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PRESS RELEASES:

**PRESS RELEASE No: 1**

**For Immediate release December 17, 2011**

**SSHURSA CONDEMNS SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CALLS FOR THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy (SSHURSA) in a strong language condemns the sexual violence meted on three Ugandan ladies by three gunmen who raped two of the three women on Saturday night in Juba, December 3, 2011. Though SSHURSA has got direct information of the allegation primary sources, however, this is hard to state the truth of the accusation at this stage but regardless of this uncertainty for the proof, the allegation is deadly and is one of serious violations of the human rights of women and therefore, a practical violation of Article 16 of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011 that guarantees rights of women. Above all, the act violates the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it also contravenes Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the UN Declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women. These provisions define and prohibit inhuman and degrading treatment against women. At this time when SSHURSA releases the statement, the victims are still in physical and psychological pains. It has sadly been alleged that suspects who were handed over to police after their arrest have unfortunately been set free again and seen moving freely by reliable sources and this act therefore, SSHURSA sees it as sabotage to justice and any police officer(s) found having done so as sources have revealed to SSHURSA, such an officer(s) must thoroughly be investigated and if proved having done so, must be held as an accomplice to the alleged crime and unless having sound reasons for releasing the suspects. SSHURSA strongly calls upon the police and the offices of the Prosecutions in Central Equatoria state and Prosecutor-General of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of South Sudan, to carry out prompt investigations on the matter and bring suspects to justice. An act of rape as this, is inhumane, violation of human rights and direct attack on the Constitution and must not be allowed to prevail. Impunity must be brought to a halt and the universality of human rights must be upheld and protected and this can only happen if the perpetrators are held to account for their acts. SSHURSA calls on all so that justice be done as soon as possible as stipulated under the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011; Article 122(5) (b) "*justice shall not be delayed*" and (c) "*adequate compensation shall be awarded to the victims of wrong*". SSHURSA also calls on South Sudan Human Rights Commission to follow up this case quite closely.

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**For Immediate release; December 17, 2011**

**PRESS RELEASE No: 2**

**SSHURSA CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF BILNYANG CHIEF AND CALLS FOR THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy (SSHURSA) in a strong language condemns the cruel and inhumane murder of the Assistant Chief Angelo Pitia Ladu of Bilnyang Boma, Mongalla Payam Juba County, Central Equatoria State. Chief Pitia was murdered on the night of Thursday, December 8, 2011 by unknown gunmen still at large. According to his immediate family member who contacted SSHURSA office the body of the late was recovered nearby bushes on Monday December 12, 2011. This is a deprivation of the right to life and a violation of Article 11 of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011 and Article 3 of the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A close source<sup>1</sup> and the media<sup>2</sup> have revealed to SSHURSA office that the late just days before his demise was involved as a leader of his community in high profile Bilnyang community's issues and though remote, the investigations should not also ignore them. SSHURSA therefore, calls upon the police and offices of the Prosecutions in Central Equatoria state and Prosecutor-General of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of South Sudan, to carry out intensified investigations on the matter and bring any suspect(s) to justice. This is serious human rights violation, and is an attack on the Constitution and such lawlessness practiced must not be allowed to prevail. Impunity must be brought to an end and the universality of human rights must be protected and only this can happen if the perpetrators are held to account for the acts. SSHURSA also strongly urges the Central Equatoria state government and the Republic of South Sudan through the police and the SPLA to offer adequate protection and security to people and their property. Let justice be done as stipulated under the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011 Article 122(5) (b) "*justice shall not be delayed*". SSHURSA also calls on South Sudan Human Rights Commission to follow up this case quite closely.

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<sup>1</sup>A source close to the family member of the late who contacted SSHURSA

<sup>2</sup> New Times Weekly Newspaper issue 024 at Page 4, of December 12 to 18, 2011.

