



**SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Communiqué

**The Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Sudan People's
Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) on Preventing Conflict-Related
Sexual Violence in South Sudan**

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited the Federal Republic of Ethiopia on 13 October 2014, within the framework of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013) on sexual violence in conflict. The objective of the visit was to better understand the situation in South Sudan, particularly the trends and patterns of conflict-related sexual violence and challenges in preventing and responding to such crimes, and to agree on concrete response measures with the SPLM/SPLA.

During this visit my colleagues and I met the Special Representative. She was briefed about the situation of sexual violence and human rights abuses in the areas controlled by the SPLM/SPLA and she took note of the efforts being undertaken by the SPLM/SPLA to prevent sexual violence in the conflict areas in South Sudan. She was encouraged by prohibitions of "any acts of rape, sexual abuse and torture" under the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed on 23 January 2014.

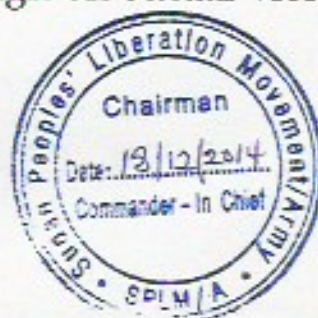
Notwithstanding the measures that have been taken, addressing conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan continues to be a challenge. I affirmed the strong commitment of the SPLM/SPLA to combat this crime, including addressing impunity for such crimes.



I wish to reiterate the commitment of SPLM/SPLA to cooperate with the United Nations and other stakeholders to address the problem, including undertaking the following concrete measures:

1. Developing an action plan specific to the SPLM/SPLA, which will include, *inter alia*, the issuance of clear orders prohibiting sexual violence through the chain of command, timely investigation of alleged violations, reinforcement of the military justice system to ensure accountability for sexual violence crimes, and training for military personnel.
2. Ensuring and facilitating the monitoring of sexual violence in the framework of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and/or other ceasefire agreement, and ensuring that sexual violence is reflected in specific provisions of any peace agreements, including those related to security arrangements, transitional justice mechanisms, and ensuring that perpetrators of sexual violence crimes are excluded from amnesty provisions;
3. Addressing sexual violence concerns in any security sector reform processes and arrangements, including through the provision of adequate training for all security sector personnel, encouraging the inclusion of more women in the security sector and effective vetting processes to exclude from the security sector those who are responsible for acts of sexual violence;
4. Enhancing the justice system, including through strengthening the legal framework, bolstering the capacity of prosecutors and judges and improving access to justice for survivors of sexual violence in the areas under SPLM/SPLA control;
5. Ensuring the provision of appropriate services for survivors of sexual violence, including medical, psycho-social, legal and other urgent needs, and encouraging and supporting the work of service providers in the areas under SPLM/SPLA control; and
6. Speaking out publicly against sexual violence at the highest level and in the strongest terms, and undertaking a national awareness raising and prevention campaign on sexual violence,

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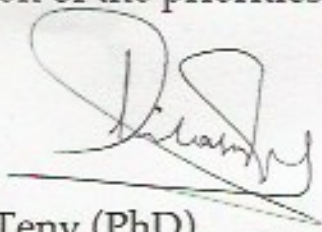


in collaboration with the United Nations.

The SPLM/SPLA calls upon the United Nations to support the Movement to combat sexual violence and to enable it fully implement the commitments outlined by this Communiqué. In this regard, I urge the Special Representative to avail the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict, in coordination with the United Nations system in South Sudan, to support SPLM/SPLA efforts to develop an implementation plan in accordance with the priorities expressed by this Communiqué, and help to mobilize assistance for its implementation.

I will appoint a high-level focal point to lead and coordinate Movement efforts and work with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the United Nations system to ensure the full implementation of this Communiqué.

I call upon the international community and donors to provide financial and technical support to the SPLM/SPLA towards the full implementation of the priorities set out in this Communiqué.



Riek Machar Teny (PhD)

Chairman and Commander in Chief SPLM/SPLA

18 December 2014, Pagak, South Sudan

