

H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma
Chairperson of the African Union Commission
Addis Ababa

25 April 2014

Your Excellency,

We write to you as South Sudanese women who are committed to restoring peace in South Sudan through our various peace building activities and are signatories to the attached Support Statement from the African Women's Caucus of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and other organizations. The statement was signed by 127 organizations and calls on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for the full participation of South Sudanese women in the peace process.

The women of South Sudan would like to congratulate the African Union (AU) for setting up the Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and highly welcome your team to our country.

We are very concerned with the ongoing crisis in our country and especially the escalation of violence in towns of Bor, Bentiu, Malakal, Renk, Mayom and Mapel. This conflict has taken another different dimension where serious violations of human rights and especially violations against women's rights are occurring. These include physical attacks on women, acts of rape and other forms of extreme violence against women. Both the government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLA/M in opposition are dragging the peace talks,, which is not in favor of all the citizens of South Sudan and especially women and children.

It is in this context that we the women of South Sudan are kindly requesting your attention and support to the below recommendations to ensure that:

1. Both conflicting sides immediately stop the horrendous killings of innocent civilians.
2. AU exerts more pressure on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to commit and take a higher moral ground in the peace process, and the Opposition to commit to dialogue.
3. To support the women of South Sudan to ensure their continuous participation in the ongoing peace process.
4. Ensure a woman mediator is included in the IGAD mediation team.
5. Call on the government of the Republic of South Sudan to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the African Women's Rights Protocol, and complete the process of the development of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 national action plan for South Sudan.

Sincerely,

1. Christian Agenda for Development (CAD), South Sudan
2. Project Education South Sudan (PESS), South Sudan
3. EVE Organization for Women Development, South Sudan
4. Voice for Change, South Sudan
5. Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), South Sudan
6. Support the Empowerment of Women and their Rights for Development

- Organisation (STEWARD), South Sudan
7. The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA), South Sudan
 8. Sudan and Sudan
 9. Baptist Relief Agency (BARA), South Sudan
 10. Diar for Rehabilitation and Development Association, Sudan/South Sudan
 11. Global Partnership for Peace in South Sudan, USA
 12. Community Action Water Program (CAWP), South Sudan
 13. Sudanese Women Action Network (SWAN)
 14. Women and Youth Empowerment Initiative (WYEI)
 15. The South Sudanese Community, USA
 16. South Sudan Women United, USA
 17. Hearts of Angels for Health South Sudan Initiative, USA
 18. Women for Women International, South Sudan
 19. National Empowerment Positive Women United (NEPWU), South Sudan
 20. Skills for South Sudan - Juba, South Sudan
 21. Women aid Africa for Peace and Reconciliation, South Sudan
 22. Women and Child Development Project, South Sudan
 23. Catholic Youth Association, South Sudan
 24. CARITAS, South Sudan
 25. Women Selfhelp Development Organization, South Sudan
 26. Jonglei State Youth Union, South Sudan
 27. Mothers Union Archdiocese of Torit, South Sudan
 28. Women Development Group, South Sudan
 29. Sawa Sawa Women Development and Peace Society, South Sudan
 30. Vulnerable Children Society, South Sudan
 31. Pita Women Organization for Development (PWAD), South Sudan
 32. Care for Children and Old Age in South Sudan (CCOSS), South Sudan

P.S. For additional information, please contact Ms. Rita Martin, Executive Director for EVE Organization for Women Development; Juba South Sudan. Email: infor@evesouthsudan.org / eve.sudan@gmail.com Cell: +211912818715