

**TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
WORKING GROUP
SOUTH SUDAN**



To: President of the United Nations Security Council
President of the United Nations Human Rights Council
The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Hon. Alpha Oumar Konare, the AU special envoy to South Sudan
Hon. Festus Mogae, Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation
Commission (JMEC)

11 July, 2016
Juba, South Sudan

Your Excellencies,

We, the civil society Transitional Justice Working Group in South Sudan (TJWG) express our deep concern about the continued violence in our beloved country. The violence has resulted in the killings of hundreds of military personnel and combatants from both sides as well as civilians. Displaced civilians taking shelter at United Nations protection of civilians sites (PoCs) have been subjected to systematic and deliberate attack and UN peace keepers have been injured and one confirmed dead during the attacks. We take note that both sides are organizing possible reinforcements and that the conflict has spread from Juba to other parts of the Equatorias. We note that there is a general lack of command and control among the fighting forces of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO).

Having regard to the prevailing circumstances, we hereby call upon all regional and international actors to take appropriate measures to protect the people of South Sudan, particularly civilians, and more so women and children.

We appreciate the urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council that took place on 10 July and the concern expressed in the statement of the Council. We urge the Security Council to take stronger measures to mandate the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to take more robust measures to protect civilian lives and prevent further threat to those in PoC sites. We further call for the concurrent strengthening of the capability of UNMISS to enable them to appropriately respond to the uncontrolled nature of the violence.

We furthermore call upon African leaders in the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Heads of States of neighbouring countries to ensure that an end is brought to the violence in Juba and other parts of South Sudan. We appreciate the calls of the United States of America to this effect.

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We call upon the Human Rights Council and the broader international community to investigate the violent incidents that have been ongoing since 7 July 2016 after armed clashes occurred at Gudele, Juba. We recommend that those responsible for the violence be identified, named as soon as possible and brought to justice. We call for the full implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) and for an end to the culture of impunity in South Sudan. We note that the people of South Sudan have been subjected to unnecessary and prolonged suffering and that this needs to end by all necessary means. We therefore, urge all parties to the conflict to observe an immediate and permanent cessation of hostilities.

Lastly, we extend our thoughts and sympathies to all innocent civilians currently hiding in bushes, under their beds in their houses and the UNMISS PoC sites.

The TJWG is a coalition of pre-existing civil society organisations interested or engaged in transitional justice issues, complemented by experts on the subject matter. The TJWG was established as a platform to support the implementation of Chapter V of the ARCSS, and to provide interface between national and international transitional justice stakeholders and the official transitional justice processes. The TJWG aims to advocate for transitional justice; ensure a strengthened civil society voice on the debates around the design and implementation of transitional justice processes; and coordinate a complementary civil society role within those processes, including support to the documentation of human rights violations.

Sincerely,

1. Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA)
2. Dialogue and Research Initiative (DRI)
3. Human Rights Development Organization (HURIDO)
4. South Sudan Law Society (SSLS)
5. South Sudan Women Empowerment Network (SSWEN)
6. Foundation for Democratic and Accountable Governance (FODAG)
7. Solidarity Ministry Africa for Reconciliation and Development (SMARD)

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