



## Delegation of the European Union of South Sudan.

### European Union Local Statement

22/08/2014

*The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in South Sudan.*

#### **"European Union calls for freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South Sudan"**

The EU Delegation in South Sudan is concerned by the increasing restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South Sudan. The EU notes with particular concern the recent closure of Bakhita radio and the detention of journalists working for the station.

The EU Delegation underlines the importance of free and independent media as a cornerstone of an open and democratic society. Free flow of information supports transparency and accountability, and encourages inclusive exchange of views, which is especially valuable in South Sudan at this time of conflict.

The EU delegation is firmly opposed to any restrictions on the media's ability to operate freely. The EU Delegation calls upon the Government of South Sudan to allow freedom of expression and to end intimidation, harassment or censorship of any kind."

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