

**Statement of**  
**The Honorable Mike Doyle**  
**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing**  
**The Current Human Rights Situation in South Sudan**  
**July 10, 2015**

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for being here today. I particularly want to thank the experts who've made time in their busy schedules to bring us up to date on the horrendous human rights situation in South Sudan.

This situation pains me deeply. We all had great hopes after South Sudan's establishment as a sovereign state in 2011. It's simply heart-breaking that so many people in South Sudan have suffered so greatly as a result of the conflict between the government and the country's different ethnic groups. The atrocities inflicted by both the South Sudanese government and rebel groups have been extensively documented: restrictions on basic freedoms, forced recruitment of children, mass displacement, torture, and murder are just the top of the list of human rights abuses and war crimes. The side-effects of this conflict are devastating as well: hunger and malnutrition, broken families, instability, and economic collapse, just for starters.

The United States mustn't sit idly by in the face of this humanitarian disaster. Only when the violence stops can we begin meaningful work on the economic advancement of the South Sudanese people through better education, health care, infrastructure, and government. We need to do our part in international efforts to put an end to these human rights violations and guide South Sudan towards a peaceful, more stable state. It won't be easy. That's why the testimony from today's panelists is so important. I look forward to learning what actions these experts think Congress should take to end the devastating human rights abuses being committed in South Sudan.

We mustn't turn away from the world's newest country; rather, we must redouble our efforts to help end the violence, forge a lasting peace, and work to rebuild South Sudan after years of terrible violence and destruction. The people of Sudan and South Sudan deserve an end to their nightmare.

I'm committed to working with this Commission and the Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan to do everything we can to bring an end to the suffering. I want to thank all of our panelists for your testimony today. We greatly appreciate your insights and welcome your recommendations for addressing the violence in South Sudan.

I would also like to thank the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for hosting this event – and for honoring Tom's life by continuing his efforts to bring an end to human rights abuses around the world.

Thank you.

###