



Monday 27 January 2014

PRESS-STATEMENT

SSuNDE Welcomes the Signing of Cessation of Hostilities

Monday, 27 January 2014, Juba – The South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSuNDE) strongly appreciates the effort of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), supported by the African Union (AU), for having endlessly and humanely committed itself to standing with the people of South Sudan to see to it that peace continues to prevail in this new nation without the use of arms.

SSuNDE commends the signatories for signing the cessation of hostilities and remains hopeful that this will end the violence that has lasted for more than one month, which has created massive loss of lives and property, and vast displacement of citizens within and outside the country.

SSuNDE urges the signatories to commit themselves to the signed peace agreement without violation, find a pathway for the remaining outstanding issues to be discussed, and build confidence in the mediating team and likewise other international communities that are supporting the peace process.

We equally call upon the international and national communities to support IGAD in setting up a strong body that will monitor implementation of this Agreement, such as the AU, the European Union (EU), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United States of America (USA); as well as civil society organizations, community leaders and religious leaders in South Sudan.

We urge all sides to allow the humanitarian aid workers to execute their duties without interference. Experience has shown that the support of the international community and humanitarian aid workers has been very instrumental, especially that of UNMISS. Without its support a massacre would have taken place in South Sudan.

Dialogue should begin among the South Sudanese across the 10 states involving community leaders, religious leaders and, especially, civil society organizations (CSOs) representing every sector. The CSOs should take the lead with support from the international community. The dialogue will provide a peaceful environment that is tolerant of diversity.

SSuNDE calls upon all the media houses both national and international to exercise professionalism when sending messages at this critical moment so that peace will be forged easily among South Sudanese.



We urge the parties that signed the cessation of hostilities agreement to remain committed to the negotiation on the remaining outstanding issues as scheduled by IGAD.

The South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections is the largest and most vibrant civil society network in South Sudan with over 75 civil society organizations as members (CSOs). Formed in April 2009 and registered with the Ministry of Justice, SSuNDE became a national coalition with activities all over the 10 states of South Sudan through its network of CSO member organizations in each state.

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