

August 10, 2015

To: Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD);

Cc: Chairperson of African Union (AU);

Cc: The President of United States of America (USA);

Cc: Secretary General of United Nation (UN);

Cc: Troika Countries;

Cc: Right Hon/ Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada;

Cc: Government of the Republic of South Sudan

Subject: Protest Letter against The IGAD Proposed Peace Agreement

We acknowledge the social and moral support we had received during our noble struggle from some East African countries and the International Community as a whole. We positively appreciate the decision taken by the leadership of our sisterly country, Uganda for pledging full support to our elected President of the Republic of South Sudan.

As a result of the December 15, 2013 senseless, abortive coup d'état, we lost many innocent civilians who supposed to enjoy the fruit of their hard earned Independent. We believe in lasting and sustainable peace rather than having an agreement that will take the people of South Sudan back to war. The proposed peace initiative, in fact, is an IGAD's sewed, ticking bomb that will explode at its designated moment in time.

To say the truth, current IGAD proposed ratios of power sharing, the issue of having two armies in one country, and stripping the executive powers of the elected President of the Republic of South Sudan will not bring lasting peace needed most by South Sudanese. The so called "Proposed Compromised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan is only meant to appease rebel leader of SPLM – IO, Riek Machar. However, this agreement will not serve the interest of South Sudanese people.

We strongly reject the threatening position taken against people of South Sudan and their democratically, elected and legitimate government by the USA administration. We never expect the leadership of the United State of America to take that leading position against the people who they assisted during the time of their struggle. It is very unfortunate indeed! We also reject the attitude of some IGAD members for welcoming rebel leader in the red carpet as if he is a leader of an independent state.

We, South Sudanese Diaspora in Canada, do hereby disclose our deep surprise and dismay over certain provisions contained in the IGAD proposed Agreement on power sharing ratios in the Transitional Government of National Unity that shall be applied as follows: Executive body has 53 percent, 33 percent, 7 percent and 7 percent for GRSS, the SPLM – IO, the SPLM leaders (former detainees); and other political parties respectively. Whereas power sharing ratios in the conflict affected states of Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile reflected in Chapter one article 15.4 of this agreement stated: The State Council of Ministers in the three states power sharing ratios as

follows: Government of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS): thirty three (33) percent; SPLM-IO fifty three (53) percent: SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees): Seven (7) percent: other Political Parties: Seven (7) percent.

After a careful review and closer examination of the above provisions, we have reached the conclusion that IGAD Mediation has taken side in the conflict for the following reasons:

- ❖ The proposed power sharing ratios in the Transitional Government of National Unity will derail and prolong the suffering of South Sudanese masses in the ground. It will strengthen the position of Riek Machar to continue his brutality against South Sudanese people.
- ❖ It is unfair to give the government 33% power-sharing ratio in Upper Nile since the government is in control of most of the counties in greater upper Nile region.
- ❖ The Great Upper Nile Region is not only inhabited by one ethnic group as alleged by the rebels in the IGAD document; however, the region is inhabited by more than thirteen (13) ethnic groups.
- ❖ If this proposal is accepted, it means splitting South Sudan into small ungovernable and tribal states.
- ❖ The Government of National Unity proposed ratios are purely ideas of IGAD, which are only meant to split the Republic of South Sudan into small tribal entities in the horn of Africa.
- ❖ Prolong the negotiation in Addis Ababa, we believe, that IGAD is doing business on South Sudan's current conflict.
- ❖ We, as South Sudanese Diaspora in Canada, felt betrayed by our own regional powers "IGAD" for their failure to stand behind the democratically, elected and legitimate Government of the Republic of South Sudan under the leadership of the President, H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit.

We also reject the notion proposed in Chapter one (1) article five (5) "The demilitarization and arrangement of the National Capital", which says "The National Capital, Juba, which is the seat of the the Government of National Unity shall be demilitarized within ninety days from the signing of this agreement in order to create the a conducive atmospere for the formation of the transitional Government of National Unity and the return of the SPLM – IO and the SPLM Leaders to Juba.

- ❖ We categorically reject the proposal of having two armies in the Capital City of Juba as proposed in the IGAD document chapter one of "Transitional Government of National Unity of the Republic of South Sudan"
- ❖ The idea of having two separate armies in one country is undermining the sovereignty of the Republic of South Sudan.
- ❖ The presence of so many military units in one country will terrify the traumatized average South Sudanese citizens.

- ❖ It will, undoubtedly, open doors for tribal arm race and unrest in the country.
- ❖ We South Sudanese citizens are fed up for ceaseless absorption of so many Militias who do not have military ethics or background.

We reject collegial structure, which give equal right in the decision making. This arrangement undermines the constitutional mandate of the head of state rather than obligatory consultation mode proved in clause 8 of chapter I of the proposed compromise agreement. Below is our position:

- ❖ The President of the Republic was democratically elected like United State of America president, UK, and Canada etc.
- ❖ If implemented as proposed in the agreement, it will bring confusion in the decision making.
- ❖ It does not make sense to have power sharing that give rebels the upper hand in decision making.
- ❖ We believe that IGAD Plus countries have played very negative role since the crisis started in 15th December 2013.

Recommendations:

To bring meaningful and lasting peace, we believe that SPLM Arusha Peace Agreement should at least be the basis for peace initiative since all parties in the conflict had agreed upon.

We reject Proposed Compromised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan due to the fact that it has never taken into consideration the views of South Sudanese and opinions of the legitimate government.

We strongly believe that IGAD Plus will not bring lasting peace to South Sudan due to the fact that some of its members have their own agendas and they become part and parcel of the ongoing conflict. Thus, some of these members need to be carefully reviewed.

Signed:

Mario Madut Ayudo

President

South Sudanese Canadian Cultural Society (SSCCS) of Calgary.

Charles Chol Tiop, Vice President

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