

# Press Statement from South Sudanese Women Civil Society Organizations Consultation Meeting Organized by EVE Organization for Women Development and Voice for Change (VFC)

## *Who will wipe our Tears?*

*For Immediate Release*

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2014, South Sudanese Women Civil Society Organizations convened at Juba Grant Hotel to discuss a way forward in the quest for finding a lasting solution to the current on-going violent conflict in South Sudan. The women with deep regret and sadness wish to convey a message of condolence to the families of those who lost their lives in Bentiu, Malakal, Renk, Mayom and Bor, attacks in recent days. At the wake of renewed attacks and more specifically the attack on civilians in different parts of the country, we are alarmed and call for immediate action from both the government and the Opposition to stop the killings. The women in strongest terms condemn the mob attack on citizens in the UNMISS camp which serves as home for nearly 5,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Bor town and civilian population in Bentiu and other parts of South Sudan.

In our opinion, the direction this whole disagreement and misunderstanding within the ruling elite of South Sudan would have been addressed through a non-violent approach. The people of South Sudan are tired of war and expect our government to take higher moral ground in leading the peace process.

As concerned citizens of this country and stakeholders in the development of South Sudan, we the women wish to take this opportunity to applaud the President of the Republic of South Sudan for the step he has taken to pardon and release the Political Detainees, the Judiciary for handling the case in a professional way, the Political Detainees for their strong position in support of peace and specifically promoting a non-violent approach. We also call upon the leader of SPLM in Opposition Dr. Riak Machar to take a step toward peace and accept dialogue.

It is in this context that concerned South Sudanese Women Civil Society Organizations and individual Women Activists held a one day consultation meeting to strongly discuss a way forward for restoring peace and stability in South Sudan. After deliberations and consultation, the meeting resolved the following;

1. Establish a National Women Platform for Peace and organize a national women conference to discuss effective women contribution and consolidate efforts towards restoration of peace and stability in South Sudan
2. Organize prayer meetings in collaboration with the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation with both Houses of the National Legislature and the Women Parliamentarians Caucus and a public prayer for peace
3. Organize periodic solidarity visits to the IDPs and the affected communities and engage the elders
4. Women Organizations/Groups at the state level **MUST** participate in the monitoring and verification of the cessation of hostilities agreement and the AU Commission for Inquiries
5. Women need to work together so that we can survive together as a nation

### **Signed:**

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|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. SSWP      | 11. SSUDEMOP         | 21. BUSINESS WOMEN |
| 2. WAAPD     | 12. GEWLP            |                    |
| 3. WCDP      | 13. UPD              |                    |
| 4. VFC       | 14. EVE Organization |                    |
| 5. PWAD      | 15. EEWAYE           |                    |
| 6. SSUNDE    | 16. EWA              |                    |
| 7. SSWLP     | 17. CWYE             |                    |
| 8. PDRA/WCAD | 18. WCD              |                    |
| 9. COP/CES   | 19. TASK FORCE       |                    |
| 10. AMWISS   | 20. SSWLP            |                    |

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