

PRESS STATEMENT:

RELEASE ALFRED TABAN

For immediate Release:

21 July, 2016 – JUBA: The Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS) welcomes the step taken by the National Security Services to allow the Juba Monitor newspaper to resume its publication after its shut down last weekend, but calls for the release of Alfred Taban from detention by the Government Authorities and request for a dialogue to resolve any issue related to his arrest.

Alfred Taban, the Editor in Chief of the Juba Monitor, also the Chairperson of AMDISS has been detained since Saturday afternoon at the National Security headquarter over his opinion articles in Juba Monitor in the column “Let’s Speak Out” the copy of Friday, July 15th 2016, Vol. 6, Issue No. 732 page 2, entitled; “Salva Kiir, Dr. Riek Machar should be removed”, and Saturday, July 16th 2016, Vol. 6, Issue No. 734, entitled, “Our failure has led to foreign invasion”. The opinions after the fighting between government and opposition forces in Juba last week that resulted into huge displacement, loss of property and lives of people.

AMDISS is very concerned about the **health condition of Alfred Taban**, and that this detention may aggravate the status of his health. Health is a prerequisite of our wellbeing.

The association urges the authorities concerned to refer the matter to the **Media Authority** as the legitimate arbitrator and media regulator by law.

AMDISS also calls for reconsideration to this case and would like to open a space for dialogue with the government authorities while we see to it that Alfred Taban is being released immediately. AMDISS urges the government authorities to refer any matter related to media infringements to the Media Authority henceforth. This will enable us to respect the laws and procedures that we have subscribed to them as people of South Sudan. AMDISS strongly condemns such arrest as it greatly undermines the legal instruments in place.

AMDISS is a local media advocacy body that brings together local media outlet in lobbying for free media environment in South Sudan.

For more information on this press release call +211 (0) 912 814 414

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