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## **SUDAN | Meriam Ibrahim to Be Released on Bail**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) was informed Meriam Ibrahim and her family are to be released from police custody on bail today. Ibrahim and her husband Daniel Wani have been held together with their children, Martin and Maya, at a police station in Khartoum since June 24.

Earlier today, the prosecuting attorney extended the time of detention by 72 hours, after the initial 24-hour investigation window ended without the police concluding their investigation. Ibrahim's lawyers successfully appealed the extension, as it violated Sudan's criminal procedure rules, and the prosecutor accepted that grounds for bail had been established.

The police have charged Ibrahim with forgery and provision of false information under article 123 and 97 of the 1991 Criminal Code, due to alleged irregularities with her travel documents. Her husband was charged as an accessory to the alleged offenses. The initial accusations were levelled by the National Intelligence and Security Services, which prompted the police investigation.

The full bail conditions are not yet known, but it is anticipated they will include the surrender of all travel documentation and will prohibit Ibrahim and her husband from leaving Sudan.

As part of their investigation, the police have spoken to and received written statements from representatives of the South Sudanese Embassy, who have verified that Ibrahim's travel documents were issued by their embassy, and they are legitimate. Furthermore, the family's lawyers have highlighted the fact that the Sudanese authorities cannot investigate a crime under article 97 which relates to providing false information to a Sudanese official, as opposed to a South Sudanese official.

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, "We welcome the decision to release Mrs. Ibrahim and her family on bail but continue to be deeply concerned about their treatment. Mrs. Ibrahim and Mr. Wani's extended detention, despite the provision of credible evidence by relevant officials from the South Sudanese embassy that negates every allegation levelled against them, violates Sudan's criminal procedures as well as article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Sudan is a signatory. We call for the charges against Mrs. Ibrahim and Mr. Wani to be dropped and urge the Sudanese government to allow the family to leave the country unhindered."