



**4 November 2014**

**Petition to members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development– immediate embargo on arms supplies to South Sudan**

We, the undersigned, call on members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to immediately impose a comprehensive arms embargo on South Sudan. We also call on IGAD to issue a communiqué requesting that the United Nations (UN) Security Council adopt a resolution imposing a comprehensive international arms embargo.

Since the conflict in South Sudan broke out in December 2013, tens of thousands of people, many of them civilians, have been killed and 1.8 million forced to flee their homes. Parties to the conflict have used small arms and light weapons, and a range of other conventional arms and military equipment, to facilitate and commit war crimes and crimes against humanity. These include targeting individuals, including women and children, based on their ethnicity, and killing civilians seeking refuge in hospitals and places of worship.

Any additional weapons imported into South Sudan are likely to be used to commit further atrocities.

So far, agreements to cease hostilities and protect civilians have failed. Representatives of the government and the opposition forces signed a cessation of hostilities agreement on 23 January 2014, and agreed to renew this agreement on 5 May 2014. On 9 May 2014, President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, leader of the opposition forces, signed an agreement “to resolve the conflict.” However, these agreements have not only been ignored by both sides, they have also failed to deter both forces from carrying out targeted violence against civilians. An arms embargo is needed to halt the supply of weapons to individuals and groups who have committed gross violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity and to protect civilians at grave risk.

An arms embargo, first imposed by IGAD and then by the UN Security Council, would require every state to take measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of arms to South Sudan. Such an embargo should last until effective mechanisms can ensure that weapons, munitions and other military equipment and technology sent to South Sudan will not be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. It must also ensure that alleged violations of the embargo are thoroughly and impartially investigated and a system of accountability is put in place, so that any person responsible for a deliberate violation is brought to justice in a fair trial.

Even before an IGAD arms embargo comes into effect, we call on IGAD’s member states to immediately suspend international arms transfers to South Sudan.

1. Action Support Center (South Africa)
2. African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (Uganda)
3. Alternativa Antimilitarista MOC (Spain)
4. Amnesty International (United Kingdom)
5. Assistance Missions for Africa (South Sudan)
6. Association of Media Women in South Sudan (South Sudan)
7. Bund für Soziale Verteidigung (Federation for Social Defence) (Germany)

8. Change Agency Association (South Sudan)
9. Charity Aid Foundation (United Kingdom)
10. Chemchemi Ya Ukweli (Kenya)
11. Citizens for Peace and Justice (South Sudan)
12. Clip-Poverty (South Sudan)
13. Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (South Sudan)
14. Community Initiative for Rural Development (South Sudan)
15. Cordaid (The Netherlands)
16. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (Uganda)
17. Embrace Dignity (South Africa)
18. End Impunity Organization (South Sudan)
19. Enough Project (United States)
20. Equatoria Rehabilitation and Development Association (South Sudan)
21. Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (Uganda)
22. Global Witness (United Kingdom)
23. Human Rights Development Organization (South Sudan)
24. Human Rights Watch (United States)
25. Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (United Kingdom)
26. Institut für Friedensarbeit und Gewaltfreie Konfliktaustragung (Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation) (Germany)
27. International Centre for Policy and Conflict (Kenya)
28. Juba Civic Engagement Centre (South Sudan)
29. Justice Africa (United Kingdom)
30. Ligue des Droits de la personne dans la région des Grands Lacs (Rwanda and Burundi)
31. Losolia Rehabilitation and Development Association (South Sudan)
32. Organization for Nonviolence and Development (South Sudan)
33. Oxfam
34. PAX (The Netherlands)
35. Rally for Peace and Democracy (South Sudan)
36. Save the Children (United Kingdom)
37. Seed for Democracy for South Sudan (South Sudan)
38. South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (South Sudan)
39. South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy (South Sudan)
40. South Sudan Law Society (South Sudan)
41. South Sudanese Network on Democracy and Elections (South Sudan)
42. Soweto Community Based Organization (South Sudan)
43. Standard Action Liaison Focus (South Sudan)
44. Support Peace Initiative Development Organization-South Sudan (South Sudan)
45. The ROOTS Project (South Sudan)
46. Union pacifiste de France (France)
47. Voice for Change (South Sudan)
48. Voice for Nyala (United Kingdom)
49. Waging Peace (United Kingdom)
50. War Resisters League (United States)
51. Women Development Group (South Sudan)

