



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SPLM LEADERS (FPD)

PRESS STATEMENT

**SPLM LEADERS (FORMER POLITICAL DETAINEES) WELCOME
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON PEACE FRONT AND ENCOURAGE
MORE ACTION ON CEASEFIRE AND RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

We, SPLM Leaders (FPDs) warmly welcome the signing of an agreement between GRSS and Arrow Boys in Western Equatoria, under the mediation and facilitation of the Church. We seize this opportunity to appeal to the President of South Sudan to employ the same approach to bring in all other armed groups who are still holding out in Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal, including those using the Republic of Sudan as a sanctuary and launching pad for attacks in South Sudan. The Permanent Ceasefire must cover all groups that have taken up arms, whether they belong to SPLM/A (IO) or not.

Furthermore, we would like to appreciate the progress made so far regarding the arrival in Juba of the SPLM/A (IO) forces, thus paving the way for return of First Vice President designate, Dr. Riek Machar Teny.

It is deplorable that sporadic clashes continue in some parts of Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal and that there is still lack of agreement on whether or not there should be cantonment sites in (Greater) Equatoria and (Greater) Bahr el Ghazal and where. We urge the Government and SPLM/A (IO) through the facilitation of JMEC mechanisms, to resolve the issue of cantonment sites as a matter of urgency.

Finally, given that all stakeholders have signed the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS) and started to take steps towards its implementation fully and in good faith, we would like to urge all parties to ARCISS to create the necessary enabling environment for its implementation. We urge the Government of the day (before formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity) to lead in this respect. In particular we urge the Government to release all the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience including Governor Joseph Bakosoro and Professor Leonzio Angole Onok of the University of Juba. The two have been held in detention for more than three months, without being charged and arraigned in court.

As we take the first small but encouraging steps to implement ARCISS, and in the interest of consolidating peace and stability in the country, it is important to review and lift the state of emergency as part of critical actions to create an enabling environment. We will also need to take action to regain international goodwill that will be critical for resuscitating our collapsing economy. In this connection, we appeal to the President to put in motion the steps necessary for lifting the state of emergency. Furthermore, we urge the President to take action at once to stop the practice of arbitrary arrests by entities without legal and constitutional mandate to make arrests. This practice have attracted international disquiet by beaming negative spotlight on the country. It goes without saying that international goodwill, capital/finance and assistance will be critical in resuscitating the collapsing economy of our country.

In the same vein we call on the President to lift the travel ban of SPLM-Leaders (FPDs).



Gen. Madut Biar Yel

For/ Spokesperson, SPLM Leaders (FDs)

Juba, 6th April, 2016