

**Oral statement by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) to the 27<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**Panel Discussion on the Human Rights Situation in South Sudan**

**Geneva 24 September 2014**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Mr. President, Distinguished Members of the Council, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), I welcome the opportunity to take the floor during this panel discussion.

We would like to express our concern about the human rights situation of South Sudan's internally displaced people (IDPs). The current crisis has caused more than 1.3 million South Sudanese to flee their homes and seek refuge in other parts of their country<sup>1</sup>. That is more than 11 per cent of the country's population or 1 in 9 South Sudanese. In some instances, displacement has been a way for people to escape insecurity, abuses and human rights violations. It has, however, been reported that parties to the conflict have prevented people to exert their freedom of movement by either forcing their displacement or hindering their movement in order to assert their control over a given territory.

Furthermore, due to this lack of respect for human rights by all the parties, IDPs face serious protection issues during all phases of their displacement. Some have been killed, abducted, arbitrarily detained or subjected to ill-treatment, torture and sexual violence. Many places in which IDPs have sought refuge do not provide enough safety and security – some have even been attacked- and lack access to basic services.

Many IDPs' livelihoods have been disrupted as a result of their displacement. Farmers are no longer able to cultivate their land and herders lose their livestock or are unable to migrate with their animals. Limited freedom of movement has disrupted people's access to markets, some of which have been destroyed during attacks. The country is facing a severe food insecurity situation: as of June 2014, 3.5 million people were living in crisis and emergency phases, the

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<sup>1</sup> OCHA, South Sudan Crisis : Situation Report No. 53, September 2014 : <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South%20Sudan%20Crisis%20Situation%20Report%20No%2053.pdf>

second and third highest on food insecurity scale. 50,000 children are at the risk of dying of undernutrition this year<sup>2</sup>. IDPs and host communities are among the most vulnerable. Access to IDPs has been a challenge for numerous reasons, including logistics, insecurity and restrictions.

1. We urge the government and other parties to the conflict to ensure freedom of movement for all IDPs and other civilians so they can flee insecurity, meet their food needs and access humanitarian actors.
2. We encourage UNMISS to patrol major arterial routes to allow IDPs and other civilians as well as commercial traffic to move freely.
3. We encourage the African Union Commission of Inquiry to look into and verify accounts of deliberate and potential arbitrary displacement by parties to the conflict.

Thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> UNICEF. South Sudan : 50,000 children could die of malnutrition, August 2014:  
<http://blogs.unicef.org/2014/08/25/south-sudan-50000-children-could-die-of-malnutrition/>