



Member of the European Parliament

Ms Federica Mogherini
Vice-President of the European Commission
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European External Action Service
Rue de la Loi, 200
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Wednesday 4th February, 2015

Dear High Representative/Vice President,

On Sunday, South Sudan rivals Kiir and Machar agreed on a new ceasefire deal which provides for a cessation of hostilities effective from Monday, but failed to reach a comprehensive agreement on the power-sharing deal proposed by IGAD to definitively end a conflict that started 13 months ago and has left tens of thousands dead. The latest peace proposal drafted in Addis Ababa by IGAD would leave Salva Kiir as president and re-install rebel leader Riek Machar as his deputy, a position he held until July 2013 power-struggle triggered the conflict. This ceasefire agreement is highly welcome as it could, at least, end the killings, but should be viewed with much caution as it does not fully address South Sudan's underlying problems and tribal divisions.

Reconciliation won't come without justice. South Sudan will never heal if perpetrators of human rights abuses and sexual violence are never held accountable. Impunity is a serious threat that might renew hostilities. The African Union's report from Obasanjo's Commission of Inquiry represents the beginning of the end of impunity in South Sudan. The revelations of this report, followed by a credible accountability mechanism could play a crucial role in avoiding further rumors and crimes. The population needs to see the perpetrators of these atrocities brought to justice. A number of organisations based in South Sudan have forcefully called for the public release of this report in a statement sent by a large group of South Sudanese partners to the AU PSC. The United Nations has publicly called on the AU Peace and Security Council to release the report in its entirety, with UN Assistant Secretary General Ivan Simonovic calling the shelving of the report "a very disturbing development". Navi Pillay, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also launched a strong call for the report to be released in an opinion article published around the world. The European Union has a key role to play to help break this cycle of violence and impunity in South Sudan. EU representatives in the region must urge African leaders to make this report available to the public. By pushing the AU PSC to release the report, the EU would demonstrate its commitment to promoting Human Rights and accountability.

High Representative/Vice President, the future of South Sudanese people is also within our hands. The EU needs to stay mobilized. You can count on our support in assuring our leaders do not forget about South Sudan.

Yours faithfully,

Petr JEZEK (ALDE, CZ)
Petras AUSTREVICIUS (ALDE, LT)

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Louis MICHEL (ALDE, BE, chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly)
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