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PRESS RELEASE

IGAD MEDIATION CALLS ON SOUTH SUDAN PARTIES TO RESPECT CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT

30 August 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan call on all those engaged in the conflict in South Sudan to fully respect the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement and its subsequent re-dedication.

The Special Envoys reiterate that the *Re-Dedication of and Implementation Modalities for the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed on 23rd January 2014 between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Army (In Opposition)*, signed on 25 August 2014 in Addis Ababa states:

“The Parties...Now therefore,

1. Agree to rededicate to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement of 23rd January 2014 and further agree to implement the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in accordance with the “Implementation Modalities for the Cessation of Hostilities Matrix,” and its addendum, as annexed below;
2. Agree to immediate and comprehensive implementation of all aspects of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and other subsequent agreements thereafter.”

The CoH Implementation Matrix is an integral part of the 25 August 2014 Re-Dedication, as stated in Article 1 above. The 25 August 2014 Communiqué of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, issued following the CoH Implementation Matrix signing ceremony, welcomed the conclusion and signature of the CoH Implementation Matrix, and its addendum.

The CoH Implementation Matrix, and addendum, were negotiated by the Parties, and set out a clear timetable for the disengagement, separation and disposition of forces. Political concerns are to be discussed in the IGAD-mediated negotiations, and cannot and must not be used to prevent the immediate implementation of the CoH. Continued conflict will only exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, risk the lives of millions, and destabilize the entire region.

Any violation of the CoH Agreement and its implementation modalities, including the Implementation Matrix, would jeopardize an already precarious humanitarian situation. Any violations will be met by robust and decisive action by IGAD, which

will take all measures in its power to prevent the humanitarian crisis from deepening. The Special Envoys renew their call to the Parties to honour their commitments to end the war in South Sudan immediately. ##

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