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LETTER TO SOUTH SUDAN GOVERNMENT

MAY 27/2012

H.E. SALVA KIIR, PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN.

Mr. President,

We extend our respectful greetings.

SOCEPP, a human rights organization working for an end to the violation of human rights in Ethiopia, has been alarmed by the recent news that refugees from Gambella region are threatened by a deportation back to Ethiopia, from where they fled in the first place. The regime of Meles Zenawi, condemned by the world at large as a gross violator of rights, had in the passed committed a massacre against the people in Gambella and is currently repressing the people in the area who oppose the illegal land grab that is going on. Acres and acres of fertile land in Gambella have been given to Indian, Arab and Chinese firms and the people displaced by force. The people of Gambella have more than enough reason to flee.

Mr. President, as a leader of movement and a people that had to endure oppression and exile we are sure Your Excellency can sympathize with the fate of the refugees from Gambella. The refugees do not deserve deportation (many Ethiopian refugees deported by the Beshir regime back to Meles Zenawi have disappeared like Azanaw Demile or died in detention like Major Atanaw Wassie). They need protection. Hence, we implore you Mr. President to act against any attempt or measure that will send the refugees back to Ethiopia and a possible death.

We thank you in advance

Cc: Dr. Riek Machar

Vice President

GOSS,

Juba,

South Sudan.

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