

31 March 2015

H. E. Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit
President; Commander-in-Chief of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA)

Office of the President
Ministries Complex
Juba, South Sudan

Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, working to end the suffering caused by landmines. The ICBL advocates for compliance with the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction, also known as Mine Ban Treaty.

The ICBL calls on South Sudanese authorities to confirm or deny the claimed use of antipersonnel mines by government forces at Nassir, as reported by the [Inter-Governmental Authority on Development](#) (IGAD) following a meeting convened by South Sudan government forces in Upper Nile State on March 12. According to the report, a government forces officer "stated clearly that anti-personnel mines had been deployed in the area around Nassir."

As a State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty, South Sudan has committed to ban all use of antipersonnel mines and to clear mined land, destroy stockpiles, and assist victims. It is also obliged, under Article 9 of the treaty, to "take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress" any activity prohibited by the treaty, including new use of antipersonnel landmines.

The use of antipersonnel mines is the most egregious violation possible of the Mine Ban Treaty and it endangers civilian lives. Any mines laid in recent incidents must be cleared urgently. The ICBL urges South Sudan to respond to the request for clarification made by the IGAD's Joint Technical Committee on this matter.

In April 2013, South Sudan declared that the government destroyed stockpiled antipersonnel mines and no longer stockpiled the weapons. This statement was repeated in April 2014. The recent reports of use raise the question of the origin of the mines laid.

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At the next intersessional meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty in Geneva in June 2015, the ICBL requests that South Sudan's representatives explain the IGAD report, respond to the allegation of use and provide any updated information regarding the stockpiling or transfer of antipersonnel mines.

We thank you in advance for the actions you will take on this issue. We are available to discuss the matter further with representatives of South Sudan at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, and we will communicate with the Permanent Mission to this effect in the coming days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Megan Burke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Megan Burke
Director

cc. H.E Dr. Riek Puok Riek, Ambassador and Charge d'Affairs, Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations, Geneva