

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The South Sudan NGO Forum stands in solidarity following killing of a humanitarian worker**

**February 02 2021**— The South Sudan NGO Forum is extremely saddened and concerned by the tragic killing of an aid worker near Bentiu on 30th January 2021.

A South Sudanese staff member of Joint Aid Management (JAM), was shot dead by unidentified persons whilst returning from humanitarian operations supporting vulnerable families in nearby Guit. One additional humanitarian staff member from JAM was also injured in the attack and has been receiving treatment.

NGOs across South Sudan are horrified by attacks on aid workers, particularly coming at a time when humanitarians are working to scale up response to food insecurity, flooding, local violence and the COVID-19 pandemic. Insecurity affecting aid workers not only affects the victims directly, but also those relying on life saving assistance.

2020 saw a significant rise in the number of aid workers killed or harmed in South Sudan, a trend that must not be allowed to continue in 2021. The South Sudan NGO Forum calls for all stakeholders and parties to ensure unhindered access to those in need of humanitarian assistance and the necessary protection and security of humanitarian workers.

The NGO Forum extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the colleagues, friends and family of the JAM team and stands in solidarity with humanitarian workers everywhere who put their lives at risk to support those affected by crises.

#### **South Sudan NGO Forum**

South Sudan NGO Forum comprises 119 INGOs and 414 NNGOs providing assistance to the people of South Sudan regardless of ethnic background, political affiliation or religious belief to save lives and improve lives. NGO Forum provides a platform through which NGOs, the Government of South Sudan, the United Nations, donors and other external stakeholders can exchange information, share expertise and establish guidelines for a more networked, efficient and effective use of aid resources in South Sudan.

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