



Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources (CSCNR) Juba, South Sudan

Press Statement on Commencement of Lundin Trial in Stockholm-Sweden

September 5, 2023

The long-awaited trial of former executives of Lundin Energy AB, now Orron Energy AB Alex Schneider and Ian Lundin, charged with complicity in war crimes committed between 1997 and 2003 in Unity State of the then Sudan, now South Sudan commences today, September 5, 2023.

Lundin Energy AB won a concession to explore and produce oil in Block 5 A in 1996. With civil war raging between the Sudanese Government and Southern-based rebel groups, Lundin Energy AB tasked the Government of Sudan to clear the Oil Fields of all security threats to its operation. With a scorched earth policy, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Allied Militia Forces went after the innocent civilian population. The wave of atrocities unleashed upon the people in Block 5A amounts to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violation of fundamental human rights. Such included the torching of huts, rape, murder, torture, conscription into the army, and forced displacement. The Unpaid Debt published record has 200,000 people displaced and 12,000 killed, including women and children, alongside thousands of cattle destroyed as Lundin continued oil production in the same areas unhindered. The Unpaid Debt Publication in 2010 led to the Indictment of the suspects in 2018 by the Swedish Prosecutors seeking justice and compensation for victims.

Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources (CSCNR) welcomes this development and calls on Swedish Authorities to expedite the trial, serve justice to culprits, and remedy for the victims. Lundin Energy Company clearly understood the risks of their undertaking and willfully accepted the scheme. The charges of conspiracy to war crimes are lighter given the carnages suffered by the people of Liech. CSCNR believed there was no means by which the Sudanese Government, with a crippled economy ravaged by Civil War, would afford to import advanced helicopter gunships used to attack civilians and hire all the allied militia groups involved. We hold on to the conviction that Lundin Energy Company directly sponsored the cruelty committed against the people of Unity State.

It is time for the Unpaid Debt to be paid. Hence, CSCNR calls on the Swedish Authorities to provide an environment conducive for witnesses to testify and their security guaranteed. CSCNR further calls on the Government of South Sudan to accord the necessary cooperation through diplomacy to ensure justice is delivered. CSCNR shall continue to provide updates to the victims and families of the victims in Unity State, Juba, and anywhere they might be on the trial's progress.

CSCNR's constituency includes vulnerable communities, CSO groups, local authorities, and policymakers who aim to promote sustainable, transparent, and accountable management of natural resources through empowering communities and positively influencing policies around land and natural resources.

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