

The People's Coalition for Civil Action

Invitation to Join the Coalition

Juba South Sudan
July 30, 2021

Fellow citizens, we have just marked our 10th year since independence, and we had no public celebrations. We all know that the first decade of our independence has gone to waste on wars of choice to seek or to protect political power.

Compatriots, we have started the second decade of our independence at a time when the country we love is descending deeper and deeper into intractable political crises. We are all witnesses to the fact that the R-ARCSS is collapsing in a slow motion before our eyes. The opposition parties, which signed the R-ARCSS including the SPLM-IO, are fragmented, and weakened and are no longer formidable peace partners. They have lost the capacity and the influence to push for the implement of the Agreement. We therefore have at hand a real possibility of the country sliding back to war. We must not allow the parties to take our country to war again.

Fellow Citizens, most of you have participated and followed the South Sudan National Dialogue process from 2016 to 2020. The National Dialogue accurately diagnosed the crisis in South Sudan as rooted in leadership failure and political deadlock. The National Dialogue leadership came out with a recommendation asking the two leaders to step aside to correct the leadership failure and the political deadlock. The National Dialogue National Conference came out with strong resolutions forming a broad political consensus in the country. These resolutions were submitted to the President for action, he has not acted. The failure of the President to take steps towards the implementation of the National Dialogue Resolutions only confirms the belief that the President and the government neither care about nor respect the people of South Sudan.

Instead of carrying out the will of the people of South Sudan, the President has ordered the state machinery to edit and doctor the National Dialogue documents to render them useless and pleasing to the government. We must not allow the leadership to silence our voices.

Fellow Citizens, you are all experiencing severe economic hardships in the country. We cannot afford basic food commodities because the prices have been rising steadily and our purchasing power has been declining sharply. Our soldiers earn miserable wages that cannot afford even one day's full meal. All government employees are the worst paid in the whole world and they go for months without a paycheck. South Sudan has the worst unemployment rates in the whole region as many people have lost their jobs because of the pointless wars. The youth of South Sudan go for 10 years looking for jobs and they cannot find one. The government has completely failed in its responsibility to care for us and to create jobs. We must not remain silent; we must seek answers and solutions to these challenges.

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Fellow citizens, we have also been witnessing growing corruption in the country. Our country is being looted in front of us. While we are struggling to secure a day's meal, some of our fellow citizens are buying and building properties in Juba and outside the country and living lavish lives. They are driving expensive cars worth tens of thousands of dollars on our dirty roads. They are part of a syndicate of criminals who are colluding with foreign elements to bring our country to its knees economically. As owners of this country, we must put these elements on notice that we have had enough.

We also know that some elements, who had lived lavish lives under the protection of our enemies during the struggle, living off the blood of our people, have now captured our government. They are working hard to capture power and colluding with some foreign elements to reunite the country and to cancel our referendum and independence gains. These elements have sold our country by taking expensive loans from the black-market sources, ending in their pockets while leaving the burden of debt to our children. We must reject this and hold these elements accountable.

Fellow Citizens, we have also lived under the reign of terror in our villages and towns. Our communities have been instrumentalized as violence machines. The fragmentation of our communities and the growth of tribal politics is an obvious case of a calculate political strategy to divide and rule us. This policy is used by both the government and those in opposition to divide us and to conquer us. We must reject this, and we must liberate our communities from this deadly political game.

Fellow citizens,

Considering all the challenges we have outlined, one thing is clear, we are heading for another wasted 10 years of our independence if we leave things in the hands of the same players. We will see endless wars, more unworkable fake peace agreements, more dismissal of people's voice such as the national dialogue. We will obviously witness our country being sold on cheaply to the highest bidder and corruption will continue to thrive. South Sudan, as it is, is not a country for the weak, it is not a country for soldiers, it is not a country for widows, wounded heroes, or the orphans. It is not a country for young people who seeking opportunities. It is not a country where women and young girls are safe and their dignity. It is a country of warlords, killers, and looters.

Fellow citizens, Article 2 of our Transitional Constitution 2011 (as amended) gives sovereign power to the people of South Sudan. We therefore have the power to hold the government and all state institutions accountable. Article 4 of our constitution also gives power to the citizens of South Sudan to protect the constitution and to stand in defense of democracy. Article 25 of our constitution gives us a right to freely assemble, and associate and we are also endowed with the freedom of expression and press under Article 24 of our constitution.

Considering these rights, fellow citizens, The People's Coalition of Civil Action has the honor of inviting you to join the Coalition to express our disappointments with the performance of the government and the deplorable state of affairs in our country over the last 10 years; and to collectively outline our aspirations for the next 10 years.



- If you are **widowed because of war** and you are not receiving benefits from the government, you are invited.
- If you are a **war wounded hero or heroine** and you are languishing in poverty without care and benefits, this is for you.
- If you are a **youth** having worked hard to get through education and you are unable to find work, this is your chance.
- If you are a **student** trying to go to school and you cannot afford to pay your school fees, join us.
- If you are a **woman**, working hard to feed your family and you go to the market and the money you have cannot afford a meal, come and complain.
- If you are a **man**, working hard to feed your family and the barrel of water is becoming unaffordable, come tell the government.
- If you are a **soldier**, working hard to defend our country and your salary cannot afford a kilo of meat, we are speaking for you, come protect the Coalition.
- If you are a **government employee**, who cannot afford public transport for your daily commute to work, and your salary cannot pay even one child's school fees, make your voice heard by joining us.
- If you are a **journalist** and you concerned about constant harassment, threats, censorship, and violation of the rights of freedom of expression and media, join your people.
- If you are a **medical professional** and you are concerned about your safety, poor pay, and poor working conditions, come out.
- If you are **boda-boda** rider or a public transport driver and you are frustrated, you are invited.
- If you live in the **refugee camp, displacement camp or the POC**, and you want to go home but afraid of the security situation, come out to claim your rights.
- If you live in **the diaspora** and you have been wanting to come home, but the security, economic, and **political** conditions in the country scare you, express yourself by joining the Coalition.
- If **you live in the village in terror** because of communal violence, cattle raiding, war, child abduction, and general criminality, this is your chance to speak out.
- If you are a **good citizen** and you have been advocating for more democracy, more transparency in the government and you are concerned about corruption, this is your time to speak.
- If **you participated in the national dialogue** and you are concerned about lack of implementation of its resolutions, please come and demand your rights.



If you are **sick and tired of tribalism, ethnic politics, leadership failure, and government failure**, only now is the chance to show your frustrations.

If you are **an SPLM** and you fought for this country and you feel that this is not the country you fought for, please join us.

If you are **an SPLA liberator** from (104 & 105, Jamus, Tiger and Tumsa, Koriom, Katiba Banat, Muor-Muor, Kazuk, Zazal, Entfada, Entisar, and the Red Army) and you are neglected and you feel that the vision you sacrificed for has been lost, come out.

If you are a **member of the oppositions**, who have signed the R-ARCSS and you were hopeful and now you are losing hope, here is your chance to express your disappointments.

If you are a **member of civil society** and you have been advocating for change in the country, this is your opportunity to do so.

If you are in **the academia** and you feel frustrated because you are not given the tools you need to improve education and research, join us.

If you are a **small business owner** and you are concerned about lack of support and unjustifiable taxes, come out.

If you are a **religious leader** and you have been concerned about the future of this country, come pray for us and our country.

Finally, we invite all **the citizens of South Sudan** come out in their millions to join the coalition. We have had enough of war, enough of corruption, enough of economic hardships, enough of insecurity, enough of public neglect and enough of leadership failure.

If you want to register as a member the People's Coalition of Civil Action, you can register through our members or online links that will be provided.

The Coalition will provide information on the next course of action.

