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23 June 2010

To:
H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Cc:
H.E. Navanethem Pillay
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Your Excellency:

I write from CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, an international movement of civil society with members and partners in over a 100 countries. CIVICUS coordinates a network of over 30 civil society organisations in the Eurasia region spanning six countries.

We are deeply concerned about the worsening situation in southern Kyrgyzstan and are receiving daily reports from local civil society partners on the ground about the continued violence in the country arising out of the ethnic conflict.

According to reports over 2000 civilians have been killed and over 400,000 have been displaced. At least 80,000 people have fled across the border to Uzbekistan fearing for their lives. We have received many reports from the ground of hospitals being unable to cope with the numbers of victims, of rapes, arson and rampage. Although humanitarian aid is flowing into Kyrgyzstan, there are grave problems with regard to its reaching those most in need. The recently installed Interim Government is severely challenged to assure security for all and rebuild the country. It needs the support of the international community at this critical juncture. The political, ethnic and humanitarian crisis is having a profound effect on society. NGOs too, are struggling to carry out their activities in the absence of rule of law.


Article 1 of the UN Charter mandates the UN to “[t]o maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace...”

Given the inability of the local authorities to restore law and order, a number of local and international civil society groups have urged that an international stabilization

mission under the auspices of the United Nations is sent to Kyrgyzstan to ensure both equitable distribution of relief supplies and security for citizens. CIVICUS supports these calls and calls upon your good offices to pursue them with relevant UN organs including the Security Council.

We believe that the UN has an important role to play in rebuilding the political and humanitarian structures of Kyrgyzstan, once called 'an island of Democracy in Central Asia.'

Sincerely,



SECRETARY GENERAL

Ingrid Srinath
Secretary General
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation