



**Press Statement**

**Date-24-2-2014**

**SSuNDE urges South Sudan's warring parties  
to provide peaceful atmosphere for negotiation**

The South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSuNDE) commends the government and the rebel group for returning to the second phase of peace talks.

Cessation of hostilities should be respected by the two warring parties, taking into consideration the legality of the agreement signed and not forgetting the peace demands of the miserable South Sudanese citizens who are lamenting for peace daily and waiting to hear the progress of the talks.

We urge both the government and the rebel group to commit to creating a conducive atmosphere for negotiations. It is well known that negotiation with an open mind and positive thinking is of paramount importance at this time, and that negotiation for the sake of attendance without talking on issues will not yield the fruit of peace unless the love for this nation is in the minds of the parties. It is paramount that the thirst for peace has to be at the forefront of the discussion, taking into account humanity and the involvement of reputable civil society organizations (CSOs), faith based organizations, women's groups and youth.

The position of the detainees has to be made clear by the government as provided in the Cessation of Hostility Agreement.

SSuNDE is appealing to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to formalize the agreement with the cease fire observer team that is to be deployed to actively support the implementation process of Cessation of Hostilities to build confidence into the civil population on the peace talk.

We finally urge IGAD to draft a statement asking the warring parties to declare their final military operation positions which will then be used by the monitoring team to measure any attack and factually identify the bridge of Agreement by either of the two parties.

The South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSuNDE) is the largest and most vibrant civil society network in South Sudan with over 75 CSOs as members. . 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.

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