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CSI Secures Freedom for 305 Enslaved in Sudan

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305 Southern Sudanese Slaves Liberated CSI urges Obama to Press for Eradication of Sudanese Slavery



Freed slave Abuk Kiir is overjoyed to be reunited with her two missing children, Garang and Akoor, after nearly a year of separation. Five-year-old Garang and eight-year-old Akoor were among the 305 black Africans liberated from enslavement by Northern Sudanese masters and repatriated to Southern Sudan by Christian Solidarity International (CSI) supported slave retrievers.

Abuk and her infant son Ajong were freed from slavery last March – leaving Abuk's two other children, Garang and Akoor, behind and enslaved. Last year their master separated the older children from their mother to prevent the family from running away together. Abuk only agreed to return to Southern Sudan when the retriever Adam Musa promised to search for Garang and Akoor and bring them back to her. The retriever fulfilled his promise.



Abuk was abducted and enslaved by government-sponsored Arab militias during Sudan's North-South civil war (1983-2005). While in captivity, she was branded on her face and frequently beaten, raped and verbally abused.

While separated from their mother, Garang and Akoor were forced by their master Abdelgasim to look after goats in a remote cattle camp.

Nyanut Aruop was not as fortunate as Abuk Kiir. She was also released from bondage last March, but her three children - all fathered by her master, Mohammed Issa – were taken away from her and remain enslaved in Northern Sudan. Nyanut's hopes for her children's freedom are pinned on CSI.



Eight years ago, the U.S. government responded to CSI's anti-slavery campaign by establishing the International Eminent Persons Group to investigate slavery, abduction and forced servitude in Sudan. Their report called on the President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir "to take the lead in combating slavery in Sudan," including:

1. *Presidential appeals for the immediate release of all such victims, an announcement of the government's intent to prosecute persons who commit these abuses*
2. *The enactment of new criminal legislation and military regulations*
3. *The provision of greater resources and support to programs to trace and return victims*

Nearly six years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, these recommendations remain unfulfilled.

The CEO of Christian Solidarity International (CSI-USA), Dr. John Eibner, urged President Barack Obama and Special Envoy for Sudan, Gen. Scott Gration, to maintain continuity with the policy of their predecessors by restoring the eradication of slavery in Sudan to the agenda of the U.S. government.

"The stubborn persistence of slavery in Sudan, and the culture of racism and religious bigotry that underpins this evil institution", Eibner states, "blights the prospects of peaceful relations between the North and the South as the war-torn country approaches the referendum on Southern independence in January 2011."

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