



## **Rally for Peace and Democracy (South Sudan)**

**REF: RPD/PR-12/14**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **In Support of the African Union Commission**

The Rally for Peace and Democracy (RPD) commends the African Union Commission (AUC) for appointing the Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into human rights abuses and violations in South Sudan. It is satisfying to watch four of the five members of the CoI sworn-in on 12 March 2014 in the presence of the Chairperson of the AUC, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, other dignitaries and members of the press.

Having listened attentively to the speech by the Chairperson of the CoI, Former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo and having studied its Terms of Reference, RPD is happily satisfied with this maiden initiative of the Commission. Notably is the assurance by President Obasanjo that his commission will give the process their best. It couldn't come any better from a renowned pan-Africanist, philanthropist, veteran statesman and a democrat. RPD is equally contented with the appointment of the other four members of the CoI, who are some of our continent's leading scholars, accomplished legal practitioners and political science researchers. RPD, therefore, accords its full support to the CoI and assures its full cooperation whenever needed.

While RPD is aware that the CoI has assured all concerned that it is going to embark on a plan and roadmap for its work, we care to point out that there is wealth of information and a myriad of willing witnesses ready to cooperate. The atrocities committed in less than two weeks in December 2013, followed by revenge killings in Bor, Malakal, Bentiu, Leer and other localities, are quite stark and witnessed by many. RPD is aware of free-lance and professional human rights investigators who happened to be at the scene of some gruesome crimes taking place at their very eyes. Using today's modern communication technology, the CoI can set up an open hotline for submission of images and uploading voice and video clips, including text narratives. Of course, this is in addition to circumstantial evidence such as the recruitment and deployment of tribal militia to carry out door-to-door genocidal killings.

RPD wishes the CoI all the success it deserves. Furthermore, RPD encourages all peace loving citizens of South Sudan to honestly and unreservedly accord the CoI the necessary cooperation by giving all the evidences that they have or saw regarding committed atrocities and human rights violations. RPD equally urges the parties to the conflict in South Sudan to fully cooperate with the CoI and put the common interest of the nation before party.

RPD takes this opportunity to impress upon the CoI that expectations of the people of South Sudan are high with regards to the findings of the inquiry. Bringing the perpetrators to book should not be an option. It is the only route to healing and reconciliation.

Signed:

**The Interim Secretariat of the Rally for Peace and Democracy in South Sudan  
March 13, 2014**