

PRISONER PROFILE

Prisoner Name: **Petr Jasek**

Location: **Sudan**

Arrested: **December 2015**

Sentenced: **Life imprisonment**



Released and reunited with his family

After spending 445 days imprisoned in Sudan on false charges that included 'espionage' and 'waging war against the state,' long-time Czech aid worker Petr Jasek is finally home with his family in Prague.

For nearly 15 months, Petr was moved between five prisons in Khartoum, each worse than the last. Along the way, Petr shared a cell with drug smugglers, violent criminals and IS fighters, and experienced physical and emotional abuse because of his Christian faith. Despite everything, he continually shared the gospel with Sudanese and Eritrean inmates, including radicals, leading several men to Christ.

Just before being released, Petr spent three days in a cell without running water. This, he said, challenged him more than anything. He was sleep deprived for the three days, as guards banged on his cell door to keep him awake, and mice crawled across his bed and body every time he lay down. While in prison Petr recited Philippians 1:12 as he considered all he had endured: 'Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.'

He said: 'This is amazing how the Lord has used my imprisonment for spreading His gospel, encouraging many believers, those who were prisoners for various reasons, but who dedicated their lives to Christ while we were there in prison and who are now serving the Lord.'

For more than 15 years, Petr has served persecuted Christians with Release's sister mission, Voice of the Martyrs, traveling regularly into the world's most hostile areas and restricted nations.

While he lost 55 pounds in prison, an intensive medical exam following his release revealed no health problems whatsoever. Petr considers this to be a miracle. He didn't expect this considering several fellow inmates had contracted malaria, and there was a cholera outbreak in the prison. 'Despite the terrible conditions, I did not get any serious illness,' he said after discussing how many others had malaria. 'The Lord is really great and He is faithful.'

Authorities arrested Petr in December 2015 after he visited Sudanese Christians and provided a small gift to help with a man's medical treatment. Three Sudanese men, Rev Kuwa Shamaal, Rev Hassan Abduraheem and Mr Abdulmonem Abdumawla, also were arrested. Petr received a 'life sentence,' which in the Sudanese system amounted to 20 years for espionage and four years for additional charges. Rev Shamaal was released on grounds of insufficient evidence. Rev Abduraheem and Mr Abdumawla remain behind bars, each serving a 12-year-sentence.

Petr saw evidence of the Sudanese church being emboldened by their circumstances in prison.

Christian brothers and sisters from Khartoum, the Nuba Mountains and elsewhere in Sudan came to the courthouse during their trials. As police tried to prevent them from approaching the building, the believers sang Christian songs. 'While we were waiting for the court hearing, we were in the court prison and we could clearly hear the voices and we had tears in our eyes,' Petr recalled. 'It was really great encouragement for us.'

Petr also found comfort knowing Christians around the world were praying for him. He is grateful for all who prayed and fasted for his safety, health, ability to witness and release.

'I can tell you how important it is for a prisoner to know people are praying,' he said.

'I personally have made the commitment to the Lord that I will be praying daily for those who are prisoners, everybody, because it is so important. We all needed prayers from you.'

PRAY:

1. That God will continue to strengthen and encourage Petr.
2. That God will comfort and sustain Rev Abduraheem and Mr Abdumawla who remain behind bars.
3. That Rev Abduraheem and Mr Abdumawla will also be released.
4. That the Church in Sudan will be emboldened and that Christians there will grow in faith.

SEND A CARD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO PETR:

Mark cards for Petr Jasek and family and send to: Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington, BR5 4RT.

POST THIS PRISONER PROFILE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN YOUR CHURCH:

Post this Prisoner Profile on the bulletin board in your church, Sunday school class or youth group. Share a copy with your pastor, members of your prayer group and other Christian friends.

To read about other Christian Prisoners of Faith, please visit

<https://lightinthedarkestplaces.org> and click on email sign up.

Last updated 16/03/2017

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in more than 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice.

© Release International 2017 www.releaseinternational.org/prisoners