

10 July 2016

To: The members of the UN Security Council

Cc: The African Union Peace and Security 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

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned South Sudanese civil society organisations, urge all members of the UN Security Council to swiftly condemn and respond to the armed hostilities and political instability that are occurring in Juba since last Friday. The sustained level of armed hostilities between government and opposition forces signify a complete rupture of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

We are gravely concerned that the current fighting in Juba between government and opposition forces is leading to a state of all-out war. If the fighting cannot be contained and ended as soon as possible, then the lives of all civilians living in Juba – and the entire country – will be in dire peril. That the fighting in Juba has come just after armed hostilities in Wau, Yei, Kajo-Keji and elsewhere in the country signifies a complete breakdown of the peace process. The people of South Sudan need the UN Security Council to act now, more than ever.

We call on you to utilise all of the means at your disposal in order to de-escalate further tensions and clashes between armed troops, which would put our country's future at risk.

Specifically, we recommend that you:

1. Publicly condemn the ongoing armed hostilities in Juba and elsewhere in South Sudan, and urge the warring parties to ensure that civilians are protected from harm as a matter of top priority.
2. Work closely with President Salva Kiir and First Vice-President Riek Machar, together with the AU Special Envoy to South Sudan and Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, to achieve an immediate cessation of hostilities.
3. Authorise all means necessary to achieve a ceasefire, protect the civilian population and civil society and humanitarian agencies working in South Sudan, hold accountable those who are found responsible for the current violence and to deliver consequences to signal that further breaches of the ceasefire, and of the peace agreement as a whole, will not be tolerated.

Your strong response to the current dangerous situation in our country would send a clear message to all South Sudanese citizens that you stand by them in their time of great need.

Respectfully,

1. African Centre for Transitional Justice (ACT-J)
2. Agency for Independent Media (AIM)

3. Citizens for Peace and Justice (CPJ)
4. Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)
5. Dialogue and Research Initiative (DRI)
6. End Impunity Organization (EIO)
7. Federation of Women Laywers-South Sudan (FIDA-South Sudan)
8. Foundation for Democratic and Accountable Governance (FODAG)
9. Human Rights Development Organization (HURIDO)
10. International Youth for Africa (IYA)
11. Organization for Nonviolence and Development (ONAD)
12. Rally for Peace and Democracy (RPD)
13. Support Peace Initiative Development Organization (SPIDO)
14. South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA)
15. South Sudan Democracy and Elections Monitoring and Observation Program (SSUEMOP)
16. South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy (SSHURSA)
17. South Sudan Law Society (SSLS)
18. South Sudan Network for Democracy and Elections (SSUNDE)
19. South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network (SSWDN)
20. South Sudan Youth Peace and Development Organization (SSYPADO)
21. Sudd Institute
22. Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDO)