



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN The First Vice President

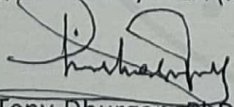
Press Release

On Sunday night March 27, 2022, without prior information, the SSPDF deployed heavy armed forces with Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) on all the routes leading to my residence, The Residence of The First Vice President. Persons who attempted to go to the residence were turned off by these troops. This deployment was removed only at 6:15 AM this morning March 28, 2022. There is no explanation provided to why this happened.

In the light of the above, I would like to state the following:

1. The deployment throughout the night created unnecessary tension and panic amongst the immediate neighbors, the citizens in Juba, the rest of the country and worldwide.
2. Such an action is disruptive to the peace implementation process and weakens trust and confidence building, reconciliation and healing amongst the people, and dialogue among the parties to Agreement.
3. It creates doubts nationally, regionally and internationally and reflects very poorly on the commitment of the parties to resolve their issues peacefully.
4. It was a provocative and condemnable act reminiscent of incidents of December 15, 2013; J1 July 8, 2016; and the last week unnecessary parading of the newly acquired heavy weapons and APCs for the National Police, which are still in the streets of Juba. These create terror and panic.
5. I want to take this moment to call upon all SPLM/SPLA (IO) forces to remain and observe the cessation of hostilities agreement December 27, 2017 and Permanent Ceasefire as stipulated in R-ARCSS.
6. In conclusion, I reiterate and confirm unequivocally the solemn commitment of SPLM/SPLA (IO) to the people of South Sudan, the Region and the international community at large that the SPLM/SPLA (IO) will not be the one to return the country to war.
7. Finally, the SPLM/SPLA (IO) is committed to the implementation of the Agreement.

Signed,


Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, PhD

The First Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, Chairman and Commander-In-Chief, SPLM/SPLA (IO).

