

Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations  
336 East 45th Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing in concern for Magai Matioy Ngong, a 17-year-old on death row in South Sudan. He was 15 years old when he was convicted of the murder of his cousin and sentenced to death by hanging. During his trial, Magai told the judge that he was only 15 years old at the time of the crime and that his cousin's death was an accident. Magai did not have a lawyer during his trial.

Anyone below 18 years of age at the time they were involved in a crime, must not be sentenced to death, let alone be executed. How old they are at the time of trial or sentencing is not relevant. The use of the death penalty against people like Magai is strictly prohibited by Section 21(2) the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011 and under international human rights law (Article 37(a) of the Convention on the Rights of a Child, to which South Sudan is a party.

Last year, seven people were hanged in South Sudan: one of them, like Magai, was just a child. This must stop and Magai's death sentence must be cancelled.

Yours sincerely,