



TOGETHERNESS WE IN COMMITMENT  TWIC UNITY

Sunday, January 14, 2024

**Re: My Opinion on President Kiir high level meeting**

President Salva Kiir convened a high-level meeting to hide the truth. On January 10, 2024, President Kiir organized a meeting at the highest level to conceal the truth from the public eye. The meeting took two days, from January 10, 2024, to January 12, 2024.

It appears that President Kiir coordinated and chaired the high-level meeting with the intention of covering up the truth. The attendees of the high-level meeting were as follows:

- (1) General Tut Gatluak, Presidential Advisor on national security affairs.
- (2) Benjamin Bol Mel, Presidential Special Envoy.
- (3) Honorable Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of Information.
- (4) Honorable Joseph Bangasi Bakasoro, Presidential Affairs Minister.
- (5) General Rin Tueny, Lake State Governor.
- (6) General Santino Deng Wol, SSDPF General Chief of Staff.
- (7) General Akol Koor, National Security Chief.
- (8) General Atem Marol, IGP Chief.
- (9) General Joseph Nguen Manytuil, Unity State Governor.
- (10) Honorable Tong Aken Ngor, Northern Bhar El Ghazal Governor.
- (11) Honorable Sarah Cleto, Western Bahr El Ghazal Governor
- (12) Honorable Kuol Muor, Warrap State Governor.

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- (13) Honorable Chol Deng Alak, Abyei Administrative Area.
- (14) Honorable Stefano Wieu, Ruweng Administrative Area.
- (15) Honorable Ramadan Abdallah Goc, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The goal of the meeting was to disarm Twic Mayardit youth since there were no Twic representatives present in the meeting. In addition, the truth about the meeting was that General Tut Gatluak, Presidential Advisor on National Security Affairs, and General Joseph Nguen Monytil, Unity State Governor, proposed that Twic must be disarmed. President Kiir and Honorable Kuol Muor, Warrap State Governor, accepted the proposal. However, deploying security between Ngok and Twic Mayardit is a hidden plan to disarm Twic Mayardit. I believe that their hidden agenda will never bring peace between Ngok and Twic Mayardit.

The meeting held in Juba without the Twic representatives was an unjust discussion. When two people engage in a fight, it is crucial to have both people present to handle the situation. The representative (Dr. Chol Deng Alak) of Ngok attended the meeting, but Twic was not in attendance.

General Secretary of Abyei Administrative Areas, Dr. Rou Manyiel, circulated the agenda of the meeting. Honorable Dr. Rou Manyiel declared, “The meeting between H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the five Governors of Unity, Warrap, Northern Bahr El Gazal, Western Bahr El Gazal, and Lake States and the two Chief Administrators of Abyei Special Administrative Area and Ruweng Administrative Area ended its first-day session today at 6 pm. The meeting has three agenda items: (1) Conflict between Ngok and Twic at the border of Abyei and Twic. (2) Conflict between the Marial Wau community of Western Bahr El Gazal and the Apuk community of Warrap. (3) Sudan War: Proliferation of Arms along the Sudan-South Sudan border and the alleged enlistment of South Sudan youth into the ranks of warring parties (Sudan Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces). The meeting started at 11 am and ended on day one at 6:30 pm. The agenda item number one took the whole day. The remaining two items on the agenda will be discussed tomorrow, and recommendations/resolutions of the meeting will possibly be produced. I want to inform the entire Ngok community that the Abyei Chief Administrator presented the Ngok position as mandated by you and responded to issues raised during the discussion. The resolutions shall be produced after the two other items are discussed. Let us all wait patiently for the final outcome of the meeting with the assurance that your CA is standing firm on your recommendations, which he distributed to the attendees through the secretariat. More details of the meeting shall be shared with the community in a briefing meeting to be organized after the conclusion of this important meeting” (Yen La Abyei in Juba, South Sudan at 10:56 am, January 10, 2024: <https://www.facebook.com/Yenlaabyei/posts/pfbid0rX5QBE6X1TCBLawP8vx4wQj3X1J3XN8QXXRZT844JM2ZWSbcTAGDDkuvtN2SSJf51>).

Before the meeting, the Abyei community consulted each other and distributed recommendations to the attendees, while Twic was not consulted. Based on the explanation of the General Secretary of Abyei Administrative Areas, Dr. Rou Manyiel, the meeting was focused on three agenda items. First was a conflict between Ngok and Twic over the land dispute at the border of Abyei and Twic. The first agenda took lengthy discussion because General Tut Gatluak, Presidential Advisor on National Security Affairs, and General Joseph Nguen Manytil, Unity State Governor, intended to disarm Twic youth. In response, President Kiir and Honorable Kuol Muor, Warrap State Governor, accepted the proposal. However, it is very clear that deploying security between Ngok and Twic

Mayardit is a direct declaration of disarming Twic Mayardit. Second, there is a conflict between the Marial Wau community of Western Bahr El Ghazal and the Apuk community of Warrap. Warrap and Western Bhar El Ghazal States can resolve that conflict because it is an internal dispute.

Lastly, the Sudan war needs the cooperation of the South Sudanese and Sudanese governments. According to reports, South Sudanese youth are being recruited into the ranks of warring parties, and there might be an increase in arms along the Sudanese and South Sudanese border. However, recruiting into the ranks of warring parties and increasing arms along the border cannot be mixed with the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit. The two governments are aware of the land dispute between Ngok and Twic Mayardit in which the Sudanese government issued its position paper and declared that “South Kiir River, which is Agok,” is not in their territory.

On September 26, 2022, the Sudanese government wrote its position paper on the final status of Abyei. The letter declared that the position of the Republic of Sudan is based on the “CPA of 2005 and the Abyei Protocol of 2004 on the resolution of the Abyei conflict. [It declares that] the Republic of Sudan refuses to operate Anthony airport in the Abyei area, which poses a clear violation of national sovereignty and demands the cessation of all activities at the airport, including the cessation of unilateral measures taken by the Republic of South Sudan to operate Agok airport, which is not under the sovereignty of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Republic of Sudan” (the Sudanese position paper on September 26, 2022, p. 1-2).

On January 12, 2024, Minister of Presidential Affairs, Honorable Joseph Bangasi Bakasoro, announced that President Kiir held a high-level meeting to tackle communal tensions in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal Region. The Minister of Presidential Affairs, Honorable Bakasoro, declared, “President Salva Kiir Mayardit on Thursday conducted a high-level meeting to address the recent escalating communal tensions in the greater Bahr El Ghazal region, particularly between the communities of Abyei, Twic, Apuk of Warrap State, and Marial Wau of Western Bahr El Ghazal State. The President condemned the violence in the strongest terms possible and directed the Chief Administrator of Abyei, Governors of Warrap, and Western Bahr El Ghazal States to de-escalate tensions immediately and engage relevant stakeholders to restore peace between the concerned communities. Hon. Bakasoro highlighted the unanimous call for an immediate end to hostilities and the deployment of security forces to facilitate the free movement of people, goods, and services in the affected areas. The Minister further revealed that a comprehensive document outlining the full resolutions of the meeting will be provided to the relevant institutions for implementation. He added that the high-level meeting demonstrated President Kiir’s commitment to consolidating peace and security nationwide” (Official Facebook page for Office of the President - Republic of South Sudan in Juba, January 12, 2024, President Kiir Convenes High-Level Meeting to Tackle Communal tensions in Greater Bahr El Ghazal Region: <https://www.facebook.com/StateHouseJ1/posts/pfbid0g3YKdnWGVBypDKTsrPgJzgMFqRcngHf2wEzyQnH6y14bGoeZqbEgFqu48G2UCZKI>).

Although President Kiir organized the meeting on the communities of Abyei, Twic, Apuk of Warrap State, and Marial Wau of Western Bahr El Ghazal State, the plan was to disarm Twic youth. In addition, it is not true that the President condemned the violence in the strongest terms possible. Why didn’t President Kiir condemn the violence through TV? When did the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic start? The violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit started in

February 2022, while President Kiir has been silent. President Kiir didn't condemn the violence between Ngok and Twic Mayardit. President Kiir encouraged the violent conflict when he failed to tell the truth about the root cause of the conflict.

It is not true that high-level meetings have proven Kiir's commitment to consolidating peace and security nationwide. President Kiir has failed to prevent a violent conflict throughout South Sudan. In the Upper Nile and Equatoria regions, tribes are fighting each other, but President Kiir has not taken any action to resolve the violent conflicts. President Kiir has been silent since the war between Ngok and Twic Mayardit started in 2022. President Kiir failed to offer condolences to the people who lost their lives in the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit. In addition, President Kiir failed to tell the truth about the border dispute between Ngok and Twic Mayardit.

Hon. Bagasoro revealed that the comprehensive document outlining the full resolutions of the meeting will be provided to the relevant institutions for implementation. The complete plan to disarm Twic Mayardit is being concealed, and Ngok won't be disarmed because it's part of Sudan.

The Minister of Presidential Affairs, Honorable Joseph Bangasi Bagasoro, made the statement. "These were the outcomes of the president's meeting with the state governors regarding Ngok of Abyei and Twic of Warrap State conflict. The recommendations were as follows: (1) All clashes should stop between Ngok of Abyei and Twic of Warrap State. (2) There must be freedom of movement. (3) The border issues should be left to the government. (4) There should be no talk about Abyei's borders until the final determination of Abyei's status. (5) The South Sudanese National Army, the SSPDF, will be deployed along the border between Ngok and Twic to prevent friction between the two communities. (6) The recommendations will be distributed to the competent authority" (Abyei Three Horns in Juba, January 13, 2024 updates: [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=353526610762439&id=100083153087519](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=353526610762439&id=100083153087519)).

The recommendations became the issue of Ngok and Twic Mayardit. The recommendations did not include the violent conflict between the Marial Wau community of Western Bahr El Gazal and the Apuk community of Warrap. In addition, the proliferation of arms along the Sudan-South Sudan border and the alleged enlistment of South Sudan youth into the ranks of warring parties were not the focus of the meeting.

I believe that the three recommendations will negatively affect the lives of innocent people in the Twic areas. First, the meeting recommended that the government oversee border issues. It is not true that the government will oversee border issues. The Sudanese and South Sudanese governments failed to tackle the border issues. Second, there should be no discussion about Abyei's borders until the final determination of Abyei's status. That recommendation was not beneficial when the meeting suggested that there should be no discussion about Abyei's borders until the final determination of Abyei's status. It contradicts the recommendation that the government oversee border issues. Lastly, to prevent tension between the two communities, the South Sudanese National Army (SSPDF) will be stationed along the border between Ngok and Twic. I believe that the deployment of the SSPDF is a sign of the comprehensive disarming of the Twic youth.

Is it possible for the South Sudanese government to disarm Twic youth without disarming the Abyei and Nuer militias? It is impossible for the government of South Sudan to disarm Twic youth, while the Abyei and Nuer militias will not be disarmed. The decision to disarm Twic youth is to meet the interests of General Tut Gatluak, Presidential Advisor on National Security Affairs, and General Joseph Nguen Manyuil, Unity State Governor. However, the decision to disarm Twic youth would lead to a declaration of war against Twic Mayardit. It is a difficult decision to make.

The lasting solution for the violent conflict between Ngok and Twic Mayardit must be as follows:

- (1) The South Sudanese government should not disarm Twic youth and leave the Ngok and Nuer militias with their guns.
- (2) Twic County should be given the status of the administrative area to face the Abyei Administrative area for fair representation. The meeting held in Juba without the Twic representatives was unfair. When two people fight each other, the case must be handled in the presence of two people.
- (3) For peace to succeed between Ngok and Twic Mayardit, President Salva Kiir, First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar, Elder George Kongor Arop, General Awet Akot, Hon. Dr. Aldo Ajou Deng Akuei, General Deng Wol, General Aleu Ayieny Aleu, and General Bona Abang, must speak out the truth that the South Kiir River is the land of Twic Mayardit.
- (4) The government of South Sudan must acknowledge that the Ngok people were resettled in the South Kiir River as refugees of Sudan.
- (5) The UNISFA must be relocated from the Twic areas such as Athony, Aneet, Agok, Abithong, and Wutpeeth, which are located south of Kiir River to the north of Kiir River.
- (6) The land dispute between Ngok and Twic will continue until President Kiir issues the presidential order that the Abyei Administration, Abyei Special Forces with its militias, and UNISFA should move to the north of the Kiir River.
- (7) If President Kiir refuses to issue the presidential order to let Ngok cross the Kiir River, we will file our case on the South Kiir River against the government of South Sudan and Ngok politicians with the East African Court of Justice and International Criminal Court.

Sincerely,



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