



April 22, 2013

## **Statement on South Sudan on the Release of the State Department's Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012**

On April 19, 2013, the Department of State released its annual Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2012. We commend the Department on its continuing efforts to document ongoing human rights abuses around the world. The report included for the first time a review of an entire year in the life of the world's newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan.

We, the undersigned organizations, want to express our concern about the human rights situation in South Sudan. According to the 2012 report, elements of the Government of South Sudan have engaged in human rights violations or failed to bring perpetrators to justice, including:

- Extrajudicial killings, rape, torture and other violence by security forces during the Jonglei disarmament operation, in other areas suffering intercommunal conflict and in other situations.
- Arbitrary detention of independent journalists and perceived opponents of the government by security forces.
- Military detention of opposition party members and figures accused of rebel activities without charges
- Failure to promote accountability for extrajudicial killings and other human rights abuses by investigating or funding investigation of, including insufficient response to intercommunal violence in Jonglei, the shooting of peaceful protesters in Wau by security forces, the murder of an independent journalist, and other cases of violence against individuals perceived as opponents of the government.

These abuses were compounded by the expulsion without warning of a senior member of the UNMISS mission responsible for human rights.

We believe this report is an opportunity for the Government of South Sudan to address these abuses, both through investigation and by ensuring such abuses do not occur in the future, as well as carrying out the action plan it has signed with the UN, acceding to all relevant human rights treaties, and moving forward with the planned national reconciliation process. We urge the Government of South Sudan to rededicate itself to these efforts.

We believe the United States and the international community should continue to urge the Government of South Sudan to address these violations immediately and to assist in efforts, in partnership with the Government of South Sudan, to increase training for South Sudan's military and security forces in human rights, civilian protection and accountability. The U.S. government and the international community should also support strengthening existing accountability mechanisms within the Government of South Sudan, including efforts to combat impunity of the security forces, and to support an independent and transparent South Sudan National Human Rights Commission. The United States should also ensure full funding for its contribution to UNMISS.

Act for Sudan

American Jewish World Service

The Enough Project

Humanity United

United to End Genocide