

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the bombings of civilian targets by the Sudanese air force**

The European Union welcomes the recent announcement by the Sudanese President that he had ordered the cessation of aerial bombing of targets in South Sudan. The European Union calls on the Government of Sudan to fulfil that commitment in full and to abstain from any such actions in the future. The European Union will continue to watch closely on the fate of civilian populations in this area.

While reiterating its commitment to the renewed political dialogue, the European Union has called the attention of the authorities of Sudan to the fact that the respect of international humanitarian law is an essential sign of their willingness to create an atmosphere conducive to the successful continuation of that dialogue and their commitment to peace.

The European Union also calls upon the SPLM/A to comply with its responsibility to fully respect the rules and principles of international humanitarian law and to abstain from using civilian premises for military purposes.

The European Union appeals to both parties to decide a comprehensive cessation of hostilities and to realise substantial progress in the ongoing IGAD peace process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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