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August 25, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Rubio,

I write regarding the current political, military and humanitarian crises unfolding in South Sudan. For decades, violent conflict has afflicted the Sahel region, and congressional attempts to ameliorate this violence include the 2002 passage and enactment of H.R. 5531 – Sudan Peace Act. This legislation provided legal authorities and authorized funding to support the peace process to end the Second Sudanese Civil War. Enactment of the Sudan Peace Act eventually resulted in signature of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the 2011 establishment of South Sudan as an independent nation.

Since 2011, the American taxpayer has provided more than \$9.5 billion to assist South Sudan in maintaining peace and stability. As repeatedly noted by the Department of State and U.S. Mission to the United Nations (U.N.), the transitional government's actions such as deadly military offensives, humanitarian blockades, and obstruction of the UN Mission to South Sudan demonstrate a concerning disinterest in peace and in the welfare of South Sudan's population.

As a Marine and former Navy physician, I have witnessed the violence in this region firsthand and understand the Sahel's importance to US national security. I respectfully encourage the Department to take an active role in negotiating a peaceful and democratic settlement to end the ongoing conflict with participation of both President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, the two signatories to the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on peace in South Sudan, in addition to other stakeholders. To this end, and I respectfully urge the Department to use all available means to produce a credible commitment from President Kiir to peace and to the democratic process while engaging with officials across the South Sudan's political spectrum to ensure maximal buy-in for a future peace agreement.

I commend the Department's efforts, including those of Special Envoy Massad Boulos, to advance our nation's interests across the globe and to achieve President Trump's goal of resolving violent conflicts abroad. Given the administration's success in resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan and Thailand-Cambodia conflicts among others, I am confident that our nation can play a key role in reestablishing peace in South Sudan and the Sahel region.

Sincerely,



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress (GA-07)