



Photo taken by [Esam Idris](#)

Sudan Abolishes their Apostasy Law

 **Nasredeem Abdulbari** @nasabdulbari

لقد تم التوقيع على قانون مفوضية إصلاح المنظومة الحقوقية والعدلية لسنة 2020، وقانون التعديلات المتنوعة (الحقوق والحريات الأساسية) لسنة 2020، وقانون مكافحة جرائم المعلوماتية (تعديل) لسنة 2020، والقانون الجنائي (تعديل) لسنة 2020.

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The Human Rights and Justice System Reform Commission Act 2020 has been signed, the Miscellaneous Amendments (Fundamental Rights and Freedoms) Act 2020, the Anti-Informatics Crime (Amendment) Act 2020 and the Criminal Code (Amendment) 2020.

On 9 July 2020, [the Prime Minister Hamdok and the Minister of Justice passed](#) several acts including the Miscellaneous Amendments (Fundamental Rights and Freedoms) Act 2020 which effectively repeals the apostasy law in Sudan. A law which has existed in the country for 30 years, since *shari'a law* was first applied in Sudan, mandating the death penalty for anyone who leaves Islam.

The apostasy law in Sudan was brought to international scrutiny when the courts sentenced Mariam Ibraheem to death for apostasy, she was considered Muslim because her father was Muslim even if she grew up with her mother and was raised Christian. If [Mariam Ibraheem](#) had converted to Islam - said a few words - she would have been released, but she knew her right to belief, and she wanted her child to grow up free. Because of her stand and bravery, the nefarious reality of the apostasy laws was made evident to the world.

 **Wasil Ali - واصل علي** @wasilalithaha

BREAKING: #Sudan justice minister @nasabdulbari confirms that the government has repealed apostasy punishment in the penal code which was famously used against Meriam Yahya Ibrahim in 2014 - TV interview





Join the Rescue Meriam campaign!

Urge your representatives to support particularly H.R. 4821, "For the relief of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, Martin Wani, and Maya Wani," introduced by Representative Tom Cotton on June 10, 2014 and any other initiative needed to rescue Meriam.

To send a letter to your elected representative, go to:
[http://rescuemeriam.com/jubilee/...](http://rescuemeriam.com/jubilee/) See More

Many of you will remember - and took part in - the international rescue campaign - calling for Marian Ibraheem's release.

- [The repeal of the apostasy law](#) comes along with the banning of FGM, greater freedoms for women, the banning of [takfir](#) - *the accusation of apostasy* - and other reforms, which has been welcomed with surprised joy and some cautiousness by human rights activists and Christians in Sudan.

- **On the 11th July 2020 however**, the Sudanese Minister of Justice, [Nasr al-Din Abdel-Bari](#) provided more details about the Miscellaneous Amendments Act, and confirmed that it abolishes apostasy.

- The President Hamdok highlighted that these amendments are "an important step" to achieve the slogan of the revolution, "freedom, peace and justice," but the process for justice is ongoing .

- **Not without a fight.** To overhaul 30 years of oppression seemed an impossibility in Sudan but the [peaceful protests in 2019](#) proved the Sudanese people are strong. Now comes the process of bringing the words of the transitional government to action and the [people have been keeping the pressure on](#).

- The repeal of the apostasy law is an historic breakthrough not only for Sudan but the Islamic world where an additional 11 countries have the death penalty for leaving Islam. The *shari'a laws* in Sudan have had a stifling effect on the country, particularly on the freedoms of religion and speech. The legal reforms lock in the freedoms enjoyed during the revolution:

You could feel a new openness in almost every conversation. Sudanese have always discussed politics with a level of interest and sophistication rarely matched elsewhere.

But now criticisms are freely and loudly expressed - even of the military. And the old fear of the morality police seems to have dissipated.

[-BBC Article](#)

- But just like former President Omar Al-Bashir who had grasped for power, Islamists in Sudan are not happy about the reforms and have called for the toppling of the new government, [calling the government leaders "anti-Islam secularists"](#) for granting the Sudanese people the freedoms envisioned at the start of the revolution.

Abdalla Hamdok
@SudanPMHamdok

إجازة وتمير هذه القوانين والتعديلات الجديدة هي خطوة هامة في طريق إصلاح المنظومة العدلية من أجل تحقيق شعار الثورة: حرية سلام وعدالة، عبر قوانين ومؤسسات عدلية تضمن سيادة حكم القانون، ستستمر المراجعات والتعديلات القانونية حتى نكمل معالجة كافة التشوهات في النظم القانونية في السودان.

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Approving and passing these new laws and amendments is an important step in reforming the justice system in order to achieve the slogan of the revolution: freedom of peace and justice, through laws and judicial institutions that guarantee the rule of law, legal reviews and amendments will continue until we continue to address all distortions in the legal systems in Sudan.

Just as the international community stood with Mariam Ibraheem until her release, we need to stand with the Sudanese people and the significant reforms being made to the penal code - to ensure they are not derailed. Keep the pressure on.

Please pray:

- Thank God for these incredible changes in Sudan.
- Pray that they will be fully implemented and that those who are trying to derail the process will fail.
- Pray that diplomats and the international community will stand alongside the Sudanese people and support the amendments and ongoing reforms for freedom.

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