

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

JUBA

Date: 20/07/2016

H.E. Ban-ki Moon-The Secretary General of the
United Nations (UN),
Idris Dabi the Chairperson of the African Union,
Haile Marriam the Chairperson of the IGAD.

REF: PETITION OF SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, IGAD AND AU

Your Excellencies,

We the Civil Society organizations of the Republic of South Sudan that comprised of Women, Youth Unions, Faith Based organizations and Representatives of Chiefs hereby submit this petition to you, to reject the intention of destabilizing South Sudan nation.

The Republic of South Sudan became independent on 9th July 2011 and registered as UN member state number 193rd on 14th July 2011 and its subsequent membership to the AU and IGAD respectively. This legitimacy demonstrates the sovereignty of the Republic of South Sudan.

The role of Civil Society organizations among others is to defend' the interest of the citizens in South Sudan. We respect the role of the UN since it was formed in 1945 for protecting the rights of all the people in the world as well as African Union and the IGAD adhered to. On this regards, we would like to bring to your attention that the South Sudanese people have been suffering throughout the history but our problems have always been resolved through peaceful political dialogue as referenced to 1972 (Addis Ababa and Abuja 1) and from 1983 – 2005 (Abuja2 and Naivasha) up to the latest Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ACRISS). All peace talks were mediated by the IGAD under the supervision of the AU and the UN. We acknowledged that when the issue of South Sudanese was brought to the attention of the UN in 1991, positive change was realized immensely by the people of South Sudan through its strong intervention on engaging the Government of Sudan to accept negotiations with rebel leaders under the SPLM/A in the South. It is true that UN has positively contributed to the independence of South Sudan through supervision of the CPA implementation as resulted to its independence. All these were done successfully and there was no involvement of the UN military force intervention.

In light of the above, the civil society of South Sudan felt deeply disappointed by the activities of the UN and the USA in collaborating to destabilize South Sudan nation as appeared in the letter that was written by the Dyn-Corps International Corporation 0700OLD-MADOW-Road – Street MCLEON-VA22101 where the team working undercover expressed the accomplishment of the installation of 20 missiles SAM7 at the UNMISS based in South Sudan. As civil society we want to openly say the intention of installing missiles in UNMISS based is to destroy South Sudan nation.

Recognizing the special achievements of UN and its wing UNMISS towards South Sudan during the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 between the Government

Sudan and SPLM/A in which the processes of the referendum went well. Humanitarian Assistance and developmental programmes delivered, the civil society wish to put together the gaps which made the UN failed in some areas and seen controversial in handling its responsibilities in South Sudan. The mandate of UNISFA is to protect civilians under its responsibility but was not well fulfilled. This was evidenced by the killing of the Paramount chief in Abyei. The Chief Kuol Deng Kuol or Kuol Adol was killed on May 5, 2013 in presence of the UN peace keepers when a convoy he was travelling in with the United Nations Interim Force for Abyei (UNISFA). On 18 February 2016 the civilians under protection of UNMISS Camps in Malakal where 18 civilians were killed and over 80 others injured. 46 civilians were reported dead in April 2014 in the similar scenario and addition to recent violence in J1, Juba were UNMISS were shown lively in the international media fighting with national army the SPLA. This failure has made the people of South Sudan to question the mandate of UNMISS in the Country.

The purpose for this petition is to inform the UN, IGAD and AU that any military intervention will automatically lead South Sudan nation to collapse. The civil society urge you to use right mechanisms in order to protect the implementation of the Peace Agreement which is the hope and last solution in resolving the conflict in South Sudan.

The Civil Society organizations have been highly and closely involved consistently on the peace talks as represented by the 18 members engaging with the IGAD Led Mediation Team in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the beginning up to the time of the signing of the Peace Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, pushing the Government, armed opposition (SPLM-IO) and other stakeholders to reach the deal. During the process in Addiss Baba, the civil society rejected the notion of the existence of the two armies in the nation, regarding it as rudimentary and naïve that will create disharmony and widening the gap between the leaders of South Sudan.

South Sudan has a legitimate leadership elected in 2010 until it was interrupted by the violence on 15th December 2013. Peace agreement was an alternative as transitional Government of national unity was formed to address the issue of legitimacy constitutionally. We have good relations with other nations and we are not exporters of terrorism. Instead, we have always been victims of foreign aggression but South Sudan has proved a formidable embankment against advancement of terrorism, intolerance and extremism into the heart of Africa. South Sudan does not interfere in internal affairs of other nations.

With disbelief the voice of peaceful coexistence has no place in the mind and hearts of IGAD, AU and UN Security Council. It is sad that such inhuman and disrespectful culture prevails. It is against all diplomatic norms and is a violation of these standards to arrogantly jump into use of unnecessary force. Unjustified use of force has given negative results in Afghanistan, Libya, Congo just to mention but a few.

Sanctions, Military intervention are not solutions to South Sudan issue but will complicate matters. It is unrealistic to impose peace using military power when there is a chance to support peaceful solutions. Give us chance to dialogue. Incorporate, recognize and involve our traditional coping mechanism and conflict resolutions. We warn against arrogant and disrespect and we support mutual and as equal partners to ensure world peace, liberty, freedom and inclusive and just governance.

Therefore, the South Sudan Civil Society organizations strongly reject the following:

1. The UN, IGAD, AU proposed Military intervention in South Sudan;
2. Reject the increment of UN troops in South Sudan;
3. Arms Embargo to South Sudan;
4. Sanctions against South Sudan;
5. UNMISS Mandate Extension in South Sudan;
6. AU, IGAD & UN indirect invasion of South Sudan.
7. The proposed revisiting of the UNMISS mandate of protection of civilians to military intervention in South Sudan

Recommendations

1. Support the Transitional Government of National Unity;
2. Support the implementation of ACRISS 2016;
3. The UNMISS to commit to the Protection of civilians as mandated not military intervention.
4. The International Community to fund the process of the implementation of the agreement (the Government, JMEC and other committees as per the agreement).

Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom
Chairperson
South Sudan Civil Society Alliance

Chief Deng Macam Angui
Chairprson of South Sudan Council of Chiefs

Dr. Albino Bol Dhieu
President of the South Sudan National Youth Union

Chairperson of the South Sudan General Women Union

CC: Transitional Government of national unity

CC: SPLM-IO

CC: Political Parties

CC: SPLM-Former Detainees

CC: IGAD

CC: AU

CC: JMEC

CC: Special Representative of the Secretary General UN and Head of UNMISS in South Sudan

CC: European Union

CC: Embassy of the United States in South Sudan

CC: Embassy of Norway

CC: Embassy of UK in South Sudan

CC: Embassy of Japan in South Sudan

CC: Embassy of China in South Sudan

CC: File