



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)



JUBA

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Press Statement

On the 29th of last month, The Chief of Staff of the IGAD Mediation Committee visited our capital. Within his itinerary were two important points: to meet with our President and then early the following day, meet with the leaders of the Political Parties (the stake holders) at the Political Parties Leadership Forum's offices at 10 AM.

When we arrived at the PPLF premises, we were informed that the IGAD Chief of Staff had sent information to the PPLF offices to the effect that:

- a) He was unable to go there because the government had told him never to meet with the Political Parties; and that
- b) The delegation made up of those Political Parties allied to the SPLM- in government going to Ethiopia, was sacrosanct; whatever the meaning of that sentence.

Since we did not know the real purpose of the Chief of Staff's visit, we decided to meet him through our own means. Within our exchange with him, the IGAD's Chief of Staff said he had come to propose a new arrangement for the stake holder political parties, to participate in the next round of the Peace Negotiations in Ethiopia. That he regretted the SPLM –in government's decision not to allow him to meet the Political Parties and in disallowing them to participate in the Peace Negotiations (using the "sacrosanct" injunction); except those Political Parties allied to it. He said he would report his disappointment back to the IGAD Mediation Committee who, in turn would present its recommendations to the IGAD Heads of State and Governments in their next summit soon.

In the light of the above revelation, we would like state the following:

1. That the behavior of the SPLM- in government does not display a sense of care for the welfare and unity of the people of South Sudan, but for its egoistic purpose for total victory at all cost.
2. The SPLM-in government is oblivious to the catastrophic destruction in lives and property, the prodigious number of the displaced within and without South Sudan, since it will emerge at the end of this horrid war as the only beneficiary of power in the government of the country; and as such, its only concern is how much power and wealth it will curve out for itself in the Peace Negotiations, hopefully with IGAD's complaisance.
3. The SPLM-in government, with its crave for power and wealth as well as unlimited term of rule over the suffering and down trodden humanity in the country, turn but a deaf ear and a blind eye to the colossal disintegration of trust, confidence and harmony among the ethnic , tribal and cultural entities of this unlucky nation.
4. This self-centered behavior of the SPLM- in government explains how it could, with impunity, disdain to honour the May 9th Agreement signed by it and the SPLM-in opposition, as well as the protocols signed by our President and the other IGAD Heads of State and Governments, committing both SPLM-in government, the SPLM-in opposition and the IGAD Heads of State and Governments to respect the part of the agreement giving the Political Parties the right to participate in the Peace Negotiations as rightful stake holders.
5. Due to the above well- settled view about the SPLM-in government's negative purposes and objectives against the people and country, we in the United Democratic Front (UDF) make the following declaration:
 - a) That the UDF demands and shall continue to demand our presence at the Peace Negotiations in Ethiopia as of right, as a stake holder whose main purpose shall always be to propagate for and defend its stake as is clarified in our position paper to the IGAD Mediation Committee.
 - b) That we shall negotiate at the Peace Negotiations in our own name, and not under the auspices of another stake holder, supposedly espousing

its own position paper. The rationale behind the "principle of stake holder" is that each stake holder defends his/her own stake.

- c) That because UDF is representing the interests of a wide cross-section of the people of South Sudan, we shall not feel part and parcel of any agreement arrived at in Ethiopia into which we did not partake and therefore do not own.

- 6. We believe that the solution to the problem of this country lies not in the division of wealth and power between the SPLM-in opposition and the SPLM-in government, making them dictators in continuity and "ad infinitum", but in a system of government which we believe to be "federal" and, to be negotiated by all the stake holders, which system will bring justice, equality, well fare to our people and therefore peace ,stability for a long time to come, and with that, democracy with all its trappings. We shall accept nothing short of that.

Finally, we shall always be hopeful that both the SPLM-in government and the SPLM –in opposition shall come round to see the wisdom in the truist assertion that ,it is not they alone who matter in the whole length and width of South Sudan.

We also plead with the IGAD, the East African Community, the AU and the International Community to see the truth in our belief, that it is not the two belligerents only who will bring real justice, peace, harmony and long term stability for the people of South Sudan. All the stake holders are necessary as components of the true and final peace. Thank you very much.

6th November 2014 A.D.