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## South Sudanese Community Leaders USA

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
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### **Ref: Demand for USA Government Intervention in the Crisis between the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan**

To United States Congress:

We, the community leaders of South Sudanese associations in the USA are deeply concern with the escalation of violence between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, which bares all the hallmarks of leading up into all out war. We are equally concern with the regime in Khartoum mastery in manipulation of information transmitted to the world leaders in such unfortunate time so as to fit with the regime's grand agenda.

All along, we had hoped the truth would have revealed themselves for those concerns with the events in both Sudan and South Sudan, however, the regime in Khartoum manages to hijack the situation by using all resources available at its disposal to mislead the world leaders. Therefore, we, the few privileged South Sudanese community leaders who are able to express ourselves are compelled to address our concerns to you, the lawmakers here in USA by stressing on our grievances, with the hope that you will listen and act accordingly as you have always done. You are not only the broker of peace in the two countries, but you are also the custodian of its stability and prosperity.

At this moment of sadness and hopelessness, we feel that we are willing to pay whatever price possible for expressing the truth, because we realize the ultimate price of keeping quiet is resulting to the death of our people everyday. As we sit back and wait, the price of keeping quiet is exemplified by an innocent baby born in South Sudan, (none of her own fault at all), but as she is trying to cling into her mother's breast to feed, an invisible Antonov bomb falls from the sky and snatch her live away. This does not end there. A South Sudanese mother who wakes up early every morning to work on her farm so as to feed her family, pays the ultimate price of keeping quiet, because a land mine supplied by Khartoum regime to the militias as a means to destabilize South Sudan blows her up on her way, along with the little food she tries to bring home. The price of keeping quiet is indeed costly as it is endured by an elderly South Sudanese who wish to sit peacefully under a village tree to reminiscence about the

past, but he is driven away from his home village and exposed under the mercy of deadly diseases, which eventually kill him.

So, it is not in our humble culture to over-stress on the truth in order for one to understand the plight South Sudanese are enduring, nonetheless, under this current circumstances, we are forced to emphasize our concerns to all of you, the US decision makers so that you act with clear conscious, but not fall trap to Khartoum's propaganda machine, hence, our concerns to you are as follows:

## **Unfolding Events**

### **Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)**

After devastating brutal war that lasted for decades, a peace agreement was finally signed in 2005, which would have settled the South-North Sudan war, once and for all. The US was influential in brokering this peace deal and in monitoring its implementations. The protocols of the agreement clearly stipulated resolutions on the current contentious issues such as border democratization, oil, Abyei, security, and popular consultations for two regions of Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile State, with specific benchmarks for implementations. Unfortunately, the regime in Khartoum decided to dishonor its part of the deal. For example, instead of agreeing for the exercise of self determination in Abyei, which was scheduled to take place simultaneously with South Sudan referendum so as the citizens of Abyei could determine their status as to whether they want to be part of South or North Sudan, the regime in Khartoum decided to forcefully occupy Abyei and drive out its indigenous population, who are currently languishing as miserable refugees, without a homeland.

When the peace agreement was signed, we were jubilant, wrongly thinking that the regime in Khartoum was genuine in its quest for peace. We understood that the negative impact of the war also heavily weighed on the members of the regime in Khartoum, because a good number of the men they were sending to kill us in South Sudan also met similar fate just like their victims. The beasts of the South Sudanese jungle also devoured on their bones and the vultures of the forest feasted on their corpses, just as they did on their millions of South Sudanese victims. So, we thought the leaders of the regime in Khartoum could still have humanity in them to acknowledge the horror of such loses and could genuinely chose to embrace peace instead of prolonging war. Regrettably, we were proven wrong as the flagrant actions of Khartoum's regime highlighted below revealed.

### **Violations of South Sudan Sovereignty and Human Rights**

- Khartoum continues to carry out aerial bombardments inside South Sudan at will. Evidence of such bombings are overwhelming, often indiscriminately targeting civilian population, including the most recent bombing, targeted at a UN compound in Mayom, Unity State. Since the targets of those bombings are civilians, majority of the victims are always the vulnerable among the society, the women and children.
- Khartoum has used force to illegally occupy Abyei instead of agreeing for a peaceful referendum for the citizens of Abyei. Despite the deployment of international peacekeepers in Abyei, Khartoum continues to occupy the area and violating all the provisions of the Abyei agreement, signed in June of 2011. Khartoum continues to engage in deliberate actions in sabotaging the activities of the peacekeepers in the area. The entire citizens of Abyei are currently displaced from their homeland and are seemed to be forget by the world, since last time they were forced of their homeland.

- Khartoum armed forces have been carrying raids inside South Sudan territory in violation of South Sudan sovereignty and in contravention of international laws and norms. Through those raids, Khartoum manages to occupy areas deep within South Sudan territory.
- In line with its aim to undermine the existence of South Sudan, Khartoum decides to openly support armed militias to carry out violence within South Sudan, with the clear goal to destabilize the country. The evidence of Khartoum's support for the militias is overwhelming, as all the South Sudanese militia leaders are residing in Khartoum and their forces are trained and supplied from areas within Sudan territory, including from the army garrison in Panthou.
- Khartoum has been stealing the oil of South Sudan for years, since the oil is transported and refined within its territory. Khartoum's illegal action led into South Sudan shutting down of its oil production, which actually irritated Khartoum to the point that they are now trying to use force to seize all the South Sudan oilfields to be under its control. Recent evidence discovered in Panthou shows a construction of new pipeline in progress, which Khartoum wants to link to the other South Sudan's pipelines in Unity State as a way of secretly tapping into South Sudanese oil.
- Khartoum decides to mistreat South Sudanese citizens who are either on transit to the South Sudan or still residing in the Republic of Sudan. Matter of fact, Khartoum enacted it into law by declaring South Sudanese as enemies. So, making a mockery of law, Khartoum decided to legalize its discrimination of South Sudanese. All these put the life of South Sudanese in Northern Sudan in great jeopardy, and without proper outside intervention, the life of South Sudanese in the Republic of Sudan will degenerate to resemble those at concentration camps in Nazis Germany. As things currently stand, those South Sudanese who were once students, are summarily dismissed from their schools. Those who were employed are stripped off their jobs. Even within the comfort of their homes, they are harassed, beaten, and arrested. Worst yet, they are blocked from coming into South Sudan, leaving them in the lion's den, surviving at the mercy of cruel regime in Khartoum.
- The aerial bombardments and armed raids by Khartoum in South Sudan have led into displacements of hundred of thousands of South Sudanese from their homelands. Basically, South Sudanese are made refugees within their own country by deadly decisions taken in Khartoum to wreak havoc in South Sudan and among its citizens.

### **Panthou (Heglig)**

Khartoum is solely responsible and must be held to account in the current crisis unfolding in Panthou, which is also known by its infamous and colonial imposter's name as Heglig. The events leading up to the current crisis occurred as follows:

- In late of March of this year, the Sudanese armed forces deliberately attacked the SPLA's, (the South Sudanese armed forces), position at a post inside South Sudan territory. In response, the SPLA were able to repulse the attackers, and in a process of pursuing them, the SPLA ended up capturing Panthou. The SPLA then unilaterally withdrew into its initial position, deep inside South Sudan with the hope that they will not be attacked again.
- However, once again, on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sudanese armed forces attacked the same SPLA position, this time, the SPLA repulsed them and capturing Panthou and vowed to stay put, even though the SPLA finally made a tactically withdrawal, adhering to the international demand in giving a peaceful process a chance.
- Panthou, as its indigenous name suggest is a South Sudanese land, specifically belong to the Dinka of Parieng of Unity State. Successive regimes in Khartoum have an established history of trying to annex parts of South Sudan into North, especially after the discovery of oil. The brief

story below provides insight on how Panthou became the crown jewelry of NCP in a recent history.

The processes of annexing Panthou into North intensified recently during the NCP regime. It came to surfacing clearly for the first time in 1997, when Omer al Bashir the President of the Sudan registered an official visit to Paanthou for the opening ceremony of the oilfields. The state government in Western Kordofan (before the state was abolished and annexed to South Kordofan after the signing of CPA in 2005), organized an opening ceremony of the oilfields and the visit of the president in the area under the pretense that Paanthou is a part of the former Western Kordofan State. The state government led by Lt. Gen. of police, Abdelrahaman Muktar ordered commissioner of the Peace Province that included Abyei, al-Merriam and Muglid to transport Dinka Ngok citizens residing at Abyei and surrounding areas to the place of the ceremony at Heglig in order to welcome the president and participate in the occasion under cover that the area is a part of Abyei and, hence perceived to be owned by the Dinka Ngok.

This strategy was not known to the state government in Unity State at the time. The recently appointed Ambassador Micheal Mayiel Choul who was the Wali (Governor) of Unity State by then was not aware about this conspiracy, even when he was to attend that ceremony. When the Governor of Unity State eventually arrived at the place of the ceremony with his cabinet members, he found the place and the occasion were totally hijacked by the Western Kordofan government and the populace from Abyei area. The governor and his entourage were welcomed as guests from the neighboring state. He was denied a speech in the opening ceremony, and Abdelrahaman Muktar was accorded the welcoming remarks as the host state and to welcome as well the president to deliver his speech and officially opened the project.

Upon receiving the copy of the program, Mr. Micheal Mayiel reacted immediately and objected to the program. The two governors exchanged insulting words in front of the president on the entitlement of who supposed to give the speech in this important occasion and who is to claim ownership of the area. The president stepped in and asked the two governors to present their speeches as the area belongs to all Sudanese people, according to his assertion.

The oilfields were officially opened on the assumption that the area was a part of Western Kordofan NOT SOUTH KORDOFAN. In 1999, when the first oil produced in the Sudan was shipped to international market at Bashair port in Port Sudan, again the chance was given to the oil-producing states; the two governors of the Western Kordofan and Unity State were asked to step up into the podium and present their speeches.

Then, just right before the CPA was signed, the NCP preempted their move in a letter, sent in the middle of 2004, by the then Federal Affairs Minister, Nafie Ali Nafie, who authorized the transfer of Panthou from Unity State to Western Kordofan State and affirm the change of the area's name from Panthou to Heglig. The reason of the transfer was motivated by the presence of oil in the area and the timely decision was due to the prospect of South Sudan becoming an entity through the peace agreement, which was to be signed soon. So, the NCP plotted and predetermined the future status of Panthou with such crafty and elaborate actions, just within shortest period of time possible of its reign in power.

The NCP are intentionally misinterpreting the ruling of Abyei Arbitration of 2008. They are exploiting the decision of the court and claiming that the ruling was a justification of their assertion that the Court had confirmed their claim over Panthou, since the ruling was silenced

about it, without knowing that Panthou was purposely left out of Abyei boundaries, not South Sudanese boundaries, which are yet to be determined through South-North border demarcation. One can see how the NCP has been dealing with the ruling of the court; appreciating part of the ruling and condemning part of it. The question is, how come the NCP refuses to demarcate the Abyei boundaries as defined by this very court if they so believe in the court's ruling?

The information that the area was literally claimed to be part of Western Kordofan and NOT SOUTH KORDOFAN is very significant to see the degree of confusion and weak position on the side of the invaders of Panthou area. It is important because it will enable people to relate geopolitics of the area to the historical events, because South Kordofan, which is bordering Parieng County was supposed to be the one claiming the ownership of Heglig from that very time and not Western Kordofan, and the clashes on who supposed to speak in the opening ceremony of the oilfields were expected to be between Mr. Micheal Mayiel Choul, the governor of Unity State and the late Magizub Yusuf Babaker the governor of South Kordofan and NOT between Micheal and Muktar. However, because the conspiracy was designed to make the area a part of the disputed Abyei, it further complicated the matter.

Before 1977, there was no border disputes between the North and South. However, upon discovery of oil in what is now Unity State, President Gaafar Nimeiry issued a presidential decree that the area which included Panthou, actually the size of a county, belonged to Southern Sudan, Unity Province. The dictatorial president appointed himself the commissioner of the Unity Province.

Heglig is the Arabic name of the "desert date", a fruit of the *Balanites aegyptiaca* tree which is found in the Africa. The Sudanese Muslim sect of Sufies use the Heglig (lalob) seeds to make prayers beads. South Sudanese do not recognize the name Heglig for the town Panthou as it represented an Arabic translation aimed to replace the indigenous name.

Under normal circumstances and in ideal situation in accordance with the CPA protocols, the dispute over Panthou could have been resolved peacefully, through the demarcation of the border. However, Khartoum chooses the use of military force as the only means in settling this dispute. Even though the actions of Khartoum compelled South Sudan to use force in self defense, we still believe a peaceful solution in resolving the dispute is possible. And along with that, we demand the following course of action as stated below.

## **Demands for Actions**

- There should be immediate cessation of hostilities in the border areas.
- There should be an erection of buzzer zone by international peacekeepers along the flashpoints in the border areas, separating the armies of the two countries.
- There should be an enforcement of a no fly zone in the border areas as well as in other Sudan's marginalized areas, which are currently suffering under Khartoum indiscriminate air campaign, because Khartoum is using the pretext of targeting Sudanese rebels by actually bombing South Sudan territories and population.
- Khartoum must be held to account for the mistreatment of South Sudanese citizens who are in the North and facilitate for their safe passage into South Sudan
- Khartoum must be held to the standard of Geneva Convention in the conduct of its war with the South Sudan. Evidence are showing that Khartoum's onslaught in the South don't even spare little babies, meanwhile South Sudan armed forces are able to protect the captured Sudanese

combatants, and in observing with the Geneva Convention, they are even willing to facilitate the safe return of the captured combatants into the Republic of Sudan. Therefore, Khartoum must reciprocate or else held to account.

- There should be urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to the South Sudanese affected by the war.
- The US must use its international diplomatic clout in protecting South Sudan. For example, the US must discourage any consideration in the UN of condemnation of South Sudan and veto any resolution aimed at punishing South Sudan for acting in self defense. There is no any moral equivalence between the government of South Sudan and the brutal regime in Khartoum
- The sanctions against the regime in Khartoum must be tightened, particularly the arm embargo.
- The effort to arrest President Omar al-Bashir on his outstanding international warrant must be doubled. It seems the two countries are held hostage by a fugitive, hence, President al-Bashir must go to pave way for a peaceful co-existence between the two sisterly countries.
- Khartoum must be forced into negotiating table so as the pending issues are resolved by peaceful means as oppose to war

In conclusions, we hope you will be able to empathize with the plight of the South Sudanese people, who are struggling to become free, but yet being terrorized by the regime in Khartoum. With that said, we expect your actions in supporting a long lasting peace in both the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, for the people to enjoy stability and prosperity. The government of South Sudan already made a drastic gesture for a peaceful process to commence by unilaterally pulling out troops from Panthou. Now it is Khartoum's turn for peaceful overture and the outside world, the USA in particular, to play a crucial intervening role for final resolutions on the disputes.

**Undersigned:**

Mrs. Adhel Ring, President of Bahr al-Ghazel Women Group in Mid-West USA

Ms. Akuthi O. Okoth, President of Akobo Anyuak Leadership Council

Mr. Anthony Makur, President of Yorol Community in USA

Mr. Arop Manyang Dut, President of South Sudanese Community in Dallas & Fort-Worth, TX—USA

Mr. Ben Oliha Celsio, President of Otuho Community Association in Diaspora (OCAD) in USA

Mr. Brown Both Bol, Nuer Community Development Service, USA

Mr. Dominic Onen, Representative of Acholi Community in USA

Mr. Emelio Mungu, President of Parara (Bari) Community in USA

Mr. Felix Lohitai, President of Sudanese Community in Erie, PA—USA

Mr. Isaac Loding Leju, President of Sudanese Community in Pittsburgh, PA—USA

Mr. John Lukudu Lomude, President of Pojulu Community in USA

Mr. John Bol, Acting President of Bentiu in USA

Mr. John Jock Tay, President Pangak Community in USA

Dr. Joseph Agolory, President of Anyuak Advisory Council

Mr. Jubek Lowala, President of Sudanese Community in Rochester, MN—USA

Mr. Kwaje Lasu, President of ESCA—USA

Mr. Machar Bak, Chairman of Lake State Community in USA

Mr. Martin Juma Sustin, Representative of South Sudanese in Kentucky—USA

Mrs. Monica Riak, Chairwoman of Chueibet Women in USA

Mr. Moyam Ater, Chueibet Community in USA

Mrs. Nyanthuok Moun, President of Jikany Community

Mr. Ochan Abella, President of Pochalla Community Association

Mr. Oliver Kenyi, President of Kuku Community in USA

Mr. Oresto Kenyi, President of Madi Community in USA  
Mr. Paul Motor, Representative of Jonlei Peace Initiative  
Mr. Sam Dilla, Representative of South Sudanese Community in Oregon as well as the Sudanese Fellowship  
Mr. Samuel Loliwa, President of Lokoya Community in USA  
Mr. Santino Atak, President of Aweil Community in USA  
Mr. Simon Deng Kech, President of Lou Nuer Community in USA  
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