

Press Statement
Government of the Republic of South Sudan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
21 May 2015

Recently, a number of countries and organizations issued statements accusing the Government of the Republic of South Sudan of violating the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, committing human rights abuses, denying access to humanitarian agencies and freedom of movement to UN personnel and Monitoring Verification Team (MVT) in regards to the offensive activities by the rebels in Unity State. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan deeply regrets such unfounded allegations.

As all may recall, since the aborted coup and ensuing rebellion on 15 December 2013, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan immediately started to cooperate with the regional and the international community in finding lasting solution to the conflict. The government has since been unconditionally negotiating in good-faith in Addis-Ababa with the rebels under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Peace Mediation and signed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 23 January 2014 and has remained committed to its implementation.

On the alleged violations of human rights, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan as a member of the United Nations would like to stress that it is committed to the observance of international law. Hence, it has recently acceded to a number of Human Rights Conventions and Agreements.

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan therefore categorically refutes its forces have committed the alleged grave human rights violations. However, should there be any isolated cases of abuse committed by individuals, the government will carry out necessary investigations and the culprits will be brought to justice, as the government does not condone in any way impunity.



As for humanitarian access, the government has been cooperating with the humanitarian agencies to deliver assistance to the affected population anywhere in South Sudan. In so doing, it has always permitted the humanitarian agencies to carry out their work including the rebel held areas without any restriction. For instance, the EU Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Respond Commissioner was recently given a permission to enter areas controlled by the rebels. In this regard, the government would like to reaffirm its readiness to cooperate with the humanitarian agencies and urges the international community to continue providing humanitarian assistance. Despite the fact that some UN Agencies have ordered to evacuate their personnel from Unity State, the government would like to clearly point out that it has not been hindering the movement of the humanitarian workers, MVT and the UN personnel in the affected areas.

Referring to the calls to impose sanctions on South Sudan, the government strongly believes that sanctions are not the ideal solution to resolve South Sudan's conflict, but on the contrary they derail peace process. What the Government of South Sudan expects from the regional and international community is to support the peace process through dialogue.

In the light of the above, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan would like to reassure once again its commitment to achieve peace in the country through peaceful means under the auspices of the IGAD Mediation with the assistance of the Troika and the international community. It has to be emphasised that the Government is by no means seeking to achieve peace by military solution.

In search for a lasting and sustainable peace, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan urges the IGAD and the international community to exert more efforts, for the two parties to resume negotiations and reach a lasting solution as soon as possible. The Government Negotiating Team is ever ready to go to Addis-Ababa at any time called upon.

