



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NDI CALLS FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE AND  
INCLUSIVE NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN SOUTH SUDAN**

WASHINGTON – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) expressed deep concern today about the violence in South Sudan and the reports of increasing casualties. It joined other international organizations, regional bodies and governments in calling for a cessation of the conflict.

"The continuing violence represents a direct threat to the foundation of democracy in South Sudan," said NDI President Kenneth Wollack. "Dialogue, inclusive governance and peaceful competition at the ballot box are the best ways to promote and protect the democratic process in Africa's newest country."

NDI called for a national dialogue as a means to seek a peaceful and democratic solution to the current crisis.

Public opinion research conducted by NDI, which has worked in South Sudan since 2004, shows that South Sudanese citizens have a strong commitment to democracy and democratic principles. In research over the last nine years, citizens have spoken repeatedly of democracy as the best system of governance for South Sudan and stressed the importance of equal rights and basic freedoms of movement, expression and religion as the most effective way to unite South Sudan and reduce conflict.

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*The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan nongovernmental organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).*

