SIGN THE PETITION

*There is Genocide happening in South Sudan!!*

“Listen and Stand with the People of South Sudan”

Listen to the People of South Sudan: a genocide is in the making in the world’s youngest nation. As it was in Rwanda in April 1994, the same pattern, dynamics and trends are evident. And, as it was with Rwanda exactly 20 years ago, humanity risks doing very little to halt a potential genocide and crimes against humanity. The 21 April 2014 massacre in Bentiu village is part of the cumulative mass murders and torture of civilians on the basis of their perceived political affiliation or ethnic descent that began in various parts of South Sudan on 15 December 2013.

With a sense of impunity, armed groups continue to inflict terror and fear across their populations; killing innocent and unarmed civilians including those seeking protection at United Nation (UN) compounds and places of worship; undertaking rape and sexual torture; and inspiring hatred within and beyond the borders of South Sudan. By the time you finish reading this one page, it is certain more would have died. Yet, the political leadership in South Sudan is apparently unable to contain the escalation of violence. The silence from the governments of neighbouring countries is loud.

Together, we can Listen to the People of South Sudan and not only halt this unfolding genocide but, more importantly, make those responsible accountable to their own humanity and to the whole humanity. We know that together we can turn the tide. Together, we must speak out and advocate for concrete and time-bound steps to be taken by the UN and other key stakeholders. The time to act is now! In this regard, we call for:

01. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) to suspend the Addis Ababa Peace talks, originally scheduled to resume on 28 April 2014, until President Salvar Kiir of South Sudan and the Leader of Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Opposition, Dr. Riek Machar, state their position on the on-going violence in public and in writing as well as their position on the Ceasefire Agreement signed on 22 January 2014.

02. The European Union and the governments of the USA, Canada, China, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to institute an immediate asset freeze, travel sanctions and arms embargo in the next one week. The asset freeze and travel sanctions should target key leaders within South Sudan and in
those in the IGAD region who, by commission or omission, bear responsibility for the escalation of violence. The travel sanctions should include close associates of those key leaders within the government of South Sudan and within the IGAD region as well as their close family members. The arms embargo should include South Sudan as well as countries in the region that are known to function as suppliers or supply routes.

03. Strengthening of the UN mandate: to allow for a robust protection of civilians and unarmed people by UNMISS; enable the opening of humanitarian assistance corridors; create space for decent burials and memorialisation; and, support people-to-people efforts aimed at healing, reconciliation and peacebuilding, in particular those initiatives led by faith based and civil society organizations in the region willing to act within the framework of the doctrine of Responsibility to Protect (R2P).

04. Creation of a framework for the pursuit of justice and reconciliation including immediate investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other existing accountability mechanisms within South Sudan.

05. Generate a framework for strengthening an inclusive, time-bound and responsive political process that would include creating space for conversations with parties and stakeholders whom the current peace process has excluded thus far.

Join us by adding your name to the petition now and share it with everyone. When we have hit 1 million in this petition, we shall deliver it to the United Nations’ Secretary General, Secretary General of the European Union, the Chair of the African Union, Leaders of Government of the USA, Canada, China, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as well as other stakeholders.

Signed: Babu Ayindo