



#ANATABAN



#WagifCorona

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

26th April 2020; Anataban Arts Initiative is concerned about the alleged arrest of a South Sudanese citizen named Atem Mawut Marac in Twic State after he raised a complaint on his Facebook page of an apparent defiance of social distancing rules set up by the Government of South Sudan in a social club in Wunrok, as reported by the media.

We ask the authorities to investigate this claim and release Mr. Atem who was exercising his national duty of being a good citizen, voicing concern over a matter that affects the whole country. We further ask the government to encourage the citizens to actively report any blatant violations of the guidelines.

We have also observed with great concern that government officials continue to break the social distance guidelines as seen on daily basis on the state-owned television SSBC. The citizens will best follow the guidelines when our leaders lead by example.

Finally, we would like to ask our citizens to take COVID-19 seriously and strictly follow all the guidelines set up by the Government. We also ask the citizens to refrain from spreading false propaganda and misinformation on COVID-19 on social media recommend they source correct information from official High Level Task Force on COVID-19 statements, the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization or trusted media houses.

Wagif Corona or "Stop Corona" in simple Arabic, is a campaign by Anataban Arts Initiative aimed at raising awareness on the Covid-19 (Corona Virus) through the power of art. The campaign aims at focusing on sensitizing the public on personal steps they could take to protect themselves and the public from the virus.

We also aim at using the campaign to urge the citizens to respect and observe government regulations aimed at preventing the virus from getting into the country as well as also creating a platform for the citizens to address the government on concerns they may have and suggestions that they believe the government could take in ensuring we stop the spread of corona in South Sudan.

Finally, we aim at using this campaign to urge the citizens to avoid spreading false information as well as direct them on where to get the correct information. We will be using various art forms including music, comedy, visual art like murals and cartoons, poetry and drama to pass the messages to the people.

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