



## PRESS RELEASE

### South Sudan Fails to Respond as Statelessness Victim Seeks African Commission Intervention at 87th Ordinary Session

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**Banjul, The Gambia — 14th May 2026** — [The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa](#) (IHRDA) today submitted a status of implementation report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), highlighting the continued failure of the Republic of South Sudan to comply with the Commission's landmark [decision](#) in *Communication 801/2021 – Afekuru Animu Risasi Amitai v. Republic of South Sudan*.

Nearly two years after the ACHPR found South Sudan responsible for multiple violations of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, including violations relating to nationality, dignity, due process, freedom of movement, political participation, and work, the Government has yet to take meaningful steps to implement the decision.

The report, submitted by IHRDA as legal representative of Ms. Afekuru Animu Risasi Amitai, reveals that the Respondent State has failed to restore her nationality documents, provide compensation, adopt safeguards against recurrence, or undertake training on nationality and statelessness for relevant State agencies.

The report further notes that, following a formal inquiry by IHRDA in February 2026, the African Commission confirmed that it had not received any information from South Sudan regarding implementation of the decision and subsequently issued a reminder to the State requesting a response within ninety days. To date, no implementation report has been submitted and Ms. Animu remains stateless and undocumented.

“Regional human rights decisions cannot become symbolic pronouncements with no implementation,” said the IHRDA legal team. “This case speaks directly to the authority of the African human rights system and the obligation of States to comply with decisions issued by the Commission. The continued silence and inaction by South Sudan leaves Ms. Animu in a situation of prolonged legal uncertainty and denies her access to an effective remedy.”

Despite the lack of State action, Ms. Animu and her legal representatives have undertaken sustained advocacy and engagement efforts over the past year. These have included engagements at the highest levels with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) officials, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, African Union representatives, civil society organisations, and international media outlets.



“For almost a decade, I have lived without the protection and recognition of a nationality,” said Ms. Afekuru Animu Risasi Amitai. “Statelessness has affected every aspect of my life — my work, my dignity, my sense of belonging and security. I continue to hope that South Sudan will respect the Commission’s decision and restore my rights.”

In its submission to the Commission, IHRDA called on the ACHPR to take stronger follow-up measures, including requiring South Sudan to submit a concrete implementation plan within a shortened timeframe, convening an implementation hearing during an Ordinary Session, and escalating the matter to the African Union policy organs in line with Article 54 of the African Charter.

The organisation further urged the Commission’s Special Rapporteurs and relevant AU mechanisms to actively engage the South Sudanese authorities to ensure implementation of the decision and protection of Ms. Animu’s rights.

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#### **About IHRDA**

The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) works to strengthen the effectiveness of the African human rights system through strategic litigation, capacity building, and information sharing.

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#### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

Maimouna Jallow  
Communication and Publications Manager  
[mjallow@ihrda.org](mailto:mjallow@ihrda.org)

Tel:  
+226 331 7347 (Gambia)  
+34 608 919 919 (WhatsApp only)

Dennis Njoroge  
Communication and Publications Officer  
[dnjoroge@ihrda.org](mailto:dnjoroge@ihrda.org)

Tel:  
+226 452 6155 (Gambia)  
+254 746 129 297 (WhatsApp only)