



## The People's Coalition for Civic Action (PCCA)

Juba, South Sudan

Email: [thecivilactionssd@gmail.com](mailto:thecivilactionssd@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: +211 916 717 883 | +211 928 534 193

*For immediate Release*

### **South Sudan Government is Waging War Against Civil Society**

(Juba, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021) The People's Coalition for Civil Action (PCCA) strongly condemns the government of South Sudan's war against civil society. Since the PCCA's Declaration on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, the government of South Sudan launched an aggressive war against leaders of South Sudan civil society. First, the government arrested Hon. Kuel Aguer Kuel, one of the signatories to the Declaration, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2021 without a warrant and he has been in jail for 30 days today. His crime is that he signed a Declaration.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2021, the government moved in without a warrant to shut down the Sudd Institute and took-in staff for questioning. The Sudd Institute remains shut. The crime of the Sudd Institute is that its managing director signed the Declaration though on his personal capacity as a citizen.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, the government arrested a civil society activist in Yei having committed no crime. On the following day, the Evangelical Presbyterian Bishop was arrested in his during evening prayers with his family in his house in Yei town. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, the bishop's brother was also arrested when he went to visit his brother in detention. While the actual intention of detaining these three in Yei was to claim ownership of their office vehicle, the authorities placed charges of treason and disruption of peace on them, including the Bishop who was praying with his family at the time of his arrest.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, National Security officials took Radio Jonglei off air and took staff for questioning. The Radio remains off air today and the whole world is quiet. Meanwhile all radio stations in the country are on strict surveillance and others are chose to go on self-censorship on news associated with PCCA.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, civil society leaders in Wau were summoned into a cabinet meeting to be intimidated and ordered not to participate in the planned protest and to issue statements condemning the PCCA. The next day, a number of these leaders were arrested, and the security forces stormed Busre High School and beat students and dispersed them. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, the City Council of Juba locked shops which

were not opened on that day for fear of demonstrations and the Council has fined each shop an amount of 150,000 SSP, which is equivalent to 400 USD. Those who cannot pay this amount have their shops closed.

Yesterday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2021, the security officials stormed one of the civil society offices and arrested two officers who were taken for questioning. One of the officers had 800 USD of the organization taken from him to secure his release. The leader of this organization remains in hiding as he is being hunted. Another youth leader, Michael Wani, was reported being hunted and since yesterday, all his phones have gone off and his colleagues said he is unreachable.

For the record, the people of South Sudan must now know that they are very much at the mercy of a government that really doesn't care about them.

The People's Coalition for Civil Action shall continue to be the voice of the people of South Sudan and remains committed to pursue change of leadership in South Sudan using non-violent means. The people of South Sudan for the first time have shaken a system not used to citizen's challenge. The cells of the people are now activated to remain vigilant and ready to act at a moment's notice. The Coalition will speak to the youth and other critical constituencies across the country on next steps against this government war against civilians.

The people of South Sudan have had enough and the people shall prevail.



...End...

