

FEDERICA MOGHERINI

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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To the signatories of the letter of 4 February

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your letter of 4 February and your continued interest in South Sudan.

From the onset of the crisis, the EU – particularly through the efforts of EUSR Rondos and the EU Delegation to South Soudan – has played a very active role and tried to contribute to resolving the crisis in South Sudan. At the political level, the EU's main objective has been to avoid a regional spill over, to bring an immediate end to the fighting and to initiate a political transition. We have engaged and advocated a comprehensive strategy to support the restoration of peace in South Sudan which includes: politically and financially supporting the IGAD-led peace process and the mechanism to monitor compliance with the agreement on cessation of hostilities, imposing sanctions against military leaders, strengthening and refocusing the UN Mission's mandate, supporting accountability and reconciliation through the AU Commission of Inquiry and actions by the UN Human Rights Council. To support this approach we have reshuffled our development portfolio while increasing humanitarian assistance.

In line with your letter, the EU believes that the publication of the AU Commission of Inquiry's findings and its recommendations on accountability are necessary to ensure that such violence against civilians cannot be committed with impunity. The people of South Sudan and in particular the victims of violence deserve no less. In the long run it will foster greater accountability and increase political stability. This is why the EU has urged the AU Peace and Security Council to consider the report of the AU Commission of Inquiry and to follow up on its findings without further delay. My spokesperson has issued two statements to this effect, on 4 February and most recently on 22 February.

The EU will continue to follow developments closely and remain actively engaged.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini