

H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo  
Chairperson of the AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan

Date: 25 April 2014

Your Excellency,

We write to you as South Sudanese women who are committed to restoring peace in South Sudan through our various peace building activities and are signatories to the attached Support Statement from the African Women Caucus to the Commission on the status of Women (CSW).

The women of South Sudan would like to congratulate the AU for setting up the Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and highly welcome your team to our country. We would also like to thank the commission for sparing time to listen to our concerns.

Based on the Commission's Press release No.2 of April 2, 2014, and we quote "The Commission also agreed on wide-ranging meetings and visits including leaders, victims, refugees, detainees, IDPs and members of the civil society that the Commission will engage with in the coming weeks"; we would like to further request in line with UNSCR1325 that you also meet with women's groups and organizations in Bor, Bentiu and Malakal for you to hear from them what women have gone through and are still going through during this current conflict and to ensure that acts of gender based violence are investigated.

This conflict has taken another different dimension where serious violations of human rights and especially violations against women's rights are occurring. These include physical attacks on women, acts of rape and other forms of extreme violence against women. Such acts against women's rights need to be investigated and violators held accountable in order for the affected women of South Sudan to experience true healing and reconciliation after the pain afflicted on them.

While conducting the investigations; we call on the AU Commission to consider the below recommendations to ensure that;

1. Sexual and gender based violence during this crisis is included in the list of inquiries
2. Women peacebuilding strategies are included in the negotiation agenda as well as the participation of independent women's organizations that promote women, peace and security agenda
3. Women are included in the IGAD mediation team
4. Call on the government of the Republic of South Sudan to ratify CEDAW, the African protocol on women's right and complete the process of the Development of the UNSCR 1325 NAP for South Sudan.

Thank You.

Signed:

All South Sudanese Women's Organizations who are signatories to the African Caucus statement.