



October 20, 2016

His Excellency
President of the Republic of South Sudan
Office of the President
Juba, Republic of South Sudan

Your Excellency,

Petition for the Reopening of *the Nation Mirror* in South Sudan

The African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX), a continental network of freedom of expression organisations in Africa, together with 120 individuals from 20 countries in Africa, Europe and America hereby appeals to you to impress on the National Security Service to reopen *The Nation Mirror* newspaper.

On September 14, 2016, agents of the National Security Service (NSS) ordered the indefinite [closure](#) of the *Nation Mirror* newspaper without any explanation.

According to local media, the newspaper was shut down because it [wrote an article](#) on an investigative report on corruption in South Sudan released by a US-based anti-corruption watchdog. The Sentry Corruption [Report](#) highlighted the link between alleged acts of public corruption and armed conflict in the country.

Your Excellency, we note the important role the media plays in giving practical meaning to the concepts of freedom of expression and right to information. The media is critical in upholding freedom of expression and promoting participatory governance. Through the media, citizens are informed about the activities of the government.

Since its establishment in May 2014, *The Nation Mirror* has earned the reputation for its critical and original content on issues of national concern. According to AFEX sources in South Sudan, the daily readership of the newspaper is about 2,500.

Censorship and the closure of *The Nation Mirror* in particular thus deny citizens their fundamental right to receive and share information and ideas as enshrined in Article 24 and Article 32 of the National Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011.

We are therefore appealing to your office to intervene in this matter and impress on the Security Service to consider reopening *The Nation Mirror* newspaper.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:

Members of African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX)

[Africa Freedom of Information Centre \(AFIC\);](#)

[Association for Media Development in South Sudan \(AMDISS\);](#)

[Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding \(CEMESP\);](#)

[Human Rights Network for Journalists – Uganda \(HRNJ-U\);](#)

[Institute for Media and Society \(IMS\);](#)

[International Press Center \(IPC\) ;](#)

[Journaliste en Danger \(JED\);](#)

[Media Foundation for West Africa \(MFWA\);](#)

[Media Institute of Southern Africa \(MISA\);](#)

[Media Rights Agenda \(MRA\);](#)

[National Union of Somali Journalists \(NUSOJ\);](#)

[West African Journalists Association \(WAJA\).](#)

Other Petitioners

Tabani Moyo

Tuver Wundi

Rashad Seini

Sue Biney

Nana

Ken Andy Anthony

Felicia Anthonio

Merci

Bawah

Delphina Bruce Appiah

Hakim Dario

Christabel Maria Biney

Vida Bugri

Gilbert Sendugwa

Munira Karim

Mirco Tagliaferri

Emmanuel Ogbeche

Gloria Agyaponmah Offih

Dorothy Noi

Rese

Ras Muba

Mirabel N
Victor Pul
Basit Wunnam
Daniella Nartey
Senyo Kpelly
Melanie Osei
Abigail
Mensah Deborah
Rita Dziwornu
Kwame Kusi
Grace Okoi
Emmanuella
Max Amihere
Effe Sackey-Barnes
David Yentebzin
Patrick Owusu
Edith
Jessica
William Osei
Rushaiya Ibrahim Tanko
Araba
Davida Dogah
Lily
Tola Oni
Esther Kapuri
Antoinette Atebono Adombire
Freda Newman
Laderricks
Muheeb Saeed
Fidelis Sesenu
Richard Koduah
Kwame Ayesu
Edzodzi
Ayode Longe
Millicent Sumbo
Maria Kargiotaki
Oana Alexandra
Akin Akingbulu
Likita
Jeffrey Hopes
Dintwe
Robert Ssempala

Moses Atak
Atem Deng
Dut Ajang
Majak D'Agoot
Akot Dut Ajeng
Ajak Yak
Shamsudeen Alhassan
Malcolm Joseph
Richard Ruati
Deng M Deng
Daisy
Moses
Juan Pablo
James Boboya
Michael D
Godwin Agoligi
Ruth Gbatoe
Nathalia
Suzana Donato Deng
Daniel
Gracious Akande
Ephraim Muchemi
Iddris Ahmed
Koang Pal
Stella Riunguh
Remember Miamingi
Agyedho Adwok
Daniella Valentino Wol
Peter Gai Manyuon
Victor Bol Dungu
Daniel Gyan
Lai Lokosang
Awak Bior
Alfred Sebit Lokuji
Ophesmur Adjeley Adjei
Christopher Panford
Nana Yaa
Cablan
Meimuna Diakite
Cynthia
Michael
Alfred Taban

Amol Mabior

Ajiek Taban

Basili Deng

Priscilla Annor

11 petitioners signed anonymously.

ABOUT AFEX

AFEX is a continental network of the most prominent African freedom of expression and media rights organisations that are also members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network of free expression organisations. The network is currently made up of twelve organisations based in West, East, Central and Southern Africa. AFEX works to increase the effectiveness of its members and to enhance the impact of their work in addressing freedom of expression challenges in Africa.

Learn more about AFEX and its members by visiting www.africafex.org