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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 August 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-15441(E)



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End impunity in South Sudan

One year after the signing of the peace treaty in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa in August 2015 impunity and new massive human rights violations by all conflict parties are prevailing in South Sudan. There was some hope after the signing of the peace treaty that justice and the respect of rule and law in South Sudan could be reestablished. All conflict parties had agreed in the peace treaty that African Union (AU) should care about building up a so called "Hybrid Court" to investigate and prosecute individuals who were accused of being responsible for human rights violations since armed conflict started in December 2013. Society for Threatened Peoples is convinced that there will be no sustainable peace in South Sudan without justice for the victims of crimes against humanity and other human rights violations.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of political will of the concerned conflict parties in South Sudan and a lack of commitment of AU, the regional organization has not succeeded in making any significant progress in building up the Hybrid Court and in ending impunity in South Sudan. The denial of justice has encouraged perpetrators of human rights violations to continue their deliberate harassment of the civilian populations, rapes, shootings of civilians or arbitrary arrests. Journalists and ethnic minority people are in real danger to become victims of human rights violations. Even international staff of aid agencies who have insisted to stay politically neutral in the on-going crisis, has become target of persecution by government soldiers. There is an urgent need to clarify latest disturbing and shameful reports on targeted attacks against US-American women staff of aid agencies by SPLA soldiers.

Nearly every month international human rights organizations or the UN Commissioner for Human Rights are publishing new reports on the on-going violence against civilians by all conflict parties in South Sudan. We are confronted to a cycle of violence which even has not been sparing elderly people, babies or missionary staff of Christian churches. The recent outbreak of violence in the capital Juba in July 2016 showed that leading politicians in South Sudan have no political will to respect the laws of their country and to respect international human rights standards.

The International community has to call upon South Sudan to respect the protection of its civilian population and to ensure that all perpetrators of human rights violations are brought before justice in order to guarantee that new violence will not be encouraged. Furthermore an arms embargo on all conflict parties has to be imposed to curb the flow of arms and violence in the whole country. Targeted sanctions should be imposed against all leading politicians in South Sudan blocking justice for victims of violence and the building up of a Hybrid Court. The AU has to ensure that the Hybrid Court will respect international judicial standards and that the voices of Southern Sudanese victims of violence will be heard and respected.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the UN Human Rights Council:

- To urge the AU, all conflict parties in South Sudan and the international community to end impunity in South Sudan and to establish a Hybrid Court,
- To urge the Government of South Sudan and all armed conflict parties to respect basic human rights and the protection of the civilian population. Leading representatives of all conflict parties, in case they ignore this appeal, should be targeted by sanctions, limiting their travel and access to finances,
- To call for an arms embargo.