



AGENCY FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Agence des Médias Indépendants

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Press Release:

Barbaric Journalists killing must be investigated

Juba, South Sudan, January 26, 2015: The Agency for Independent Media (AIM) would like to bring to the attention of the government of the Republic of South Sudan, the region and the international community about the barbaric killing of innocent South Sudanese and particularly journalists that were practicing at the Western region of South Sudan. Wherever and whenever violent conflict looms, the media-television, radio, newspapers and websites have a crucial role to play. They can inflame the situation; or they can use their considerable power to defuse tension. In other words, they can be part of the problem; or they can be part of the solution. In practice, they are usually both.

In every conflict, media activities can be placed along a broad spectrum. At one extreme, there is *hate media*, which can directly incite a population toward genocide or ethnic cleansing, as *Radio Mille Collines* did in Rwanda in 1994, and Serbian and Bosnian Serb media did during the early 1990s. At the other end of the spectrum, the press can play an active, positive role in peace-building.

Having noted the crucial role media can play in any conflict situation, Agency for Independent Media (AIM) has noted with great concern that the four journalists who were killed by unknown gun people is condemned with the strongest terms possible. The act is barbaric and uncalled for. It is a primary role of the government to take charge of the security of citizens and more so the civilians who are unarmed.

On this day 26th January 2015, the Agency for Independent Media calls upon of South Sudan and especially the government of Western Bhar al Ghazal State to:

1. Investigate the uncalled for killing of innocent four journalists who were killed in the presence of the commissioner and make their findings public.
2. That the political rivals of the commissioner could be the first suspects of the saga until proven guilty or innocent.
3. The state government should be in control of the state security and must protect the citizens of the state.
4. The governor must answer some human rights violations in his state and those that previously led to the shooting down of innocent protesters.
5. The government of South Sudan has an intervening role should the state government fail to bring perpetrators to justice.
6. We call upon all the human rights organizations: both national and international and the local communities to help in the investigation leading to the killing of those four innocent members of the media amongst other five South Sudanese.

Our sincere heartfelt condolences go to the families, friends, colleagues and relatives of the deceased persons.

Signed by:

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