



## PRESS RELEASE

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*20 July 2014, Juba:* The Chairperson of the IGAD Special Envoys to the South Sudan Peace Process and his delegation currently in Juba to consult with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and other stakeholders on how to reconvene the process in Addis in the coming days, regrets to announce the unfortunate attack by the SPLM/A-In Opposition in Nasir on GRSS positions on 20th July 2014. According to the IGAD Joint Technical Committee in Juba and based on the report of the Monitoring and Verification Team in Nasir, the SPLM/A-In Opposition forces crossed the Sobat River from the East. It is regrettable that this incident has come at a time when the mediation team just concluded consultations with the leadership of the SPLM/A-In Opposition in Addis Ababa, on how to operationalize the signed Agreements and move the peace process forward.

The IGAD Special Envoys strongly condemn this attack in Nasir by forces of the SPLM/A-In Opposition which is in blatant violation of Cessation of Hostilities (COH) Agreement, signed between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLM/A-In Opposition on 23rd January 2014. This has also happened after 10th June, 2014 IGAD Summit, in which the two principals pledged to “end the war now” and establish a transitional Government within sixty days. While the casualties of this attack are yet to be assessed, the mediation team is saddened by the continued loss of lives not only of combatants but of vulnerable groups like women and children.

In view of the above and of reports of rising tensions in other areas, the IGAD Special Envoys appeal to the Parties to remain committed to the Agreements signed and to exercise maximum restraints and desist from any further violations. ###