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SUDAN | Decision Postponed in Trial

The judgement in the case of Rev. Hassan Abduraheem, Petr Jašek and Abdulmonem Abdumawla has been postponed to Jan. 29. The presiding judge was expected to deliver his final decision at a hearing Jan. 23. However, during today's hearing it was announced the decision would be delayed.

The three defendants, who have been in prison since December 2015, are charged with several crimes including two national security crimes which carry life imprisonment or the death penalty as maximum sentences. The trial, which started in August 2016, has been subject to several delays and postponements.

The case against the three men centers on the provision of funds for the medical treatment of Ali Omer, who was injured in a student demonstration. Their former co-defendant, Rev. Kuwa Shamal, was released from prison Jan. 2, after the trial judge concluded there was no evidence against him and dismissed the charges.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, "We continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Rev. Abduraheem, Mr. Jašek and Mr. Abdumawla, and are deeply concerned there is yet another delay in a trial that has already been subject to unnecessary postponements and undue delays. These men have committed no crimes and have been detained unjustly for over a year simply for an act of kindness. In addition to requesting their release, CSW is also calling for the Sudanese government to review the NISS's powers and to end the targeting of religious and ethnic minorities."