



**SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT**  
**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**  
**SPLM LEADERS**

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

**On Regional Protection Force for South Sudan**

We, the SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees) welcome the decision of IGAD-plus, the African Union (AU) and their international partners to provide a Protection Force to stabilize the security situation in our country, South Sudan, protect civilians, pacify the spoilers and provide an enabling environment for implementation of the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (**ARCISS**). We urge all parties and stakeholders to fully support and cooperate with this Regional Protection Force. We further urge the Region to effect their decision with speed. It is our considered view that any delay in translating this regional initiative into action will run the risk of being undermined by new dynamics in a fast changing situation on the ground that could render it irrelevant. Commendable as it is, the failure of this initiative will not only condemn the people of South Sudan to more suffering but also render the much hallowed slogan of "African Solutions for African Problems" meaningless as the slogan would have been proven to be no more than an empty rhetoric.

Besides stabilizing security, protecting civilians and creating an enabling environment for implementation of ARCISS, we are convinced that this initiative, if effected, will create an environment conducive for healthy political dialogue that has been missing; it will remove the all pervasive element of fear prevailing now, thereby lead to restoration of freedom of speech and association; these in turn will enhance the transition to democracy and good governance that we all yearn for.

While welcoming regional intervention for the purpose of protection, it is our firm belief that this intervention by, and in itself, is not sufficient condition to put ARCISS and South Sudan for that matter, back on track. The military aspects of intervention, in case of resistance by the spoilers, need to be taken into account. The initiative has to ensure that all local forces are cantoned in their camps and barracks outside the main urban centres pending screening and reorganization with the help of the Region and the International Community. Approached correctly, we can assure the formation of Truly National Army, instead of the current patchwork of tribal militias.

Last but not least, we believe that a political programme or roadmap for sustainable peace and stability should be the end-state, and this should be achieved by an all-party roundtable to be convened as soon as possible inside or outside South Sudan as appropriate.

Finally, we urge IGAD and the international community to remain true to their commitment to bring permanent peace and stability to South Sudan.

**Kosti Manibe**  
**For SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees - FDs)**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
**8 August 2016**