

**PRESS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS:
CONDEMNATION OF PRESS RELEASED BY JMEC & SRSG MS. HELLEN LOEJ
OF NOT RECOGNIZING THE NEWLY CREATED 28 STATES OF REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH SUDAN.**

**HON. BAN KIMOON, SG OF THE UNITED NATIONS
R- MS. HELLEN LOEJ- SRSG OF UNITED NATIONS- JUBA
R- HEAD OF JMEC IN SOUTH SUDAN**

**RE: PETITION AGAINST PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED BY SRSG MS. HELLEN
LOEJ IN MEDIA OUTLETS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.**

First of all, we, the undersigned civil society organizations of newly created Tonj state would like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the President of the Republic of South Sudan and his two Deputies Dr. Riek Machar Teny, the first vice president and H.E. Gen. James Wani Igga, the vice president of the Republic and the people of South Sudan on the quick formation of Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU) in Juba as stipulated in the compromise peace agreement in Addis Ababa and Juba. This is the first positive step taken by the parties to the conflict in the country and it is the only way to stop the sound of gun in South Sudan and give peace a chance to prevail.

We the undersigned civil society organizations of Tonj state comprising of state youth Union, state Workers Trade Union, state Women Association, SPLM youth League, SPLM Women League, Tonj community leadership council, council of Traditional Authority leadership (COTAL), chamber of commerce and Red Army Foundation of Tonj state have condemned in strongest terms possible the press statement released by Ms. Hellen Loej SRSG that appeared on the stance daily English Newspaper and other media outlets dated Thursday May 5th 2016, issue NO. 149 in front page titled: "JMEC, UN DO NOT RECOGNIZED THE 28 STATES AND CALL FOR IT REVOCATION OR DISMISSAL". Ms. Hellen Loej, the special representative of the UN Secretary General to South Sudan had confirmed her support to IGAD and head of JMEC Festus Mogae, on issue of 28 states in the country negatively that the establishment of 28 states created ethnic tension in some parts of the country especially in upper Nile region is baseless and unfounded statement. Ms. Hellen Loej became another Hilde Johnson in South Sudan.

We are surprised by such statement. Ms. Hellen Loej, JMEC need to take time to review the story of 28 states of South Sudan before she rushes to judge the president wrongly on the affairs of the nation. If Ms. Hellen Loej is insisting of revoking 28 states, then we propose referendum to be conducted for people to vote for sustainable solution to the issue of these states. It is a clear indication of encroaching into internal affairs of the

nation. When head of UNMISS and JMEC call to revoke the decision of president of creating more states in the country. South Sudan is the sovereign nation just like any other independence countries in the world. President Salva Kiir was elected by the people of South Sudan hence, he has an absolute constitutional right to response to the public demands of the people of South Sudan without seeking any permission from anybody including Ms. Hellen Loej and Festus Mogae or any other individuals with such intentions. Therefore, the establishment of 28 states was presented in National Legislative Assembly for parliamentary discussion. It was rectified and adopted as a law of the sovereign state. And if anybody interfere to revoke this constitutional decision is an indication of abolishing the law of the land of South Sudan.

We call upon the International community, UNSC, Troika, China, Russia, IGAD and peace loving countries to intervene to review the mandate and roles of UNMISS in South Sudan which supposed to protect the civilians regardless for their political affiliation but UNMISS has gone astray from its main objectives of protecting civil population. To our surprise UNMISS and JMEC have taken side in conflict resolution in South Sudan instead of being neutral in conflict management in the country. It is clear in press briefing made by Ms. Hellen, who declared her support to JMEC Chairperson Festus Mogae to revoke 28 states and declared not recognized.

We have observed that both UNMISS and JMEC heads are bias in the resolution of conflict and this will fuel more violence and increase further tensions, if this is not addressed with wisdom and justice. UNMISS and JMEC heads will one day launch another unfortunate and shameful incident more than the deadly attempted coup of 2013.

Inclusion, we are appealing to South Sudanese people especially the youth not to be used by politicians of their personal interests instead let us support the newly created 28 states and stand with the newly formed TGONU in resolving boundary issues and silent those who beat the drums of war.

For us, war is not the best option to solve problems but if those of Ms. Loej and Festus choose, then they will be in defensive position if our children and women are attacked again through outsiders' influences. We, civil society organizations of Tonj state indeed are peaceful community. We have never been behind all odds occurring in South Sudan. To prove this now our son Nhial Deng Nhial has always been positive in mediating peace. He mediated CPA I in 2005 in Naivasha- Kenya and again signed CPA II with SPLM-IO in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia.

Go ahead our president Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit and we are behind you.

Salva Kiir Mayardit oyee!

South Sudan oyee!

Yes, Yes for 28 states!

Long the people of South Sudan!

Long live Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit

Long live Gen. James Wani Igga

Long live Akec Tong Aleu