



**SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**

**SPLM LEADERS (FPD)**

**PRESS STATEMENT ON 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S  
LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SPLM)**

We, the SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees) wish to salute all SPLM cadres and South Sudanese in general, wherever they are, as we mark the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Army.

Today marks one of the most important historic events in the revolutionary struggle of the people of South Sudan against forces of oppression, political subjugation, racial and religious subordination and economic and social exploitation. Today marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). It was on the 16 of May 1983 when patriotic sons and daughters of our motherland resolved to take up arms against the then May Regime of late President Gaafar Nimeri of Sudan to wage a revolutionary armed struggle for freedom, justice, dignity and national liberation.

While far away from our beloved country, we the SPLM Leaders (FPD) or G – 10 (as other people like to call us), take this opportunity to warmly congratulate all our people on this historic national occasion. We encourage you not to despair but to trust in God and keep hope alive for peace to return to our war-torn nation. We also take this opportunity to salute the memory of the founding father Dr. John Garang De Mabior and his colleagues who co-founded the SPLM/SPLA and all the Martyrs who fought and paid the ultimate price for our freedom and national liberation with their dear blood during the long and difficult years of our struggle. In order to protect the achievements and political independence of our nation, we give you our promise and commitment to continue to struggle selflessly for the realization of the vision, values and unity of the SPLM.

We are marking this 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary while our country is faced with a devastating civil war that threatens not only the very existence of South Sudan as an independent country but is tearing the very fabric of our society into pieces beyond belief.

Today, South Sudan is in dire economic straits and our people are facing desperate economic hardship that has made life extremely unbearable for the vast majority of citizens due to hyper inflation, scarcity of goods and unprecedented depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound. Yesterday, 15/05/2015, the South Sudanese Pound exchanged at SSP 16 to one United States Dollar. Besides steep price increases in the local markets that is making klife unbearable, this unprecedented depreciation is making it difficult for parents to pay the fees of their children in schools in neighbouring countries. The dire economic situation must be partially to blame for the increase in the rate of violent crimes in the country, especially in urban areas as many people cannot afford to meet their basic needs. The security of citizens is thereby adversely affected.

Given this serious crisis facing the country, what then is the war forward? How can peace and stability be restored to the country?

The current IGAD peace process which has lasted for 16 months has stalled due to lack of agreement by the warring parties on a limited number of issues which do not justify the continuation of war. In our view these outstanding issues are resolvable if the warring parties have the political will to end the war and embrace peace. While the initiative to convene an IGAD Plus forum to forge or impose a solution offers some hope, nevertheless, the burden of bringing this war to an end lies with the two warring parties, especially with the Government.

### **Arusha Agreement:**

The Arusha Agreement is an important milestone which, if fully implemented, could help in resolution of the crisis as it has addressed the root causes of the conflict. We, the SPLM Leaders are therefore committed to its full implementation.

We therefore call upon the SPLM in-Government and SPLM in-Opposition to give their full support to the implementation of this Agreement. The recent meeting in Pretoria between SPLM Leaders and SPLM delegation from Juba was a positive engagement. It is our hope that the next meeting would be inclusive of the three SPLM groups and that it will lead to full implementation of the Arusha Agreement.

## **Our Message to:**

1. **The Warring Parties:** Our country is on the verge of collapse into total chaos and possible disintegration with no hope of any side picking the pieces. This dire situation calls for leadership to summon the willpower to immediately terminate the risk of fragmentation by ending the war, preventing humanitarian catastrophe and reconciling the nation.
2. **The Government:** In view of rising insecurity, precarious economic situation and riven social fabric, the Government is fast losing legitimacy and may fall. The only logical way for the Government to regain legitimacy and earn consent of the public is by restoring peace and stability to the country. We urge the Government to immediately pursue the path of peace.
3. **SPLM (IO):** While it is possible that the Government in Juba may fall, it is uncertain which forces might fill the vacuum. It is therefore in the interest SPLM (IO) and the people of South Sudan that the SPLM (IO) commits itself to peaceful resolution of the conflict to avert fragmentation and/or disintegration.
4. **The South Sudanese People:** Even as the future looks grim, bleak and unpromising, we believe that you hold the keys to your future and the future of your children. With a united voice and your clear and firm call for peace, you can impel the leaders to seek and achieve a peaceful settlement that is just and fair. We, the SPLM Leaders are fully committed to take your side, the side of the people in their struggle for peace.
5. **SPLM Cadres:** We call on all SPLM cadres to reject the call of the warring parties or any party, for continued violence, ethnic mobilization and sectarian divisions.

**Cde Pagan Amum Okiech**

**Head, SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees)**

**Nairobi, Kenya, 16 May 2015**