



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Celebrating Release of Petr Jasek from Sudanese Prison

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Petr Jasek, a Czech citizen visiting Sudan to provide humanitarian aid to needy Sudanese, was released from prison last week after being arrested in December 2015 and sentenced to life imprisonment for various unsubstantiated crimes. **Congressman Trent Franks** (AZ-08), **Congressman Tom Garrett** (VA-05), **Former Congressman Mark Siljander** President of Bridges to Common Ground, and **Nadine Maenza** Chairman of Hardwired Global, held a press conference to celebrate the release of Mr. Jasek and call for greater unity and partnership in promoting and protecting religious liberties in Sudan. The group released the following statements:

Congressman Trent Franks: “Today we celebrate what we hope is just the beginning of a major shift in Sudanese policy toward Christians and other minority groups there. The International Religious Freedom Caucus sent a letter to President Bashir this past December calling for the release of Petr Jasek. We are grateful to President Bashir, Ambassador Maowia Khalid, and National Congress Speaker Ibrahim Omer, for their good faith efforts in this matter.” Contact: [Destiny Edwards](#)

Congressman Tom Garrett: “This unfortunate case has unfolded for over a year and I am happy to report that within a week of our meetings with these respective countries, Mr. Jasek was released. I commend [the Czech Republic and Sudan] for working on a swift release and look forward to continuing my role in the negotiations to overturn the imprisonment of the remaining two Sudanese pastors and provide them refugee status under the J-2 visa program.” Contact: [Andrew Griffin](#)

Former Congressman Mark Siljander: “*Bridges to Common Ground* celebrates the pardon and release of Mr. Petr Jasek of the Czech Republic, previously sentenced to life in prison in Sudan. I commend Sudanese President Omar al Bashir’s pardon of Mr. Jasek as an expression

of the new era for relations between the United States and Sudan.”

Contact: [Gary Waldron](#)

Nadine Maenza: “I am grateful for Petr Jasek's release and for all of the support he has received over the past year. This includes the local Muslim lawyers defending Petr and the other men imprisoned with him. These courageous leaders are constantly risking their lives for Christians and other vulnerable groups. It is an important reminder that religious conflict is **not** inevitable: peace and stability are possible when people come together to defend human dignity for all.” Contact: [Nadine Maenza](#)

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