Press statement

Date: Aug 24, 2021.

The Youth Organizations' Coalition is highly concerned by growing public tension and fear of the alleged protest scheduled to take place on the 30th of August, 2021. However, for the interest of lessening tension and fear among the civil population, we hereby demand the unity government to come out and address the nation on this situation especially on their position regarding the protest.

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan under Article 24 (1) and 25 (1) recognizes the fundamental rights of every citizen to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, nevertheless, our government should respect such rights and freedoms under the Transitional Constitution of Republic of South Sudan, 2011 (As amended) if need be.

However, during this critical moment of unprecedented situation, the Coalition is calling for meaningful dialogue between the unity government (R-TGoNU) and all unsatisfied groups. The dialogues would address fundamental issues being faced with clear frameworks including youth unemployment and young people's cries and grievances to be addressed within the R-ARCSS. On other hand, achieving stability and durable peace is critical and need systematic inclusion, participation and representation at all levels of governance. The coalition then urge unity government to embark on speedy implementation of the R-ARCSS as it expires in less than 20 days.

Meanwhile the Constitution stipulates for the freedom of expression by any mean, the following are the reasons the coalition thinks the protest might not be appropriate now;

1. Pending unification of the organize forces who should be responsible for keeping law and order, and securing the territorial sovereignty of the country in such unpredictable situation.
2. The forthcoming protest might worsen the current humanitarian crisis including worsen economic meltdown across the country.
3. Given the proliferation of small arms in the hands of civilians makes it difficult to guarantee the safety and security of citizen in such complex situation where number of holdout groups are still negotiating with the government in Rome.

The coalition demand the unity Government as it sole constitutional responsibility to bring to an end the widespread violence across the country including highways ambushes, looting and killings of innocent civilian to an end.

The Youth coalition remains committed in the complete implementation of the R-ARCSS and urge the unity government and peace partners to work together towards conducting elections as stipulated in the R-ARCSS.

……The End…….

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South Sudan Youth Coalition (SSYC) is a loose coalition of more than 20 national organizations operating in South Sudan in areas of peace building, advocacy, policy research, governance and democracy, health and education. The coalition seeks to provide a platform for youth to meaningfully and constructively contribute to nation building. We seek to speak for the disadvantage youths.