



January 18, 2012

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10 (Switzerland)
Via: cerd@ohchr.org

RE: Formal Request under CERD Early Warning Measure and Urgent Procedure in Connection with the Brutal Attacks and Denial of Self-Determination by the Republic of Sudan of the Ngok Dinka People that Inhabit the Abyei Area (January 9, 2012)

Dear Members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:

The Enough Project, a project to end genocide and crimes against humanity, writes to urge the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, or CERD, to consider with urgency the January 9, 2012 submission of the Ngok Dinka people of the Abyei Area and to focus its attention, in particular, on those actions requested in paragraphs 51 and 52 of that submission. The Enough Project further encourages CERD to coordinate its efforts with the six United Nations special rapporteurs, copied herein, whom the Ngok Dinka people requested be collectively seized of the situation in the Abyei Area. In light of the continued presence of the Sudan Armed Forces, or SAF, in the Abyei Area and an impasse in the negotiations between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan in relation to the area, immediate action is required: (1) to stem further violence and human rights abuses in the Abyei Area, (2) to provide necessary humanitarian aid to Ngok Dinka populations affected by the May 2011 violence in the area, and (3) to ensure that the right of the Ngok Dinka people's to self-determination, as codified in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, is fully realized.

Since 2008, the Enough Project has documented extensively Government of Sudan, or GoS, and GoS-aligned forces' violent attacks against the Ngok Dinka people, perpetration of human rights abuses in the Abyei Area, and failure to uphold agreements concerning the area. Specifically:

Prior to May 2008, the Enough Project noted the GoS's [non-compliance with its commitments related to Abyei](#) and warned that [President Bashir's pattern of committing atrocities in Darfur could spread to the Abyei Area](#).

In May 2008, the Enough Project documented [the destruction of Abyei town, the targeting of civilian populations by the SAF, and the displacement of over 100,000 Ngok Dinka from the area](#).

During February and March 2011, the Enough Project reported on the [increasingly deteriorating security situation](#) in the Abyei Area and [violence perpetrated by armed Misseriya militias and/or Popular Defense Forces](#) in the area. The Satellite Sentinel Project, an organization affiliated with the Enough Project, capture satellite images of the aftermath of this violence, as well as a subsequent build-up, in April 2011, of [SAF offensive weaponry within attack range of the Abyei area](#).



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In May 2008, the Enough Project published [photographs of armed Misseriya, Popular Defense Forces, and SAF soldiers looting and burning Abyei town](#) in the aftermath of northern forces' occupation of the area. Testimonies, gathered by the Enough Project, of Ngok Dinka who fled Abyei into South Sudan [recall the horror of civilians running for their lives](#) as northern forces attacked Abyei town and surrounding locations. Satellite imagery published by the Satellite Sentinel Project in the wake of the May attack on Abyei indicates [the intentional destruction of Abyei town and evidences the possible commission of war crimes](#) by SAF and GoS-aligned militia forces.

These accounts, [among others](#) collected by the Enough Project, corroborate the descriptions of the May 2008 and May 2011 violence contained in the Ngok Dinka people's submission, as well as underscore the consistency with which the GoS has violated its obligations under international law vis-à-vis the Abyei Area and the Ngok Dinka people.

The GoS and its forces' repeated violations of agreements related to the rights of the Ngok Dinka people and the Abyei Area evidence a cycle of impunity that must come to an end. If this cycle is permitted to continue, the Ngok Dinka people will never fully enjoy the rights accorded to them under international conventions to which the GoS is a party, among them, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, or the Convention. The Enough Project sincerely hopes that CERD, within its powers, will seize this opportunity to hold the GoS accountable for past violations of the Convention and, in doing so, contribute to breaking the cycle of impunity and to restoring peace and dignity to the Ngok Dinka people and the Abyei Area.

Respectfully,

The Enough Project

cc:

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