## The People's Coalition for Civil Action Updates #1 on the Declaration

For Immediate Release Juba, South Sudan August 2, 2021

Fellow Citizens, the People's Coalition for Civil Action, on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, issued a declaration outlining its formation, its purpose, and its strategic objectives. On the same day, the Coalition issued an invitation to the people of South Sudan to join the Coalition. Today, the Coalition wishes to provide updates to the people of South Sudan on what has happened over the last 72 hours since the Declaration.

On a positive note, fellow citizens, we are pleased to inform you that we have received an overwhelming outpour of support from our people all over South Sudan and abroad. We are equally delighted for the support of our armed forces, (SSPDF, Tiger Division, National Security, and the South Sudan Police Service). The country is ready for a new day and for a new breath of life for a country whose vitality and vibrancy has been sucked out of it by those who claim to lead and protect it. We are extremely proud of our people for their resilience and for their patience for which they have been taken advantage of by those in power.

Having said this, fellow citizens, we want to make few clarifications on several questions that have arisen from the declaration. First, our people want to know whether the Coalition is a new political party or a regular civil society organization. The Coalition is not a political party, and it is not a regular civil society organization. The Coalition is a political action group or a pressure group with the intention to lead popular mass mobilization of the people of South Sudan to demand change, including regime change.

Second, our people are wondering what exactly the Coalition wants them to do. The Coalition is asking all the people of South Sudan to prepare for massive civil disobedience, strikes, sit ins, protests, and popular uprising to bring about change in South Sudan. We therefore invite all our citizens to be on the standby for two critical national days coming up in the next few days and weeks. The first day shall be the National Awakening Day in which we shall invite the people of South Sudan to take a small but significant step to show their disappointment with the performance of the government and to show their intention to demand change. The second day shall be the National Day of Reckoning. This shall be the D-Day when the people of South Sudan shall rise in Juba and across the country to ask for the leadership to step aside. Before these days come, we shall give our leaders the opportunity to do the right thing.

Lastly, our people are wondering how much preparation has been made to take the actions we have outlined. In a revolution, the best preparation is done by the government itself. Our people are frustrated, they are unhappy, and they are tired of government failures. As such,

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our people are ready to bring about change. Our military is ready to standby our people and so is the National Security and the police. The only thing that stands between the people of South Sudan and the future they desire is fear. What we should fear the most is to live in a country in which we have no control over our future. A country in which there is no vision and a country in which the leaders prey on their own citizens. We should find assurances in our numbers as citizens that if we all rise, no force in this world can stop us.

Fellow citizens, we are elated to inform you that change is coming to South Sudan by means of a popular uprising, a revolution. South Sudan's system of government, its democratic institutions, its financial management system, its justice system, its security system, and its social systems, are so distorted and sullied beyond reform. South Sudan needs a total overhaul and renewal of its systems and institutions. We cannot achieve this by means of a new rebellion, we have had enough wars, enough violence and enough destruction of lives and property, we are calling for peaceful end to all rebellions. We cannot do this through another charade of peace negotiations among the political elites, we cannot achieve this through international and regional pressure. Peace in South Sudan is in the hands of its owners, the citizens of South Sudan, who brought their independence by means of shared liberation struggle and by the vote of their hands to through the referendum.

In the whole world, when a country goes so deep into interactable crises, no force, other than the people themselves, can pull the country out. We had relied on our leaders to pull the country out, ten years later, the country is so deep into all kinds of crises. We had relied on IGAD and the regional powers, the verdict is out, and it is that of failure. We had also relied on the international community; the results are the same. Out of desperation, some of our citizens rebelled and fought, the result has been death and destruction. The only thing left to safe our country is to return power back to the owners of the country, the ordinary citizens of South Sudan.

It is the realization that our country is condemned to perpetual war and instability that we took the initiative to create the People's Coalition for Civil Action to mobilize our people to rise against what is clearly a bankrupt political system that has become so dangerous and has subjected our people to immense suffering, death and brought upon them abject poverty and destitution. This system is coming to an end in 2021. A people's system is coming, and it is now.

We are putting the RTGoNU on notice that within the next three weeks, the people of South Sudan shall converge on a Day of Reckoning to declare their intention for a new transition in which the current leadership shall be asked to step aside. That day shall be announced before the end of this week and the people of South Sudan from their villages, bomas, payams, counties, and states are asked to get ready for that day. You should come out to demand change in our country now, the same way you came out in 2011 to vote for our referendum.

In the meantime, the current leadership has two choices to make, listen to the voices of the people and leave while it is still possible, or wait to be removed.

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We are directly appealing to President Salva Kiir Mayardit, a war hero, a man who fought for the rights of his people for his entire life. He does not deserve any humiliation, instead, he should be inducted into the Hall of Heroes and Heroines, which the Coalition shall create. Mr. President, no one questions how you got to become our leader, you deserve it all. You were a wonderful liberator and a leader. However, since independence, you have clearly been a terrible leader and you must save the little legacy that is left by honorably leaving office and return people's power to them. We are not saying this just to bring you down, there is a lot of evidence to prove the point. First Mr. President, you are the legitimate Chairman of the SPLM, where is the SPLM? You killed it and it broke apart under your leadership. You were the Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA, where is the SPLA? You are the President of South Sudan, where is the Government of South Sudan? You only hear some variants of it; TGoNU, RTGoNU and who knows what the next one will be. The government broke apart under your leadership.

Mr. President, where are the people of South Sudan? They went back to Khartoum, and they were given a refugee camp which they named, "Sorry Bashir". Others went back to the old refugee camps in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Congo DRC. There are some who live in squalid conditions in the Protection of Civilian Sites and IDP camps. All these happened under your leadership Mr. President.

Where are the children of the elites in Mr. President? They are born, raised, treated, and schooled in Uganda, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Egypt, not to mention those in Diaspora. They don't feel comfortable coming home. They don't trust their security and their stability in your hands. Now, can you call these children South Sudanese? These are technically foreigners, made of South Sudanese DNA, but culturally they are foreigners. As a result of their stay in foreign countries, we are sending all our hard-earned hard currency to those countries for visa fees, flight tickets, house rents, school fees, food, and hospital bills. That is why the country is ever in need of hard currency. This is happening in your hands Mr. President. You have not created a country safe enough for your own elites' children and the children of the poor are obviously languishing in poverty and persistent insecurity on the countryside. We could go on and on Mr. President, but the larger point is that you have not served the country well as the president of an independent South Sudan.

The argument that you are the only leader to keep the country together is false, this country has fallen apart in your hands. There are thousands of leaders, including your own children who will take this country forward. Heroes don't deserve a humiliation, but if you disregard people's call for a peaceful and negotiated exit, you are likely to be humiliated and we will all be ashamed. History is replete of such happenings.

To Dr. Riek Machar Teny, a man who is a hero in his own right and who also is a candidate for the Hall of Heroes and Heroines induction, while you have a full right as a liberator become leader of South Sudan, your pursuit of this office has a lot of blood trail associated with it. The time has come to let go. You have served your country honorably, but the blood has spilled so much in both your name and that of President Kiir. Both of you must step aside and let the country start on a new clean slate. Your political rivalry and brinkmanship have cost the country so much. The most honorable thing to do is to resign immediately.

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To Dr. James Wani Igga, a hero, a man who exudes the true spirit of the liberation struggle. A man who entrained soldiers in the heat of battles. Your liberation credentials are unquestionable, and your humility surpasses that of humans. Your induction into the Hall of Heroes and Heroines is automatic. Since you have served alongside President Kiir in the middle of incorrigible mess, you must tender in your resignation.

To Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, a heroine, the mother of nation, the wife of an icon. While there is not much you can be blamed for, the time has come to give your children a chance to move the country forward. We ask for your resignation in honor of Dr. John Garang de Mabior, our forever leader. Your resignation and your joining the people in their quest for a new beginning will bring you to the Hall of Heroes and Heroines.

To Gen. Daniel Awet Akot, a man who personifies the liberation achievements, a hero and an inductee of the Hall of Heroes and Heroines. General Awet, who, together with Kuol Manyang have failed the party and the people of South Sudan under President Kiir and for this reason we demand your immediate resignation to avoid humiliation.

To General Kuol Manyang Juuk, the most feared SPLA Commander, the truth teller, the fighter, and a man associated with forthrightness. He already sits on the top list of inductees into the Hall of Heroes and Heroines. General Kuol, you are the father of the Red Army, the Seeds of the Nation. You spoke so eloquently this year about the failure of the government to which you are a senior member. We equally blame you for the failure of leadership and we demand your immediate resignation.

To all the political forces in the country, who have signed the R-ARCSS, we are asking you to pull out of the mechanisms and out of government and join the people of South Sudan to demand a new democratic transition in the country. You should prepare for a new day in South Sudan in which you shall seek consent of the people of South Sudan to govern. The R-ARCSS has died of natural causes and there is no point in hanging on to a lifeless pet.

To all members of the civil society in the R-ARCSS mechanisms, we are asking for your immediate resignation and join your people in their quest for a new day. You will become heroes and heroines in your own right.

To the patriotic officers and NCOs, who have already joined the People's Coalition for Civil Action, stand ready to walk with your people on the D-Day.

To Thomas Cirilo and his SSOMA group, abandon violent pursuit of political reforms and join the popular demand of the people of South Sudan for a new political transition in the country.

To Pagan Amum and Paul Malong and their SSOMA faction, the time has come to return home. The Rome initiative, which is predicated on the R-ARCSS is not viable because the R-ARCSS is already dead.

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To the SPLM/A-IO splinter group (Gen. Gatwich Dual, Gen. Johnson Olony and Hon. Duer Tut Duer), please ceasefire and prepare for a new transition.

To Gen. Santino Deng Wol, a war hero and a decorated fighter, to prepare to walk along with your people with the men and women of the SSPDF.

To Gen. Obote Mamur Mete, a war hero in his own right. Please prepare to give your people protection.

Gen. Akol Koor, you have demonstrated leadership, calm temperament, and organizational skills in the National Security Service. Please exercise protect your people.

To Gen. Majak Akec Malok, you have a long future ahead of you, please prepare to protect the market and ensure that the streets are safe for our people.

To Gen. Marshall Stephen, you are a war hero and a decorated SPLA veteran. We ask you to stand by the people.

To Gen. Lual Wek (Lual-Maroldit), have been a steady protector of your people and we expect your protection on the D-Day.

We shall respect and maintain the current security arrangement mechanisms with some slight improvement to bring on board those holding out.

The People's Coalition for Civil Action is a non-violent political action group. We therefore advice the people of South Sudan, including the patriotic officers and our security forces, to observe civility and non-violent principles. The Coalition seeks no blood shed, chaos, looting, or violence of any form.

Change is inevitable in South Sudan and those who will stand in its way must be prepared for consequences.

The people shall prevail.

Thank you all.

Abraham A. Awolich

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