

Statement on the situation in South Sudan

Please find below a statement on the situation in South Sudan signed by colleague NGOs.

--- Statement of Sudanese and South Sudanese Civil Society on the Conflict in South Sudan

Geneva, Kampala, New York, Tuesday 24 December 2013

We, the undersigned, representatives of civil society organisations from Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan wish to express our deep concern about the military confrontations that erupted in the Republic of South Sudan on 15 and 16 December 2013. We are utterly disturbed that the violence, which started in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, has now spread to other parts of the country. This unexpected development threatens the foundation of the nascent nation and puts to jeopardy the safety and well-being of its citizens.

We wish to stress our conviction that violence and the destruction of lives and livelihoods serve no purpose and deepen the humanitarian and human rights challenges faced by the government and people of South Sudan. It is also our belief that open and free dialogue that yield a mutually accepted agreement reached through the informed opinion of all the concerned parties, constitute the only way to resolve the current political differences in South Sudan.

We appeal to the political leadership of the Republic of South Sudan to put the interest and aspirations of the populace for peaceful coexistence, progress, development and happiness as their prime objective and mission. This requires greater political sacrifices from all the conflicting parties in South Sudan and we are confident that all those concerned in that part of our country are bestowed with the necessary courage and wisdom to pursue such objectives.

We appeal to the President of the Republic of South Sudan to release, with immediate effect, all persons held for expressing political views critical of the government performance and to start, without conditions, a process of national reconciliation and political dialogue with such persons and with those who are currently under arms against the government.

We appeal to the Heads of State and Government members of the African Union, particularly members of the IGAD countries, to continue to place the situation in South Sudan as a top priority on their agendas and to consider rendering their good offices and personal intervention with the parties to the conflict in view of reaching a negotiated peaceful settlement of the on-going conflict.

We appeal to all States neighbour of the Republic of South Sudan to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs or to extend military or similar support to any party to the conflict or to take advantage of the situation for ulterior motives, but to play instead a

role of promoting dialogue and reconciliation between the parties for a peaceful South Sudan.

We appeal to the humanitarian community to redouble their efforts in providing the necessary humanitarian assistance and make available basic materials needed by a growing number of civilians in different parts of the country.

We pay due tribute to all the victims of the on-going conflict, including UN staff and peacekeepers, who lost their lives on the line of duty.

Signed:

1. Abdelbagi Jibril: Darfur Relief and Documentation Centre 2. Dr. Abdelgabar Adam: Darfur Human Rights Organization of the USA 3. Abdelmageed Haroun: HAND 4. Biel Botrous Biel: South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy 5. Bushra Gamar Hussein Rahma: South Kordofan Human Rights and Development Organisation 6. Faisal El-Bagir: Journalists for Human Rights (JHR-Sudan) 7. Dr. Farouk Mohamed Ibrahim: Sudanese Organisation for the Defence of Rights and Freedoms 8. Hafiz Mohamed Ismael: Justice Africa Sudan 9. Hala Alkarib: Regional Director, SIHA Network 10. Dr. Hamid El-Tigani Ali: Associate Professor, American University in Cairo 11. Jimmy Mulla: Voices for Sudan 12. Dr. Luka Biong Deng: Kush Inc. 13. Mahjoub Mohammed Salih: Editor-in-Chief, Al-Ayam Newspaper 14. Mohamed Abdalla El-Doma: Darfur Bar Association 15. Dr. M. Jalal Hashim: Sudanese Association for the Defence of Freedom of Opinion and Conscience (SADFOC) 16. Nabil Adib Abdalla: Sudan Human Rights Monitor 17. Dr. Nada Mustafa Ali: Visiting Professor, Women and Gender Studies, Clark University 18. Nasredeen Abdulbari: Columbia University 19. Niemat Ahmadai: Darfur Women Action Group 20. Osman Hummaida: African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies 21. Rashid Saeed Yagoub: Journalist , France 22. Shamsaddin Dawalbait: Project on Democratic Thought and Islamic Reform 23. Professor Sidiga Washi: Babiker Badri Scientific Association for Women Studies 24. Sabri Elshareef: Center for Democracy and Peace, New Jersey 25. Dr. Suliman Baldo: Sudan Democracy First Group 26. Suliman Hamid: Blue Nile Center For Justice and Human Rights

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