



National Consensus Forum (NCF)

Press Release

April 3, 2024

[On the Arrest of Ex-Mayor of Juba, Kalisto Lado Wani Faustino by NISS in Juba on 30th of March 2024](#)

The NCF has learned with deep concern of the arrest of Kalisto Lado Wani Faustino, the former Mayor of Juba, by NISS agents, just before midnight on 30th of March 2024, in his home, and in front of his wife. As is usually the case, these agents had no warrant of arrest and manhandled him before bundling him off into a vehicle and taking him to some unknown destination.

The NCF condemns in the strongest terms the barbaric and unlawful arrest and torture of Mayor Kalisto Lado Wani Faustino and demands his immediate and unconditional release. By not having him charged with any crime in a court of law within 24 hours of his arrest as stipulated by the country's legal system, NISS is already in gross contravention of the country's law, amounting to a breach of Mayor Kalisto's legal rights.

Should this illegal arrest have anything to do with his recent pronouncements against the rampant land grabbing taking place in Bari villages by armed groups, then this is a violation of his freedom of speech, guaranteed by the country's interim constitution. Instead of confronting those land grabbers, the regime chooses to terrorize those who are trying to prevent them. The lone voices of Mayor Kalisto Lado Wani Faustino and those of the Bari Chiefs against the armed land grabbers are a serious indictment of the sitting government for its dereliction of duty to

protect these communities from being intimidated and robbed at gunpoint by powerful groups in the government.

This unlawful arrest of Mayor Kalisto Lado Wani Faustino is just one of the many being carried out by NISS over the years. These acts are indicative of the behavior of an unbridled roguish agency that has been given a blank cheque and is allowed to walk all over the rights of citizens, by operating outside the ambit of the laws of the country. Such unfettered powers have given free rein to NISS to arrest, kidnap, torture, maim, and kill citizens with impunity. The NISS has cast fear into the civilian population, to the extent that they have even become afraid of their own shadow in their homes.

We in the NCF appeal to all stakeholders in South Sudan, including our friends in the International Community, Civil Society Groups, Faith-based Institutions, and Human Rights Bodies to ensure that Mayor Kalisto Lado Wani Faustino is immediately released and unharmed. NCF urges the government of South Sudan to uphold human rights and the rule of law, curb the excesses of NISS, order it to release all those citizens unlawfully detained and languishing in their ghost houses, and stop it from harassing ordinary civilians already enduring the very harsh socio-economic living conditions in the country that the very government imposed on them in the first place.

The National Consensus Forum (NCF) is an umbrella organization comprising 21 South Sudanese Political, Civil Society, Women, Youth, and Faith-Based Organizations and the Academic and Professional Association and represents a major segment of the South Sudanese Society.

The End