



27th session of the
Human Rights Council
Item 10

Panel on the Situation in South Sudan
Delivered by Priscilla Nyagoah

Thank you Mr. President,

CIVICUS and South Sudan Law Society are concerned by the persistent and serious human rights and humanitarian law violations occurring in South Sudan.

Though the President formed an investigative committee, we note that the body does not inspire public trust or confidence and has not released any public report to date. As there are no mechanisms for witness and victim protection in South Sudan, many people fear to come forward with any information. We urge the government to ensure transparent, credible and independent investigations that meet international standards.

We are concerned by the slow progress of the African Union Commission of Inquiry, whose extended mandate ends this week. It was only in late August 2014 that investigators and forensic experts arrived in South Sudan. We are concerned about whether the evidence they have been able to collect will allow them to assist in identifying perpetrators with a view to enabling criminal prosecution. We nevertheless hope the Commission will make strong recommendations on accountability and that its report will be adequately disseminated.

We are also disappointed that UNMISS has not produced a single report on the human rights situation since May. We encourage the mission to increase the frequency and timeliness of its reporting, as required by its revised mandate.

Numerous South Sudanese civil society organizations have reached consensus that the country needs a reconciliation commission, a truth commission, and a hybrid court. We hope such bodies will be included in the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry as well as in any eventual IGAD-brokered peace agreement.

We note the president's recent signature of several human rights treaties and call on the government to complete the ratification process of these treaties and others such as the ICCPR. We also urge the government to ratify the Rome Statute as a demonstration of its genuine commitment to accountability.

We urge the Human Rights Council to establish a special rapporteur who could help with liaison between the HRC, UNMISS, IGAD and the AUCISS on human rights issues and rally international support of transitional justice initiatives in South Sudan.

We thank you