

# PRISONER PROFILE

Prisoner Name: **Petr Jasek**

Location: **Sudan**

Arrested: **December 2015**

## Arrest and background



Petr Jasek, a Czech Christian aid worker, is currently on trial in Sudan along with two Sudanese pastors and another Sudanese man. Officials accuse Petr and the three Sudanese of funding rebel movements in areas such as South Kordofan and Darfur. In fact, all they have done is show compassion for a student from Darfur who was badly burnt during a demonstration.

Petr, and those on trial with him - pastors Hassan Abduraheem and Kuwa Shamal, and Abdulmonem Abdumawla - are accused of at least seven crimes, including 'waging war against the state' and spying, charges for which the maximum sentence is the death penalty. Pastor Hassan highlighted the student's plight at an international conference of Christian leaders last November. A month later, Petr travelled to Khartoum to give the student \$5,000 towards his medical costs, at a meeting organised by Pastor Hassan and Abdulmonem. Security agents searching Petr's bags at Khartoum Airport found the receipt for his donation, signed by Hassan and Abdulmonem. Petr was detained on the spot; the other two men were arrested nine days later, along with Pastor Kuwa. The allegation of rebel sympathies seems to be based on the fact that the two pastors are from the Nuba mountains in South Kordofan. Pastor Kuwa has apparently been targeted because of his friendship with Hassan.

Petr Jasek has a 20-year background in the medical field, including 10 years as a hospital administrator. This experience and training uniquely qualified him to serve suffering people in places like Sudan. Petr has assisted the Christian Mission, Voice of the Martyrs, on separate occasions to provide care to persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria, including medical care for Christians attacked by Boko Haram.

In the first letter Petr sent to his family after his arrest in December 2015, he stated that, *'God holds the key to my cell. He will open the door in his timing.'*

After showing an English language video said to be recovered from Petr's laptop, the court in Khartoum postponed the hearing until later in October so that a translation into Arabic could be made. The video showed a foreigner talking with civilians from the Nuba mountains area, which according to the prosecution is evidence that Petr and the two pastors are guilty of tarnishing the image of Sudan's government by collecting information on persecution of Christians and on genocide for 'other parties hostile to Sudan'.

In a recent statement, Voice of the Martyrs spokesman Todd Nettleton said, 'These men are not spies, they were not inciting a revolt. They aren't pushing a political agenda. These four are simply trying to serve and help. Only tyrants consider helping people a crime, and the four men should be released immediately.'

Petr Jasek's family have asked Christians across the world for prayer and advocacy as the trial continues.

Four things you can do right now

**PRAY:**

1. That all four men will receive a just verdict and immediate release.
2. That God will sustain their families during this difficult time.
3. For God to protect these men mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE AUTHORITIES:**

To write a letter on behalf of Petr [Click here](#)

**SEND A CARD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO PETR:**

Mark cards for Petr Jasek and family and send to: Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington, BR5 4RT.

When writing, please do not mention Release International, advance your political opinions or include anything which could be insulting to the authorities.

**POST THIS PRISONER PROFILE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN YOUR CHURCH:**

Post this Prisoner Profile on the bulletin board in your church, Sunday school class or youth group. Share a copy with your pastor, members of your prayer group and other Christian friends.



To get updates on Petr's situation and to read about other Christian Prisoners of Faith, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/lightinthedarkestplaces> and click on email sign up.

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