



PRESS RELEASE

PROTECTION FOR ERITREANS IN SOUTH SUDAN

The recurrent tension of conflict in South Sudan has recently been transformed in to an unfortunate burst of armed violence causing the death of about 1000 people. We are deeply saddened to witness this plight of the people of South Sudan, who have been in the process of realizing their dream of building their new nation. It is our sincere wish that all involved parties to refrain from violence and give the chance to peaceful talks to resolve their conflicts primarily for the sake of unity of the people of South Sudan. In relation to this situation, we commend the initiative of the IGAD delegation in restoring the stability of the nation through peaceful negotiations between the government and other conflicting party.

Because of the dictatorship, the political situation in Eritrea is the main cause of greater cross-border exodus of thousands of young Eritreans seeking protection in neighbouring countries and elsewhere in the world. Following the dangerous developments taking place in South Sudan, we consider necessary to draw attention to the case of the exiled Eritreans residing in South Sudan. This alarming news coming in from Juba (capital of South Sudan) has been the primary object of our attention at the Executive office of the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change (ENCDC) and we have been following the on-going developments with great concern. The ENCDC as the representative of all the political forces that are fighting for the overthrow of the dictatorship and the restoration of democracy in Eritrea, has the moral and political obligation to protect the Eritrean exiles wherever they are in this critical stage that the Eritrean people is experiencing.

Eritreans residing in South Sudan are at a great risk of extradition and expulsion as well as life threatening dangers. We appeal to the UN and other major international organizations in assisting Eritrean immigrants who are likely to flee South Sudan in finding a safer place of refuge. We would also like to appeal to IGAD member states particularly Ethiopia, to play their role in this matter.

The Executive Office,
Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change.

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