

**SSHURSA**

South Sudan Human Rights Society For Advocacy



---

SSHURSA Press Release: For immediate release, January 22, 2014

**SSHURSA CLOSES DOWN OPERATIONS IN SOUTH SUDAN AS ITS STAFF MEMBERS GO TO EXILE FOR THEIR LIVES**

The South Sudan Human Rights Society For Advocacy(SSHURSA) decided to close down all its offices and suspends operations in South Sudan until further notice. This came as a result of threats hence most of the staff members have fled to exile for their lives. SSHURSA strongly believes that such threats are from the security circles of the government of South Sudan.

“We decided to close down all our activities in South Sudan and suspends our operations on critical scenarios. First, I started receiving death threats and threats of arrests through phone calls and text messages from unknown persons and others who identified themselves with names I could not believe are genuine and I narrowly left South Sudan on 23 December 2013 for Uganda” Said Biel Boutros Biel, the Executive Director of SSHURSA now in exile.

“Surprisingly while in Kampala, I still continued to receive death threats thus I left Uganda and so once those threatening me failed to locate me, they started asking some members of civil society of my whereabouts. They realized that I was out of the country” Biel continued to explain. “Secondly, when they couldn’t find me, they resorted to framing false accusations to some of my colleagues. Now they have stormed my house and looted everything including our car. So we realized that South Sudan is no longer a place we could work in, under the circumstances for it is not a secret that those giving us threats have evil intention to harm us as they did to our colleague Isaiah Abraham . We could not longer ignore them and we decided to go to exile” Biel added.

Though SSHURSA staff shall be absent within South Sudan, however, its leadership from afar, will continue monitoring the violations of human rights in South Sudan and will continue to expose the human rights violations the country is undergoing.

**Calls for Action:** SSHURSA calls on UN and African Commission on Human and People’s Rights to conduct impartial investigations on the ongoing killings of civilians in Juba and other parts of the country. It also calls on UN Security Council to refer South Sudan’s killings on ethnic ground as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity to the International Criminal Court(ICC). “The murder of the civilians and non-combatants in Juba or elsewhere in ongoing conflict in South Sudan fits before the ICC because it constitutes international Crimes, a clear violation of International humanitarian Law under Geneva Convention as domesticated in 2012 by South Sudan and also a contravention of the ICC Act”. SSHURSA conclusively observes.

**For more information about SSHURSA or this press release, contact us on: E-mail:**

[sshursa2007@gmail.com](mailto:sshursa2007@gmail.com)