pregnant, was sentenced to death by hanging for the alleged offense of apostasy, before which she will be given 100 lashes, all for the supposed "crime" of marrying a Christian man. Meriam is being punished for nothing more than changing her mind in regards to religion, and marrying a man who belongs to a religion different than that of her family -- both which are universally protected human rights.

Sudan is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Article 18 of this treaty provides that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching." It also provides that "No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice." Furthermore, Article 23 provides that "The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized."

By prosecuting Meriam, and sentencing her to death, Sudan is in clear violation of the ICCPR. We call upon the Republic of the Sudan to honor its treaty promises, immediately free Meriam Yeyha Ibrahim Ishag, and end all legal proceedings against her.

We respectfully ask you to relay our concerns, which are shared by many Americans, to Sudanese government officials.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lindsay'.

Ronald A. Lindsay
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael De Dora'.

Michael De Dora
Representative to the United Nations