7th May 2014

“So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor 12:25-27 NIV)

To:

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Through

The Chairperson
H. E. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Your Excellency the Chairperson of IGAD,

Ref: Our Concern on the continued Killings of Innocent Civilians in South Sudan

Greetings of Peace from Church Leaders in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

We, the Church Leaders in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa under the auspices of The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCCLAHA), a regional Faith Based/ Ecumenical organization that addresses peace building and conflict transformation in the region. Having accompanied the people of South Sudan in the Peace Processes that led to the formation of the National Government of South Sudan.

We are concerned by the killings of innocent civilians caused mainly by the non observance of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) signed by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/ Army (in opposition) (SPLM/A) in Opposition in Addis Ababa on January 23, 2014 which has led to the death, injuries, displacement of innocent civilians and destruction of property.

Under the Agreement on CoH both parties agreed on immediate cessation of hostilities, commitment to non aggression between both parties and any other actions that may undermine negotiations taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Furthermore, the Monitoring and Verification Team (MVT) was set up under the auspices of the IGAD led Mediation Process, to monitor the implementation of Cessation of Hostilities (COH) Agreement that was signed by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLM/A-in Opposition

MVT was tasked to monitor the implementation of CoH Agreement, Investigate and Verify any allegations of any violation, Provide early warning about matters that might undermine the implementation of the Agreement and recommend appropriate measures to diffuse them, Recommend amicable solutions to any disagreement arising out of the implementation and interpretation of the CoH Agreement and undertake any other function as may be appropriate for the maintenance of the Agreement.

We, church Leaders in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa appreciate and acknowledge the role played by IGAD in facilitating the conflicting parties in finding the lasting solution to the conflict in South Sudan. We further appreciate the establishment of Monitoring and Verification Team (MVT) under the auspices of the IGAD-led Mediation Process.

We however condemn the violation of the CoH Agreement which has resulted into killings of innocent civilians in South Sudan and;

We call upon IGAD to put in place the necessary mechanisms and further put more pressure on the conflicting parties to the full observance and implementation of CoH Agreement.

We urge the conflicting parties to fully respect the CoH Agreement, pursue dialogue, desist from inciting communities to engage in violence, and to stop killings of innocent civilians in the country.

We urge the GRSS to ensure that all perpetrators of violence and their commanders are held accountable as this will deter recurrence of similar attacks within communities.

Our prayers are with you, as you facilitate the South Sudan peace process.

Signed:

Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)/
FECLLAHA Executive Committee
Chairperson: Rev. Dereje Jemberu

National Council of Churches of Burundi
General Secretary: Rev. Sylvestre Bizimana

National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)
General Secretary: Rev. Canon. Dr. Peter Karanja
South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
Acting General Secretary: Rev. Mark Akek Cien

Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)
General Secretary: Rev. Kori Elramla Kuku

Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
General Secretary: Rev. Dr. Leonard A. Mtaita

Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)
Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Dr. Silvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe, A.J.

FECCCLAHA Secretariat
Executive Director: Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha

CC: The IGAD Rapporteur H. E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya
The IGAD Executive Secretary H. E. Ambassador Mahboub Maalim;
The IGAD Chief Mediators for South Sudan peace talks, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin and Lt Gen (rtd) Lazaro Sumbeiywo
The Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS)
The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/ Army (in opposition) (SPLM/A) in Opposition