

**Article 50 on South Sudan**

**Developments in South Sudan Conflict: Part of the Riddle of Mandate is Solved and IGAD and Ethiopia**

Our Articles 1 to 3 and 5 to 49 were situation analyses of the conflict in South Sudan. Our articles 4 (A), 4 (B) and 4 (C) were the first of our series on “Who is Who”. This article 50 is dedicated to the unequivocal confirmation that, as long as the SPLM/A-IO is concerned, there is NO clear written and bona fide Mandate for the 3 envoys of mediation. It is also to respond to a fellow Citizen of the Horn of Africa on his valued comments to us in reference to Article 49.

**There is no mandate**

This is what we sent to both the GRSS and the SPLM/A-IO enquiring about the Mandate (a similar but differently worded message was sent to IGAD):

***Quote***

- 1- Did the SPLM/A-IO (GRSS) get an official note from IGAD/Mediation advising you what the mandate of the 3 envoys was? A bona fide legal document and not generics.
- 2- If yes, can you possibly share it with us? This is a document that should be in the public domain.
- 3- If not, what else, if any, in the way of documentation did you get before you first flew to Addis or along the way during the talks?
- 4- While we wrote about Mediation in over 15 of our articles I hope to hear from you what you see as lacking and negative in the process and its 3 mediators? What is for us on the record and I can quote you and what is off the record and I can use but not quote you?
- 5- ..... (Question on other issues)
- 6- ..... (Question on other issues)

***Unquote***

Here is what we got from the SPLM/A-IO and from the group at its highest leadership and that we are at liberty to share with you:

**Quote**

Dear Tag

.....  
.....

We have not received in writing a mandate for the three envoys, however a message was conveyed (*to us*) through the UN on December 24 (2013) to Dr Riek from IGAD foreign Ministers. We were in Bor under very heavy attack. Dr Riek accepted IGAD mediation. Dr Riek sent a hand written note of SPLM/A delegation through the UN in Bor.

The envoys have been quoting Heads of State and Government summit communiqués as their mandate. This presented the process with very serious challenges specially the SPLM/A delegation

**Unquote**

We have not received a response, yet, from the GRSS.  
IGAD says “There are ToR” but did not share with us or even elaborate.

**We believe that there is no Mandate in the legal and professional sense we know. There is no ToR.**

There is urgent need to have one and in consultation with the two primary stakeholders.

**Does the position of the GRSS on venue and envoys makes that pressing?**

Yes it does. Read Makuei yesterday October 7<sup>th</sup> and

We quote

““The question of the change of venue and even the change of mediation is still holding. We have raised this. It is not me or the [government] delegation that would demand it, but [it] will have to be decided by the IGAD heads of states and governments because they are the very people who decided the mediators from 27 December 2013,” he said.

Unquote

Lueth came under pressure from opposition party leaders last week for attacking IGAD and the Troika countries of the US, Norway and UK for being biased, accusing them of breeding regime change in South Sudan.

Makuei’s demands were not “Noise” and were nor “Spur of the Moment” uttering. As we said in our Articles it is “Juba” and not “Makuei”.

If there were “Mandate” it would have dealt with such issues. It would stipulate if the venue and mediation team are “Bible” or “Options”.

**What is our focus and in what “Context” are we writing?**

In response to our Article 49, we received the following message from a fellow Citizen of the Horn of Africa and we value and respond to ALL comments that we get. Sometimes privately and at times widely while keeping confidentiality of the names/source.

This is what we got:

**Quote**

Thank you sir.

I suggest that you look at IGAD in a context. How was it established, how did it manage its original objectives when it was established? How was it revitalized to change its original objective?

What was the context? What happened following the revitalization? How is IGAD membership, assessed contributions and the role of its partners? What is the relationship look like between members?

How did the region manage the cold war? What is the role of Egypt and the Arab League...etc....This might lead you to have a better grasp and see the challenges the regional organization faces....

Ethiopia's poverty...yes...Ethiopia has its ups and downs...from its ancient history to the cold war and present. But Ethiopia is changing for the better and it is my hope that the trend would be irreversible so that people won't hammer on its poverty, but on its contribution positively in the region and beyond.  
Stay well.

### **Unquote**

It is an important message and we respond as follows:

1. Sub Sahara Centre, though small, probably is one of the best and richest resource centres in the world on the Horn of Africa.
2. Documentation on all what the colleague mentioned in his message (and much more) are in our records and archives to the minute details. We know IGAD well, (on its own) as well as the other 12 regional organizations that we analysed in our Article #49.
3. The table that we produced in our article #49 is drawn from data from: The World Bank, IMF, CIA, AfDB, UN, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, among others.
4. The parameters that we have used : Land Mass, Population, GDP, Per Capita.... are standard international parameters of evaluation. They may be right or wrong but right now they are the yardstick and norm that the world uses.
5. We only mentioned Ethiopia within the context of IGAD and that also within the context of the comparison.
6. Poverty is not a shame but a manifestation of development or lack of it. Ethiopia has been keeping one of the best rates of growth in Africa. It will soon be the largest power house of Hydro Power in Africa.
7. If the Gambella Oil Fields and the Calub and Hilala Natural Gas Fields are fully explored, Ethiopia's GDP and hence the Per Capita will rise.
8. It is also a fact that that the process of "Fiscal equalization" between the 9 regions and Addis is a challenge as openly admitted by Ato Kassa Tekleberhan, the Speaker of the House of Federations of Ethiopia in his presentation in Ottawa September 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.
9. As for "Context", our one and single context is "**The Conflcit in South Sudan**" and how it can best be resolved. The rest is auxiliary and supporting knowledge.

### **In addition for us:**

Ethiopia is the cradle of Africa's Man. Every African is, in a way or the other, Ethiopian. We all came from "Lucy".

When we deal with issues of the South Sudan Conflict we ALWAYS use facts and statistics and solid information.

To Ethiopia and our fellow colleague: We raise our hats.

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