



DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR AN 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO WAS GANG-RAPED AS REPORTED BY EYE RADIO

A UNITED CALL BY THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF SOUTH SUDAN.

DATE: 15/05/2020

On the wake of May 9, 2020, we were informed of the tragic news from Eye Radio about an 8-year-old girl that had been gang-raped.

As women, we continuously witness horrific cases of sexual violence towards us. We stand in solidarity with all the women and girls experiencing this violence. For example, in the past week in Yei, we found out about 19 girls and women were gang-raped as a result of continued conflict, as seen in civil society letter dated May 4,2020.

It is a heartbreaking reminder of the difficult path women and girls go through, even with “peace now”? It is evident that our bodies are disrespected and disregarded, and it is even worsening amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

That’s why today we—, a group of women’s rights activists and women leading women’s organizations—in addition to men in solidarity with us, are collectively demanding that government leaders and decision-makers uphold the Revitalized Peace Agreement and strongly commit to the following demands:

- We demand justice for the 8-year-old girl that was raped and for the many other women and girls who have not received justice.
- We call for a special tribunal to bring justice to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The President committed to this and we are demanding that implementation starts without delay— as “justice delayed is justice denied”..”
- We demand an end to impunity for rape and violence against women and girls.
- We demand that pressure is put on the justice sector to investigate crimes against women and girls
- We demand that women and girls are treated with respect and dignity.





WE BELIEVE THAT ALL SOUTH SUDANESE GIRLS AND WOMEN'S BODIES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY. RAPE AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ARE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN OUR COUNTRY. WE CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE TOTAL PROTECTION TO GIRLS AND WOMEN ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TOUGH TIMES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

South Sudanese women and girls have always faced hardship and gone through tough times and disrespect towards our human rights bodies. This has been well-documented by the United Nations, as well as by countless reports and news stories.

Despite these violations of our human rights, we are hopeful that there is a better tomorrow for our country, and we call upon every government leader, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of National Security, and the Presidency to lead us there—, bridging the gap of the road to justice and equality for and with women and girls.

We hope that this statement ignites a big wave of momentum for women's rights everywhere.

Please forward this statement to your networks—friends, family members, and co-workers alike—so we can start building a government and a South Sudan that works for *all of us*.

In these time of transitional government of National Unity, it is more so critical than ever that the rights of girls and women are protected , as peace for women and girls means no rape, violence, or disrespect to our bodies.

Kindly make sure our demands are heard loud and clear by ensuring that girls and women are protected, and survivors of gender-based violence. receive justice.

**United,
The Women and Girls of South Sudan**

