

Tribute To Isaiah Abraham

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THE DARK AGES
OF LIBERATION

ISAIAH ABRAHAM IN HIS OWN
WORDS

*****2006*****

*AU FORCE EXTENSION IN DARFUR, A VICTORY
TO NCP NOT TO SPLM*

*BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM**

MAR 14, 2006

The drama that led to the extension of African Peacekeeping Forces in Darfur has nothing to do with the Sudan as a whole or SPLM as a party as propagated by those who are against the marginalized people of the Sudan. Darfur is bleeding and should have been saved. The man at the helm of this 'victory' is none other than Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, the Sudanese Foreign Minister from the SPLM Party.

Although it is not that easy to satisfy all interests in a coalition the least an astute politician could do or could have done was to compromise not his/her fall back base, no matter the enticement or attraction the players in that political scene. The Minister went out full blast to contradict his boss, President Salva Kiir Mayardit and his colleague in the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Mama Rebecca de Mabior. President Salva was unequivocally pressed that NCP partner is not serious in its willingness to resolve Darfur crisis.

Did anybody hear the President or other Southern politicians or the Southern public unease about UN peacekeeping forces intervention in Darfur? Where there demonstrations in the Southern cities in condemnation of the United States or the United Nations or Jan Pronk? Certainly there weren't and there will not be any protest against presence of UN in any part of the Sudan. Our people saw a sinister in the tone of NCP and therefore decided to say yes (at least secretly) to UN peacekeeping forces to any of the marginalized part of the Sudan.

There are questions but our Minister insisted that there is benefit for Sudan because the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) would be affected. That is shire rubbish! Our President was humiliated from Paris from the Donor Conference, isn't that alone not enough to refute whatever lame excuse the minister wanted to put across to justify his actions and bad judgment towards our people. Our President has a short memory!

When our people were butchered at the hands of the Egyptians security forces, the minister chose to be mum and non-committal until our great Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Dhorgun came out so fumed with national burden to denounce the Egyptian security forces act against innocent refugees. The President couldn't even bother to underground murmur about performance of this minister. Whenever Southern consider a case Dr. Lam stands to say the opposite.

Majority of Southerners believe that Dr. Garang de Mabior was assassinated but Dr. Lam confidently jumped into conclusion that the plane came down on bad weather. Even the Panel that is investigating/probing the alleged causes of the crash didn't come to conclude the same way the minister exuding his finding about the same. When President Salva raised issues affecting the implementation of the CPA, the minister defended the NCP in everything by stating that "everything is going on as planned and hence smoothed partnership". When Southerners were looking for alternatives regional relationship, the minister came out offensively to condemn such a move.

When the minister in the GOSS for Finance and Economic Planning and the Governor of the Bank of Southern Sudan complained about the oil actually details of the income and expenditure, the minister chose to praise the NCP position of fairness in that area. When Southerners were looking for economic opportunities in the Foreign Ministry, the ministry denied them rights for employment.

He has blocked Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial from exercising his duties at the regional level. The list is long. Here it goes without saying that the minister from the SPLM has technically abandoned the party that sponsored him to that position. But he is a calculative politician. He knows well that his boss has no teeth to bite him by at his stage, given their newly formed relationship from Yei situation when the later was almost losing his position to Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial.

No wonder the substantive freedom fighters in the likes of Mr. Pagan Amum Oketch, Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, John Koang Nyuon and Edward Lino Abye are left in the cold. What a setback for the people of the South and the marginalized areas when national matters are personalized and socialized. The minister ought to know that the relationship between the NCP and the SPLM/GOSS is ephemeral and therefore based on the mutual understanding if the former breaks from the past. The NCP should have capitalized on the CPA and makes unity attractive. It has not and it wouldn't be made attractive and hence futile to trust them now.

The NCP still violates human rights of the Sudanese, still failing to uphold the rule of law, still practice instigation and bribery, still treat our people as second class citizen in the national capital etc, what is that new from the NCP that could attract our minister to believe them at this time? So, any surprise about the minister move? No!

The minister relentless campaign against his own people is dated and therefore a continuation of the same trend he has taken by choice! The President in my opinion needs to give this minister another portfolio other than the Foreign Ministry because we have a lot of stake in this docket.

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SPLM MUST DO THE RIGHT THING

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM*

JULY 17, 2006

Whether you are an SPLM supporter or not, the fact of the matter is that we have the duty and obligation to watch closely what our ruling political party is doing or not doing-failure and successes; that we should give credit where it is due and to admonish or criticize when it is necessary. That is the basic core value of relationship between the governed and the government. In our case the party has attempted to bring about positive change in our country, something any political party before it didn't do or tried to do. This party deserves our honest appreciation and applause. The party has clearly demonstrated their willingness to move this country forward on new basis where rights of our marginalized people of the Sudan are guaranteed and

they feel for the first time stakeholders in the running of their political and socio-economical affairs. That is an important achievement.

Therefore any leveled headed Sudanese in general and Southern Sudanese in particular must as of necessity protect the image of this organization (SPLM). There are indications that the SPLM intent to governed wisely and democratically. There are further signs that the SPLM would deliver in its promises to make our people choose their own destiny come year 2011. Why? Because the party enjoys strong middle and grass roots support. It has formidable military presence over all Southern Sudan with strong conviction of liberation. They have majority members in the cabinet at the national, regional and state levels. Anything that can bring out good governance is embodied in the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan and that of the National. If the Interim National Constitution is anything to go by, the country would changed from monolithic state under few individuals or clans to pluralistic state for all of us for the first time. There is going to be general election where possible non-Arab can descend into top job in the land if elections are taking place. That is as far as Sudan as a whole is concerned in its relations to what SPLM has done.

The South of course has it's own unfulfilled promised they made in 1947 that could be tested come 2011! No doubt that the country is concurrently run by two systems of governments opposite to each other.

All of the above came about therefore because of an effort by SPLM Leadership Council and the delegation to the talks in Kenya that produced the Comprehensive Peace Agreement known as the CPA under great hero Dr. John Garang de Mabior. Hence the party is our production and custodian of our national interests. We must not allow it to die prematurely before it completes the work it has started in Kenya. We should all play our part individually first and then collectively to make sure that our land is build on sound principles of freedom, justice and equality.

There are areas however this party need to put more energy if they intent to stay on top and win our unreserved support. This is mainly in the area of policies and structure. Policies here mean that the Party should have been articulate enough to stand behind its concept or policy statements. There is need for the GOSS/SPLM to speak one voice throughout and at all times, whether at the Government of National Unity (GNU) level, Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) or States. This is very important because different messages translate mixed messages to our people. It has to be one but on different tone by different people. This if done will stop our people from guessing and gossip and by large sharpens the desire to know and question the capabilities and competency of our Chief Executive. For examples when the sensitive issues of Abyei, oil, border demarcation were raised the leaders at different levels spoke different messages, which is not healthy at all.

There are questions hanging that could have been cleared by just one voice. Until today nobody knows what action really took place to address such mishaps in the Government in Juba. The issues in questions include the disappearance of money in Juba; corruption at higher levels (stashed away of millions of dollars), Deng Macham An'gui saga, appointments to key positions abroad, the acrimonious exit of Mr. Abdal Aziz Adam El Hilu and Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, the uncheck utterances and unannounced defection of Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, the awarding of contracts to questionable foreign agencies, the regrouping or resurfacing of former South Sudan Defense Forces (SSDF)- Malakal training near the airport for example, the Fangak Commissionership fiasco, etc. These issues require leadership policies that could be easily adopted by the populace and subsequently reduce hearsays and misinterpretation.

The structure on the other hand stands for who is holding what at the SPLM Political Bureau echelon. How is this body SPLM structured, what are there for membership enlistment? What party tenets/policies, slogans and principles. The NCP has two or three key principles. What regulations and guidelines that governs the appointment of the Chairman, his deputy and other key officers? How does relationship between the SPLM and the SPLA look like? This is very important! The SPLM must be prepared for bigger things at other levels. Why is it actually crucial at this time? Because it minimizes chances for nepotism and tribalism since everyone will subject him/herself to public scrutiny at least to lead. It further entrenches SPLM democratically and creates discipline in the systems. It legitimizes authority and thereby enhances confidence. It spells out duties and roles for each section of the system and enlarges check and balances. Hon. Justine Yaach Arop wouldn't have frustrated Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial on controversial \$1 Million offer to Kenya and inauguration of President Y. K. Museveni. That simple omission has cost us a great deal.

There would have been durable chances for succession in the SPLM leadership incase the replacement is necessitated, whether through elections or by circumstances. The situation at the moment is blurred and uncertain. History will judge SPLM harshly if they don't move quickly and address themselves to these situations and eventualities. Am concerned somehow that the other parties are taking advantage of SPLM transition from Military Organization to Political one. The other parties think their several degrees and PhDs they acquired during the war, when SPLA/M members were fighting would give them license to penetrate Southern Sudanese spectrum for sole reason to capture power. Shame on them! I have heard and seen these gentlemen especially the so-called Democratic Forum strategizing and politicizing against the SPLM. Oh no, they are toying with people wrath. They have democratic rights like any other SPLM member by the way!

So what is the story anyway? The SPLM is a popular political organization that has political & historical cause at its disposal. The leadership of this party must not rest on its laurels and assume that everything is all right after several appointments and

establishments. The road ahead of them is purely political and any other thing is just subsidiary or by product of this environment. Kwame Nkarume was right when he said, "take first the political helm and everything else would just follow". What happen if they don't? The party will disintegrate into tiny political units for the advantage of the NCP. The blood of our great icon Dr. Garang and others would have been shed in vain.

There is no time to talk about dark albeit grim details on the killing of Dr. John Garang de Mabior. The GoSS took it easily to go by that superficial report meant to draw attention away from what actually happened inside Uganda before the crash. Though technical Report is yet to come out some key GoSS official have already fell on the song that it was an "accident". That wasn't. The truth is there and will surely come however distant! In relationship to this, there is growing tension within GoSS whether they can nationalize Garang's death or leave it altogether. Majority sees the latter as an honor to his skills and contributions to our cause while minority with other ulterior motives see it otherwise. All the same history can't be written but it writes and rewrites itself alone. Whether there would be that day or not Dr. Garang stands out unique as champion for war and for peace, may his soul rest in eternal peace!

Little things sum up this argument. One, the house of the SPLM has been penetrated by those who were sitting at the fence or outside the fence! When the going need their contribution, they opted to aid, support, conspire and execute together with Southern enemies in Khartoum in an attempt to neutralize the SPLA/M. That was a grave act of betrayal that is unforgettable. Two, the house needs to steer clear anything to do with petty politics of regionalism, sectionalism, tribalism and whatever that divides us as Southern Sudanese. It has to develop political manifesto that would give constituents trust and hope to own up this party right from the grass root levels. Three, there are serious issues where the Chief Executive must not talk sense alone but talk tough and invite or mobilize his cards for alternatives plans that could back up his position.

Talking in rallies and in military parades about inconsistency of the NCP doesn't offer solution but breed and exposes hopelessness and incompetency of the President and his authority. Fourth, SPLM ought to call for Second Convention to democratize its structures. Parliament in Juba should look at Garang Report and hammer out those omissions and questions surrounding the investigation and allow the technical committee to quickly wind up its work. The truth will always be the truth no matter what. That Report doesn't give anything as was expected it is just faulty and full of divisionary trends and flaws. The so-called final Report only started where the plane got crashed and ends thereafter which is not enough to convince small brains. Several big whys remain in the area of gadgets & apparatus, intention & peculiars include the kind of damage and explosion surrounding Dr. Garang's plane. Fifth, the President's advisors are by all accounts failed to move us out of our dark age of who connected where.

Sixth, the President should reshuffle his cabinet and recall others in the Government of National Unity (GNU). The target should be the Foreign Affairs Minister (GNU), Finance & National Planning Minister (GOSS), GOSS Cabinet Affairs Minister, GNU State Minister for Presidential Affairs, GOSS Minister for Education, GOSS Minister for Health. Seventh, people of Fangak deserves our attention, hence the President through his State Governor has to appoint their Commissioner. If General Gabriel Tanginya refused to renounce his SSDF affiliation, then Johnson Kuol Ghai could be reinstated and Gen. Gabriel Tang to join Gen. Gordon Koang in Malakal. Eight, the spending of thousands of dollars in tents in Juba by GOSS is an abuse by the Government. Enough is enough; our Housing Ministry should come up with a solution! Nineth, commendation should be extended by our President to job well done by Governor of Unity State, Brig. Taban Deng Ghai on his Primary & High School Education Program. This an exact thing Hon. Michael Hussien in Juba would have done. Tenth, President is not necessary obliged to allow himself to be guarded by pale faces from the North!

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REFER ABYEI DISPUTES TO THE 3RD PARTY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

Reading from so-called Joint Political Meetings between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement led Government in Juba (GOSS), there is an urgent need for the two parties to swallow their pride and seek an arbitrator (3rd party). They shouldn't deceive themselves that one party would yield to the demands or position of the other. Going by their natter, nebulous and vague press conferences, anyone lens could just see crisis in their faces and tones. They simply avoid being antagonistic to each other or put it this way avoid being sincere to the publicly. SPLM Parliamentary Group Chair Hon. Yasir Saeed Arman couldn't just be right but clear when he stated that on one political occasion that his group (read SPLM) is playing it safe! He may be right or wrong...

For starters, Abyei Protocol calls for among other things the creation of Abyei Administrative Council composed of handful members but appointed by the President. That prerogative doesn't mean that the President has to delay, appoint at will or refuse to do anything and just get away with it. The Boundary Commission for Abyei was an exercise to determine which part actually is Abyei's and which is Southern Kordofan or Bahr el Ghazal. That Commission was instituted and supposed to pass the recommendations to the President and Presidency. What happened there escaped no one's attention. No implementation of the Abyei Protocol.

Before and later after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the enemies of peace have been up to undo the CPA. This is just a relevant truth & is supported given the disappearance of our great leader Dr. John Garang de Mabior from that scene-elimination. NCP party is interested in peace but not in the agreement. The SPLM on the other hand is interested in the later, under which it has committed and subjected itself to humiliation all along since the agreement was signed last year in January. Khartoum unfortunately is mistreating its faithful, genuine and only reasonable partner that could do business with. They will live to regret if SPLM pulls out its partnership license!

But any query about much hyped and highly overrated Amum, the SPLM Secretary General? Probable not. He represents voice of reason in that Government. When the National Energy Ministry negotiations were at highest tempo last year in September, his voice was vocal, clear and untuned! Still upholds political future in our nation, Southern Sudan. How could my dear brother smile away our beloved land of Abyei and allowed the NCP to hoodwink him and his team that the Abyei issue is subsidiary like any other items in disputes and therefore has to be discussed in the committees and party headquarters? If the Abyei problem not an issue what is that issue anyway? Where is the man who stands out tall among his equal colleagues in the liberation struggle? How would his team allowed any piece of the agreement to be renegotiated? That is a million dollar question! After 99 years of absence geographically, Abyei is now part and parcel of Southern Sudan, period! No further discussions on this, but still no violence or war to claim it, unless necessitated!

After Dr. Garang, Southern Sudan somewhat and somehow banks on Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial and Mr. Pagan Amum Oketch. Am I alone? Perhaps not! Without any prejudice to other key leaders at that level, the two gentlemen are promising lot, so to speak! And the President? Oh yes, He is careful and collected. He is exceptionally doing his job well! Somebody is charging him that he is doing things behind the President El Bashir. That is just being malicious of the man. He doesn't talk behind the back of President Bashir or his key hawks about failures of the NCP to honor Abyei Protocol? Our President Kiir I assume has exhausted every bit of diplomacy and you could read his frustration in all his interviews and press conferences. What he need though is the assertiveness and plan to counter NCP's plans that are directed to delay or scotch the implementation on this Protocol.

Now our people are breathing uncertainty from our 'brothers' in the North! The likes of Hon. Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, the Deputy NCP leader for Political and Organization Affairs is reminiscences of Dr. Ali El Hag Mohammed who was known for poaching Southern Sudanese through use of money. He is not using money but brain to thwart anything to do with Abyei Implementation. The Area to Hon. Nafia is "Ya Abi" meaning literally 'oh my father'. Therefore, Any talk we could expect would only be chicanery and a nightmare. GOSS are to brace themselves for tough road ahead from the NCP tactics for any solution as far as Abyei dispute is concerned.

Desperate times called for desperate measures the saying goes. International Court of Justice (ICJ) and Inter Governmental Authority and Development (IGAD) are some few venues that could be sought to remedy an eventual deadlock and conflict. Nigerian and Cameroun were on the verge of full-scale war should it not ICJ ruling that diffused that conflict in 2003. IGAD though a non-legal entity is increasingly been touted as a force to reckoned with, probably due to its closeness and association with troika countries of USA, Britain and Norway. Internally, our Federal Appeal Court in Khartoum can't be trusted to sit over such a case without being partisan; this matter is so complicated and needs impartial body to thrush out socio- judicial & political matters attached therein. May the Lord bless us all!

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BOTTLED WATER, A LUCRATIVE MARKET IN SOUTH SUDAN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

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Besides accommodation, the bottled water industry seems to be one of the industries making an aggressive and loud splash to capture the imagination of the S. Sudanese consumer.

Both services have been widely successful because they fulfilled a specific consumer need. In the case of accommodation, S. Sudanese love to put up in clean and smart places, but for decades, if they were lucky they would find housing services provided by the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) on cheaper prices over exorbitant foreign accommodation facilities. Most of the time, they never bothered asking their fledgling Government to help them out of this crisis.

They therefore learnt to shut up, but when push comes to shove, they will start asking. This city population in the next two years or so would swell up to a million from its current estimated 500,000 people.

Similarly, the bottled water industry found a consumer base that had been thirst from clean and safe water from the Nile in centuries. In 1990 when one of the northern Sudan companies in Omdurman started bottling water from White Nile, this was seen a major innovation though few businesses ventured to engage in taking this product. Now it has started a trend where S. Sudanese would longer trust their tap water (if any) and – though the revenue in this sector has not been made public. Statistic shows that over 50% of Juba residence use bottled water. It's a rare and expensive commodity in town that someone would rather spare some dinars for it- a multibillion potentially multibillion dinars industry.

In the accommodation sector, just like the bottled water industry, the fight for the consumer is a gruesome battle that consumes hundreds of millions of dinars if not dollars in market budgets. A tent rent accommodation soared up to \$150 a day!

In a field where a functional use of a product- quenching thirst- is similar, foreign or national bottled water industry (mainly from the North) has only one choice of making an impression in the eyes of the consumer: branding

In a country like ours that has no classified Bureau of Standard everything could go awkward. Branding as part of this market tool is becoming unobserved in the battleground among industry top tier players. Though there is a belief that water is water and there are no nutritious ones, there is like hood that somehow spoilers could use water to disseminate our people. If the said body could have been there, it would have established regulatory measures where it would publish list of products that are consistently meet its stringent production specifications. This equally could be applied to all other commodities that stuffed the city market.

While the top bottled water brands in Juba now may not have the intention of going to the trouble of producing a technically sound product or show the public the exact merit of its product, they are offering real competition with pricing as the main weapon. Small players with low overheads and products of indifferent quality now dominate the lower end of the market, especially the urban slums. This is where battled gets dirty because water-just like other soft drinks-makes money on volumes. With the consumer spoilt for choice, there is little that the big players can do to extract huge margins from the lower end of the market.

Thus, the stakes in the bottled water business are huge and the brand that manages to win market share will command billions of dinars in revenues in the coming years. Globally the consumption of the bottled water has been growing so fast such that the category is expected to take the second place in size after soft drinks in the total beverage market.

Competition in the bottled water category has never been stiffer-thanks to little knowledge from the public. Researchers say this while industry the pioneer brands were selling their water with less marketing efforts, the higher number of new water consumers and entrants today in Juba is amazing!

Therefore, it is in this paper that GOSS should take every opportunity that avails itself to taps more taxes and encourage its own corporations (if there be) to take the lead of producing our own bottled water along the River Nile other than wait for external industries to siphon out billions of dinars in this market.

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UGANDA'S PEACE TALKS, A CHALLENGE FOR SUDAN'S SALVA KIIR

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

NOV 15, 2006

The Vice-President mediation efforts for Ugandans in Juba are his possible political undoing. Why? Because of internal and external intrigues and implications surrounding the said peace talk right from day one. Besides there is angst mood among regional and international players as to who is to play what and on whose terms. I will elaborate later here. Our leaders in Juba exude confidence to bring peace to Ugandans. That was a brilliant idea; the very peace that has eluded everyone. Every peace loving person by a glimpse of look can't close his/her eyes without offering and a prayer to the suffering people of Uganda. It is a sad if not grim situation where any attempt or single effort directed towards this noble goal counts. We hope that one day; the smile of Ugandans in the North is anything to be credited to our Dr. Riek Machar Teny, the Chief Mediator in particular and our Southern Sudanese leaders in general. Someone in the know however knows that this is easy wished that done. The two parties in the talks have little iota of trust left between them.

This is true when the Ugandan President used the word 'if' while addressing Juba Parliament in October 2006. This is an overloaded noun! He was at a point; he is as plain as saying that if it were him, the talks wouldn't have taken place. So, if that is the message, then our leaders in Juba must treat this process with utmost vigilance! Our leaders here must avoid pushing an agreement that must not be implemented by the parties in conflict. This is one key area of this writing. This line of argument brings up another important area of groundwork fallacy. Our Sudanese mediators presupposed that their Ugandan counterparts have short memory as they do. Far from it!

There are indicators that the peace agreement everyone yearns for our brother in Uganda might take eon period or never come at all. The reason has been poor confidence-building mechanism. Kampala looks at the talk as something, which is being forced on their throat by the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS). Juba mediators never read the mood of the international community either. To date, there is no such immunity from persecution for top rebels leaders wanted in The Hague on war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC). This is not a simple question of evasion and survival. The gentlemen in question are wanted criminals and likely to face music of justice whether there would be peace or not. Who is fooling who then? Those rebel leaders are not lunatics to put ropes on their own necks. Believe me; they are not coming out alive from the forest of Eastern Congo whatsoever! Therefore it's futile to think about peace before you think about the ICC ruling!

But who are really beneficiaries of this peace? Of course, the Ugandans, then the region at large. Is Kampala aware about its responsibilities in this peace process? Does it have confidence in the new administration in Juba? Yes they do. I believe this is a mistaken concept on the part of our leaders in Juba. They (our leaders) must abuse this or overdue anything against the will of Ugandan Government. Kampala wants Juba to exhaust its efforts and indeed this is healthy in our relationship with them. Kampala has strongly demonstrated its maturity for having refused to show off in the light of its current presence. The Ugandan People Defense Forces (UPDF) has made significant territorial and military gains against the rebels of the Lord Resistance Army (LRA). They have pushed them away from their bases in Northern Ugandan and it was just a matter of time before the rebels could surrender individually or in groups. The domestic and international community behind them thanks to rebels' atrocities against unarmed civilians. The regional political development such as the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for the Sudan and the establishment of Congo Transitional Government in Kinshasa has lessened pressure on Kampala. Such a government would have been tempted to work away from any weaker partner in the talk.

As for Southern Sudanese our government in Juba made good overtures to bring about peace and stability to our citizen. They had wanted to narrow down their daunting challenges so to concentrate on few others. There are different fronts and urgent issues at hand. Among them is the stand off between the NCP and the SPLM on pending issues in the agreement. Others are internal issues of re-organization, institutional, legal and political setup as well as social amenities badly needed by our people. Therefore the GOSS was obliged to try whatever possible that could bring about any change in the lives of its populous. This intention shouldn't be misconstrued to portray our government as if it is on its knees begging the LRA to stop killing its people. The presence gallant SPLA forces are a motivated force, well equipped and dressed than it has been before. This force is capable of making LRA a past tense within a stint of no time!

So, if that is the case why did they have to spend a lot of resources and time on such a talk? The answer again here is related to the perceived assumption by our leaders that perhaps peace for Uganda is peace for Southern Sudan. Now that assumption is withering a way quickly because of bad judgment on the side of our leaders. The person who is in charged of the whole caboodle is our Vice-President Dr. Machar Teny.

This man has courted a situation that would haunt him or cost him dearly. Given the trait behavior of indifference by H. E the President, he will push the blame on him. That is if the talks flop; and indeed they are likely to. There are voices against the Vice President handling of the talk. He is accused of single handedly stage managed the process; that he often kept Southern Parliament or Kampala always in the dark. That he has self willed the process and censorious at times. That his mediating team poorly manages the process and the finances. That he is too credulous and has

abdicated his constitutional duties as second most important person in the land to wander after rebels under precarious bushes of Southern Sudan, when in fact he should have tried delegation of some duties to others. Whether the said issues are true or not, nobody takes anything nowadays for nothing.

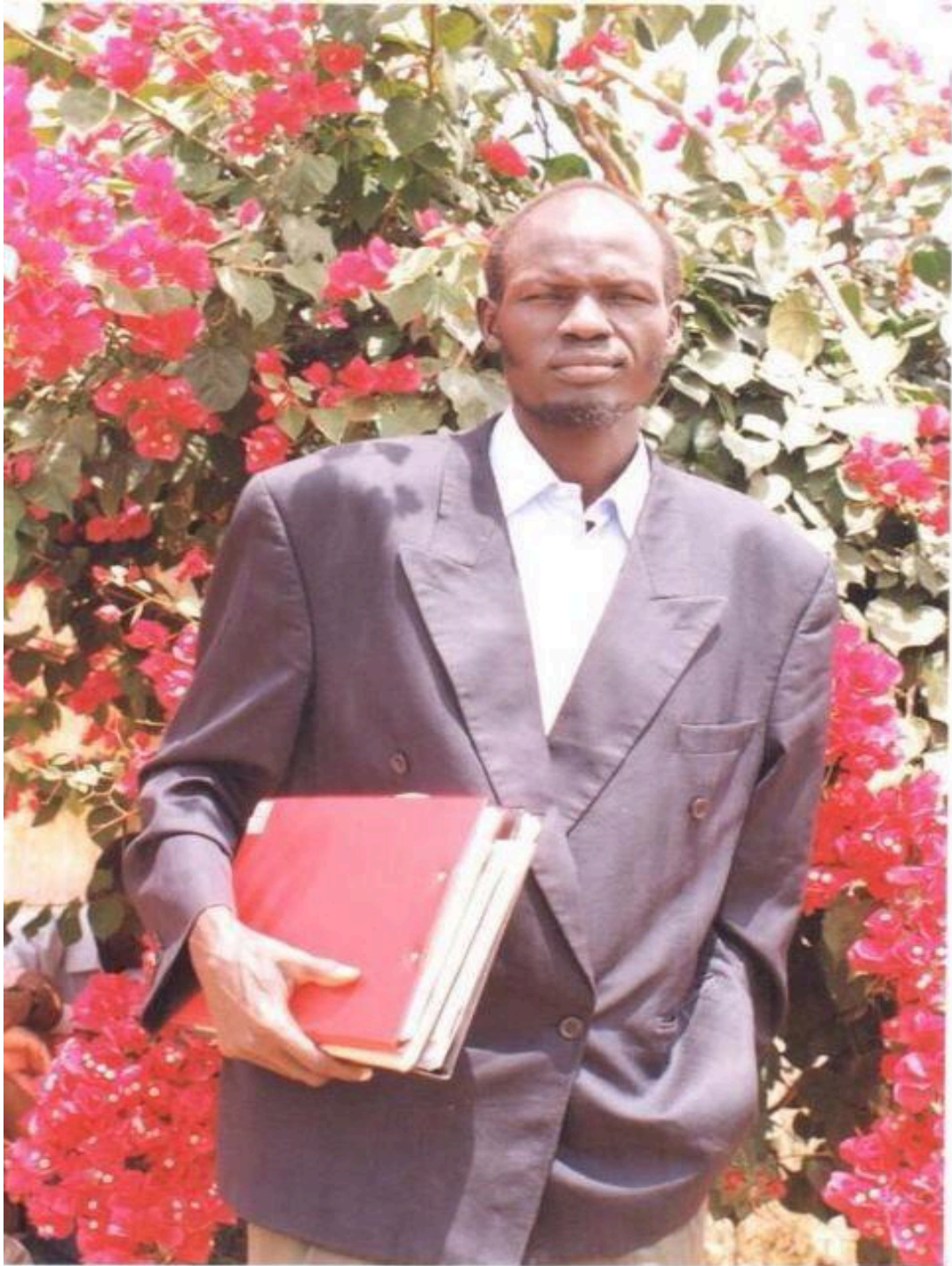
But on the personality of the Vice President the author has two incidences that slow him down from pulling judgment or prematurely put off this man out of his mind. One situation was during the merger between the then Sudan People Defense Force (SPDF) and the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) in 2002. There was a feeling that since the two Movements are equal players, the join structure should be alternated. That means Dr. Garang has to be deputized by Dr. Machar. Mr. Kiir's team vowed to stop this hush-hush if it comes to the open. On the other hand, Dr. Machar team led by Mr. Simon Kun Puoch made the same, to kill him (Dr. Machar) rather if he ever backs down. Dr. Machar proved to them that he is not only interested in power but welfare of his people. This is incredible! The second situation is immediately after the death our great icon Dr. John Garang. He could have complicated matters if he had shown interest in that seat. It's called selfless. Anyway am not marketing him.

For the Ugandan talk, what he could have done best in that situation is to go back to the drawing board before everything could come down tumbling. Misplaced priorities if you like demand change of strategies. He ought to involve as much players as possible. I mean the UN, the IGAD, East African community, the Arab League, the European Union and of course African Union. Its is a blunder to work in isolation without the blessing and support of any of the above mentioned bodies.. Leaving them behind or allowing them to play a second position doesn't make sense at all. Economically, the new government in Juba has little resources to manage huge international burden. That means, our Vice-President must not just fleece Bank of Southern Sudan but instead he should look other sources to foot the bill on these talks. Also, he got to move together with his legislative assembly, as matters of spending and legality are obligatory duties of the legislation.

Further, the Vice-President has to give Ugandans enough time and space to cultivate trust among each other & themselves. The diplomatic defeatist under whom LRA only female delegate refused to shake the hand of President Museveni is so primitive to understate the description. This came about because of separation of the two teams during & outside the talk. Lack of engagement for both sides in matters related to themselves and their country is another issue. If the Vice President failed in this test, he will fail to get our nomination in 2008/2011 for the Presidency if the incumbent just decides to retire early or defeated/beaten in the preliminaries by him or others.

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SOUTH SUDAN ABYEI NOW OR NEVER

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 2, 2007

SPLM as a serious partner in the Sudan has failed the Marginalized People of the Sudan particularly Southern Sudanese on Abyei. The aspirations of these people were pegged on this party and until today the SPLM has gone down as a mere threat with no real influence in the GoNU. Take Darfur for example. No shared views or one position as far as GoNU is concerned. In the prima facie the GoNU is seen from afar as a collision of parties but in reality it's NCP, which is dictating not just ruling. This group has gone away once more time unchallenged from the SPLM on Abyei. The SPLM that was seen as champion of the marginalized has abandoned its original focus and is testing the patience of Southern Sudanese. The question on every street touch person of our beloved land, Southern Sudan, is when will the Abyei Protocol be implemented?

Our people waits for closed to two years and the ruling party in the South is doing talking on Abyei case as if that is all its. When they talk our people thought our leaders has other cards to pursue this important interest. It becomes too much to believe GOSS or the President anymore. His junior lieutenants are intimidated by those whose ties with him make it impossible to dispose of the predisposed. This is not the SPLM/A we all know. Anyone who doubts Mr President's ability to lead must be excused. The President has to do more to prove to us he is indeed in charge. Someone is saying he like a blackboard where someone writes clear but someone else could also come and rubs. The party and its President are trying but they must do more on pertinent cases such as Abyei and squabbles over controls of marginalized Areas of Nuba Mountain and Ingessina Hills. We don't want to ask ourselves where is the man we were made to trust to take us to the Promised Land? If he is there then we need to know something about the work of his teams in the GoNU. Abyei issue has divided the party. We got to be judgmental if we are to progress. In a short while I will tell you why, in the meantime let's go general to the circles.

If the Tellars, Justines and the Akueins are the face of this Party, excuse me this party will have to work hard to win confidence among Southern Sudanese in the near future. Today color of several key leaders is that of the SPLM; but believe it or not, the time is in the offing when the same leaders who are now chanting SPLM Oyee will shout to hell with this party. That is indeed normal and no surprise in the real political competitive. Why will they do that? Because of many reasons but chief among them is how this Party is running the affairs of the Land. None will go for stained party that has lost direction to govern. SPLM must read afar if they are serious about power.

People are just tired of the Finance Minister (GOSS) disregards of public outcry. We thought the President could move him to Environment or Water where money is scaled and allow others to protect public funds from being squandered or mishandled. Where on earth should preferential rule a system? His shifting will allow others to see whether its meritocracy to have in the same Ministry the Director of Planning, Procurement and Investment from the same ethnic lines. The President has been asked and should still to be asked to show leadership in this. Good Governance can't just come without a fight. Someone has to risk. His chances of becoming another President after referendum are unknown. There are fresh bloods in the likes of Pagan, Dr. Itto & Mr. Nhail not because they are delectable & relevant but they possess what it takes to lead. The President performances as leader now will work for him later during tough times ahead. Nothing like good luck in this field, people are to get the exact fruits of their struggle. Arthur is not helping him and hence he (Arthur) in this situation must cooperate to allow the President maintain credibility among our people.

The same is true when the Presidential Affairs Minister (GoNU) has devoted his time to negatively counter whatever that comes from the South. He has gone public on Monday to assert that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is on track. He assured the public that the CPA has been implemented 90%. Who is fool to go by this percentage? The Abyei and Nuba Mountains plus Ingessina are not 10% but 50%. He should know this. This is NCP mouthpiece release and must not go unchallenged. Abyei failures rest with the President and his men. They wanted the President to play it safe and this is what we are hearing often when Hon. Tellar opens his mouth. He has gone ahead now to reveal to us that NCP will not go by the circular from the Interim Conference of the SPLM Bureau as for a need of reshuffle. Although this didn't come out as a resolution the President was given options open to stamp discipline on his Ministers. Be in the GoNU or GOSS, the President has the right to remove any Minister that never toed the policies of the party (SPLM) that sponsored him/her to the Cabinet. The least he could do is to consult President El Bashir.

The slots in the GoNU were given to parties and parties have interests. One party cannot lord over others. If parties had rights to proposed candidates to fill up those positions, they have also the same rights to remove their un-performing candidates. Right or wrong? If we go by Tellar's argument that members of GoNU will require broader consultation from concerned or represented parties, what if the case is where one party withdraws from the Government? Will that requires any consultation from the parties where the party in question wanted to withdraw from? Government in collision would have lost meaning and that is why it's called Collision Government. Therefore the President must not buy Mr. Tellar cheap idea.

On Abyei, the President made an important enlightenment on the 9/01/07 during the CPA Anniversary in Juba, but that statement didn't qualify to be a solution in itself. It remains a declamation and mere Public Relation thing. Kofi Annan then

and now Ki Moon did it several times on Sudan as to Darfur and President El Bashir paid no attention to their threats and long reading of statement. There is no magic this time round that he will pay attention to any criticism made against him or his party. Signs are there that the Abyei issue is no longer an issue; whether from President El Bashir or his party the NCP. Some SPLM members in the GoNU are slugging. The SPLM Secretary General tried on this single handedly and though he is still talking, he has since resigned himself to an eventual luck. We need therefore our President to unilaterally appoint the said Administration in Abyei and deploy SPLA forces in Abyei and at the border between the South and the North. The President should also seek International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearing and then deploy as much force to Malakal and other oil surrounding areas. He must honor his own words to rid the South from other armed groups. Gen. Paulino M Nhial and Wani Konga are reported to have private armies. Investigation? A big yes!

Writers will not give SPLM/GOSS rest until something is done on Abyei. Abyei is South and South is Abyei. Failure to articulate any resolution or lack of implementation reminds us of bitter memories of mysterious killing of our dear leader

Dr. John Garang.

It will just be self pitied however to say if Garang were alive something like this couldn't have happened. Southern Sudan is still that strong under HE Mr. Kiir Mayardit and HE Dr. Machar Teny; and our Land responsibility lies within the reach of every right-thinking patriots. Messes here and there will not take away anything substantial; that is why it's called a 'house'. We will remember our hero as having been hacked because of his stand to free us. May his spirit live on.

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SUDAN'S SALVA KIIR HAS TO LIVE UP TO THE JOB

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 14, 2007

Nobody anywhere would underestimate the kind of job H.E. the President is undertaking. No one further doubts his desire and honest attempts to lead. We are proud of what he has achieved this far and only congratulated ourselves for having him as our leader over those achievements. Few glamorous among them are listed below. He has kept the Movement (SPLM/A) united and alive. He has played a significant role to bringing on board Major Gen. Paulino Matip Nhial and many more. He has warmed up relationship with other like-minded groups of the opposition side of the debate. He has also helped sustain an entity in the Government of Southern Sudan and allowed free hands to his Ministers even for them to propose

their own Under Secretaries. These are lofty things done under His Excellency the President unless we forget!

On the other side of the coin he hasn't stood up or stretched out himself beyond the existence. He is seen as doing badly in the Presidency. I'm just sorry. President El Bashir is perceived as over bearing and Mr. Kiir is no match for him or say it this way, he is too much to match him. El Bashir is widely known as a man who walks the talk. His words are always a mixture of everything. He is a tough President Sudan ever has. But also a man whose leadership you could flourish. President Kiir never learned from his mentor Dr. John Garang how he could fight this man. The two (Garang and Kiir) were closed until the later was tempted to replace him (Kiir) with Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, which was rightfully resisted by Mr. Kiir. Though he is a man of few words and less aggressive, he is not proactive, very poor in speaking, a poor thinker and poor analyst. He blindly takes things for granted and always feeble to market his ideas. The Presidency meeting last week was just a clever ruse, safety valve to lull the people that the Government was committed to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Why on Security Arrangement and not on others that never see the slightest light for implementation?

That agreement has lost its taste to our people. Day after day our people are smelling and breathing uncertainty for almost everything. Nobody has the courage to say there will be election next year or Referendum after 4 and half years. The leadership of the SPLM has complicated matters for the worst. Everything has been delayed and time is eating itself out of the horizon. Our leaders are comfortable with the presence situation and often brag of it. The reality is that the agreement (CPA) has not been implemented and there are no indicators that it will be implemented. If up to day our people are far from knowing anything as far as Commissions are concerned. When will they really know anything as to the same? After two to three years from now? Why not now? What of Abyei? Is El Bashir invincible that it was just left to his mercy? Why serve in the Government when your rights are being denied?

What is happening or not happening as to Human Rights Commissions, Land Commissions, National Electoral Commission, and the Commission on the rights of non-Muslims in the National Capital, National Service Commission is a mystery. Our people including the President (Kiir) know nothing as to oil production figures and existing contracts. We are yet to know about parameters for calculating the oil wealth. In 2005 for example Khartoum reported the share of oil revenue to be \$798.4. Last year that figure increased by 12%. Now how sure is the public that the figures are real when they know nothing on the actual production figures? This is an open question. If there was access to commissions we would have known some cases on human rights, issues pertaining to land as to oil fields, the time table and methodologies for mid term General Election, the rights of our people in the National Capital and the number of our people who really made it in to public service.

Mr. President has done little to project Abyei case internationally and nationally. His rhetoric voice never addressed this matter. His Excellency the President knows clearly that President El Bashir and his party has torpedoed the foundation of constitutional democracy and stalled country reform and peace train. Why is he waiting that long to design a solution for the good of our dear land of Abyei? What chances are really available to put this matter to an end? President El Bashir in Dhaeen little to two weeks ago has poured cold into this matter and will only takes God's hands to help us out. There is an argument I have been resisting that President Kiir hasn't filled the shoes of his predecessor Dr. John Garang de Mabior. My response was that time will tell and that we are expecting too much for too less. He is a great man and will deliver, that is my response. But somehow feelings of doubts and introspective about the future has made their way into our lives and hence it becomes that difficult be inauthentic about oneself.

President Kiir has opportunities at his reach and never uses them to fight his cause. He has gone to minor and small unimportant observations. He directed that the flag of the Sudan be hoisted along side S. Sudan flag. May be he hasn't reading writings on the wall. He never showed up in Nyayo Stadium during the inauguration of Sudan Peace Accord (The CPA) on the 9th Jan. 2005. Am afraid he won't be obeyed. Why? Because people have already made up their mind about their future. Nothing could stand in between and therefore such directives would go unheeded. Take Juba for example, our capital city. It's now 99% southern and should have been 100% if we had applied 'one country two systems' policy from the founder Dr. John Garang.

The President has lost fight on corruption and there is little hope that he will really win it. He could have save the embarrassment if the had the gut to move fast and stop his Ministers from abusing public trust. What will happen in the near future is our nasty game where people often hide beneath tribal, sectional and whatever else on the disguise that one of our own is being prosecuted unfairly by this tribe. Mr. President hand off has pushed us into this quagmire. Our land is at stake and our leader is not moving things from the top. It has become obvious that others are doing it for him. Mr. President where will you stop being used by others?

A leader as one of the dictionaries puts it is a person or thing that is the best in the first place in a race, business etc For the sake of this writing, could His Excellency the President be the best or the first in our race for excellence? I don't know... But who is this man? Lt Gen. Salva Kiir is a leader of the SPLM/A and by choice or chance became President of the Government of Southern Sudan after the disappearance of Dr. John Garang on July 30, 2005. He was sworn in the office on August 11, 2005. Some of us who happened to be with him in the bush and out of the bush know him as patriotic and reasonable commander. He has not been a classified to be tribalist or associate with groupings on that line. He does things with careful thoughts. He is however that green as to politics and sometime so grouchy and fogey but he kept his relationship with Dr. John Garang warm for long. So if that is the case will he stand

the chance of memorable leadership in the South? I thought he would but that is for experiment as long as he moves away from being inactive. He is a lucky man to have Dr. Riek Machar Teny as his deputy. Dr. Machar has proved his case and shouldn't be taken lightly. Anyone who happened to be in Wolf Battalion or Western Upper Nile Zone as it was called could attest that how humane is this man. Now he has sacrificed a lot as far as GOSS issues are concerned. Mr. President should reciprocate by keeping that bond strong.

Mr. President has done little about social services badly needed by our people. For him to ask us to be patient is not helpful. His GOSS failures are his own making. Why did he have to keep Dr. Theophilus Ochan, Arthur Akuein Chol, Dr. Justine Yaac Arop & Michael Ali Hussien in their Ministries? Where are Dr. Achol Marial Deng and Daniel Woor Joak? What of Majok Dut Morwel, Martin Okerruk, Dr. Alfred Lokujo and Pascal L. Bindi? Any of the above will make a good minister in the GOSS. Don't quote unreliable sources about some of them. These are focus and have brain and history that matches our needs. Social services are of dire needs. Allowing GOSS to spend ages on planning is self-defeatist. If we are to wait, then we have equal right to know what we are waiting for. If we wait for the money the money is there and for expertise then we have plenty everyone looking for jobs but aren't given jobs because none is connected at the top. Therefore it is cheap to read our leader telling us to wait for more years.

Our leader should have move to stop this mole called Dr Lam Akol Ajawin from destroying people's movement. If he waits for Kosti Manibe then he will have a long wait and the man will do more harm to our people than good. He is slippery and smart on anything. Don't ask me to give you evidences or charges against him. Dr. Lam betrayal to history is a wicked political encyclopedia of Southern Sudanese. The man has pulled yet another damaged to the reputation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He preaches water but surely he drinks wine. Right or wrong? If he says democracy, democracy minus nepotism or transparency less favoritism, then that is malevolent and pretense of highest order. This is not antipathy against anyone.

He (Dr. Lam) went public to gag our voice for freedom and justice in the region of Darfur. He neither advocates nor stands to talk about Abyei disputes along the corridors of world powers. He shut the door for our people to enter coveted privileges in the Foreign Ministry, because of some conditions he designed to stop SPLM/A members from accessing those slots. But to the President Dr Lam is un-touchable and a sacred cow. He appointed him willy-nilly when the position should have been given to Mr. Edward Lino Woor, Deng Aloor Kuol or Pagan Amum Oketch. That is after Mr. Nhial declined. Theories are still fresh when the former stood to defend the later in Yei-their unholy alliance. If that is where that will lead us, then the President must be prepared for our people quest for justice. Why keep someone with that dark past in the people movement or party? The President owes us an explanation.

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PARLIAMENT SHOULD INTERVENE ON SOUTH CAPITAL ROW

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

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Unionists who could be reading here must not get offended; we shall meet at the ballot box on July 9, 2011, inshallah! It is not too earlier or too late to talk about this matter of our national concern. A capital is a symbol of our national pride and that of our identification. Generally, it reflects everything for that particular administrative region or state. Ours is a nation in making and this matter of our national capital has been in the debate for long. When Addis Ababa Agreement was signed thirty-five years ago, decision makers at that time were divided as to what should be the national capital of the Southern Region of the Sudan. The agreement then like now in our case (CPA item 53:4) pointed Juba as the seat of the Government (High Executive Council). The debate never died down and continuous until Joseph James Tombura time when Southern Sudan was re-divided by President Jaafer Mohammed Nimeri in 1983, into three regions namely Equatoria, Bahr El Ghazal and the Upper Nile. Everyone knows that story.

At that time, there were voices who wanted the capital to be relocated to another place other than Juba. Most non-Equatorians wanted it taken to places such as Yirol, Mongalla, Shambe or Bor. Yirol concept was popular. The argument was that Juba has seismic problem and therefore risky since there are no modern technology at hand to counter an occurring earth quark. Besides there was concerns that some Bari intellectuals are intolerable to others as far as the issue of land and ownership are concerned. The proponents of Juba on the other hand, argued that Juba inhabitants are hospitable, easy going and labor force. They are hard working and always make the city ever fresh with food even if food stops from elsewhere, they conclude. The debate ranges until SPLA change the debate or focus to 'New Sudan' vs. 'Old Sudan'- simply say war situation.

But the SPLM Government before the Agreement (CPA) - after Machakos, had tried out a solution to this matter. They proposed Ramciel as the new capital for the New Sudan (Southern Sudan). H.E Dr. Riek Machar Teny (our current Vice President) went to the place earlier in 2005 and assessed the feasibility surrounding the proposal. He was reported to have supported his colleague Dr. John Garang. The two suggested what they called Tent City and allocate plans and perhaps resources to make it happen. The events overtook this process or the rest is history. Sources say that Equatorians later met Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riek Machar in protest. They questioned the intention of taking away the national capital Juba. I don't figure out

the answer and the source didn't elaborate, but it looks like the two leaders were not persuaded. People then moved to Juba after all and His Excellency the President Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit was backing Dr. Riek and Garang for Rumciel. He was categorical in saying the obvious and that is, the virus of Kokoro hasn't yet died.

Last year when this matter was in the debate, the Executive jumps the gun and left Parliament to watch things on the sideline. The Executive failed to make Clement Wani Konga the Governor of Central Equatoria State to change his mind. His House went defying and scorned the decision made by the Executive that directed Yei to be the Governmental Headquarters of the state. Central Equatoria State Parliament wanted Juba to be administered like Khartoum; where seats of the nation and that of Khartoum itself co-exist side by side. But Hon. Michael Makuei the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (GOSS) read out position of the cabinet refuting that outlook. The tension and the war was murkier in the legal side of the interpretation but was relaxed even though heat wasn't quenched. It went on un-smothered at the level of the two layers of the executive. It has just come out openly when H.E The Vice President disguised this in his "Modern Juba City" development by Made in Africa Investment Bank developers. He has been suffering in silence for so long and looking for an exit.

As Housing Minister he had had enough and becomes almost impossible to have Government land on his name around Juba. Partly because the Justice and Constitution Affairs Ministry and Parliament failed to table bill to regulate land ownership. But largely, the communities around are still hostile to anything that touch their land without due processes. There are reports that say some leaders from that community have gone as far as telling the Vice President to take the capital else where. I think he has just obliged. There is an observation though. Law Makers in the Central Equatoria State and their Cabinet has this point. The Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan (ICSS) via CPA had in Part 12 article 180: (4) and here states "all land traditionally and historically held or used by local communities or their members shall be defined, held, managed and protected by law in Southern Sudan". Basically it says, that piece of land belongs to the people. There is legal term however in most cases will boiled down to what it means in the word "defined", "held", "managed" and "protected". This is an area of careful balance and Parliament has every right to midwife this matter.

So, people of good will in our Parliament must rise up and save the image of the leadership in the eyes of the public. Parliament should adopt a firm resolution that should put this matter to rest. If Juba's inhabitants are not willing to allow GOSS to exercise its policies, then it isn't too late to keep Juba as Provincial Capital and decided (edict) on which place to be the official capital of the emerging state. Barely two years and there is this omen of cultural clash. Don't blame Equatorians or non-Equatorians, especially Dinka and Nuer, blame their socio-cultural background. The problem is that there is no way the two will leave apart from each other. The dilemma again is that the more they come closer the difficult it becomes. Their

cultures often clash. Simple words such as 'sorry', 'please' and 'thank you' are hardly in the vocabulary of Dinkas and Nuers, true or fals? Someone also says a number of Equatorians are irritants and gossip lots/agitators or magnified trivial things. Well, they say culture is like beauty, only gauge by the beholder. But Parliamentarians should seek solution that will bring our people together and shame the divisive veins among our communities. We want to face our future together and our internal wrangles however little aren't healthy at all. To take capital to lesser-inhabited place could be an idea. The capital will develop its own culture and Ramciel stands the chance of becoming our capital.

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IS DARFUR CRISIS HUMANITARIAN OR SOCIO-POLITICAL OR BOTH?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

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Well, this is an odd and possibly the lazy question that has frequently been in the public domain since the start of the crisis in 2003. There are many theories and schools of thought as there are different minds interpreting issues as to what is actually going on there in Darfur. It also depends on what piece of conflict one dissects from there. The bottom line though has been what kind of solution should it be- would it be humanitarian solution/intervention or an agreed political solution/settlement. All of the above are parallel but also are intertwining. Since the inception of this war in 2003, Darfur case never ceased to top world agendas in substance and character. It's probably the world most discussed crisis ever at the moment, next to Iraq and the Middle East; but also the world lost war at given Khartoum 'cat and mouse policies'.

Protagonists in this conflict namely the Darfurian Rebels and the Government of Sudan lavishly served the world with fictions and facts about what is really the fundamental cause of the problem there. But with all the glaring testimonies about issues at hand, the facts are too many and the world still grope, not pinning where to end the conflict more quickly and convincingly. This paper too wouldn't end it or any other efforts underway in European capitals. The only place where this matter could be arrested must be Khartoum in which the ruling party (NCP) should be kept engaged and constantly involved on matters to do with peace, resettlement and political settlement. That is where the bug stops. To be brief this matter is crystal clear a socio- political problem and any attempt made towards this initiative would end the conflict more abruptly.

For good or bad intention, the majority of people per this judgment came to identify themselves with the Darfur cause because of humanitarian aspect for the people affected by the conflict. But the least notice aspect of the conflict perhaps poses an important element that could have been given much attention by everyone. The world leading bodies such as the United Nations, European Unions, the Arab League and the Africans Union concerns are in this area of the humanitarian. They are in pursuant of their organizational mandates but they should have let genie out of the bottle and look beyond the underlining factors to the same.

But the writer and Darfur rebels among others see it otherwise. The-would be mistake by the world bodies shouldn't be based primarily on this angle of the humanitarian without going beyond it as to what actually happened before then. This assumption has and will always make peace for Darfur a pipe dream and an elusive. Numerous agreements that were signed in different capitals never brought peace there and won't bring any unless the cause of Darfur people to share mathematically the power and resources with the central Government are adequately brought to the fore/addressed. If the author bored you next with anything else, refer to the previous last line of this argument.

People are trying and trying to come up with solutions and resolutions but the purported attempts to kill "two sparrows by a stone" have been proven unworkable and shall ever remain a nightmare. People are dying there in Darfur particularly in the Western State of Darfur (Geneina). Children and affected mothers in the Morning, Ardh Matta etc Camps are crying for justice and peace every moment of their life. Unbelievably, the war of words; and peace resolutions for the problem are perfectly fought in the media. The idea we got to understand as members of the world community is simple; Khartoum killed, rape, burned villages and maimed people in Darfur for one and only one reason and that is the fear of black man claiming his/her natural right to live comfortably in his country. In another word, why should black man claims equality and justice with the 'light' skin person. 'Where on earth will a black person be made equal with non-black person?' That was the concept that has reinforced the idea of arming Ali Mohammed Abdul Rahman's horsemen (Janjaweed).

For Khartoum it was good as saying 'let's wipe them out from this land to allow our Arab nomads to occupy this land instead'. It really tragic! That was and still the situation we shall all deny or accept for Darfur. I must admit however that our people (read rebels) in the Region of Darfur failed the world and us (writers) by not coming together or formed an alliance with Southern Sudan or any other marginalized part of the Country. Dr. Garang tried in earlier 1990s to send leading figure from that region but guess what Darfurians chop off his head. Why? Because to Darfurians, Darfur as 'a bedrock of Islam in the Sudan'; shouldn't have been touched by the Christian South, however the lofty and endearing slogans of New Sudanism. Garang however wasn't deterred and at some point it works but after Garang got killed they Darfurians turned their back against his predecessor Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit

(Southern President) and the people of Southern Sudan. Their main negative perception and contention against the South is in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) provisions on power. They are understandably lobbying hard to stop Southern Sudan from breaking away when their political future remains uncertain. It is in doubt.

Khartoum on the other hand exploits every bit of lapse and loop to prove to the outside that they are indeed not the cause to the problem. They carefully and tacitly divided the world bodies on the expense of suffering people in the Region of Darfur. They weather every storm ostensibly due to differences within stakeholders in the conflict. As things stand, Khartoum will always emerge on top diplomatically. It is within this belief that the interested world bodies ought to give no chance for Khartoum to get away with it and others this time about. If anyone anywhere feels that Khartoum has accepted 20,000 UN Force for Darfur, then that person must be dreaming in the day. They say old habits die-hard. They haven't accepted that force unless we lie to ourselves. If they had why did they have to condition it?

Where will Africans get the necessary funding for that force without UN commanding it? That is another dilemma and a real one. Khartoum refused to go to France couple days ago because of this element for the peace keeping forces (payment). French President Nicolas Sarkozy was driving home this idea of payment for the UN Force for Darfur but Khartoum shot it down in its refusal to attend owing that its success would be the success of the exercise altogether. Isn't that an indication of belligerence and stiff-necked type of a regime in power in the Sudan? If not what is it?

The Arabs and majority of African countries plus China are firmly behind Khartoum. Why?...Internally, the party known as the SPLM that was mistakenly perceived as unstoppable has somewhat embroils in an infighting with the real ruling party (National Congress Party). The party in power (NCP) has refused to go by important elements in the agreement (CPA) and had since stopped cooperating with the SPLM on key fronts. Is that an exaggeration? Not. The SPLM on their part reciprocated and this in a way has far reaching unpleasant consequences for the country. There is deadlock, suspicion and mistrust between the two. The other leading political forces (parties) are watching at the side line with cards close to their hearts incase the two big parties renegotiate their lost love back. But the SPLM shouldn't lose focus and the NCP partnership is vital partner at the moment for the good of the Sudan; they ought to eat humble pie and just lame on however difficult the going (partnership)!

This country started on right footing from January 2005 and was heading well until somewhere when invested parties from nowhere infiltrated the NCP. That is not pessimism in a way; there is yet a light at the end and hopefully the world must critically help the political process to move forward for Darfur and Southern Sudan if they are genuinely serious about any solution and peace in this part of the world.

Khartoum of course will always run around for excuse but Darfur Region need tangible political settlement like the Southern Region. It shouldn't be slavish in its premises like the South but share of real power with the central Government based on confederate arrangement like the Indian Keshmir is not an option but the right thing to do and a good approach to this crisis.

However this settlement MUST NOT infringe to any clause on Power Sharing Arrangement (CPA) between Southern Sudan and the North. If it does am afraid we would have courted another situation far complex than the Darfur. Southern Sudan hasn't yet healed from long and devastating wars that have killed millions of inhabitants. The gap between the two regions remains as wide as ever and could only take the hand of the Almighty God to make it narrowed. But why would anyone allow the current chance and wind of opportunity to slip away? The world should watch out, Southern Sudan case isn't yet over. Abyei, oil disputed areas and figures plus many games played in the Agreement would force Southern Sudan to defend itself against archenemy in Khartoum notwithstanding any consequences. Abyei is the heart of Southern Sudan; it is Dinka land and animal grazers who are looking for trouble should look for it somewhere. They would be disgraced. Shouting down or publicly abusing Hon. Deng Alor Kuol or undermining our President on this won't help; Southern Sudan interest has always been the same there from day one and encouragingly our future is slowly but firmly getting into hands. Darfur and Southern Sudan cases therefore are purely political. Go for political settlement for Darfur.

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IS IT TIME FOR SOUTH SUDAN MINISTER OF FINANCE TO QUIT?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEB 3, 2007

The alleged corrupt riddled Government of Southern Sudan in Juba is coming out fighting against itself in the eyes of the population and the World. It's an easy rationale to do but with serious consequences in the long run. The sacrificial lamp therefore is none other than Mr. Arthur Akuien Chol, the current Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in that Government. He is under intense siege and pressure from his own constituents namely the House (Parliament), his boss (the President), his party (the SPLM) and the public. I pity him! His is a poor and unlucky man in the middle of other schemers! It seems like his days are numbered in the eyes of many but the writer looks otherwise.

The President who is often figurative on the negative on Jan 13, 2007 went public to institute an investigation team led by Hon. Dr. Samson Kwaje of Information on \$60 m paid out by National Government to the SPLM Party in March 2005. The soft target to the assumption was/is Mr. Arthur Akuien. The President hiding from his earlier decree where Finance surgery was done under which Chief Executives of that ministry were shown door couldn't refrain justice unless he is seen as selective. But his mind never lost sight of chunk voters or sizeable block of voters under the armpit of Mr. Arthur Akuien. This could have been/will be his political suicide. He treads with care! He perfectly used that conundrum to warn or perhaps fish out Mr. Arthur Akuien from the Cabinet. Granted, he meant well. That is an exemplary and no one doubts His Excellency feelings to rid out graft officers from his Government and rescue our people from this menace!

Ok, again to the minister. His own party the SPLM disowned him and asked him to take his own cross. The emerging star Mr. Pagan Amum never minced his words. He charged that Mr Arthur owes Southern Sudan \$42 m and defied his advice to remit the money to the GOSS Bank (BOSS). The Speaker Mr James Wani Igga moreover through his Legislative Assembly joined the prey. Where will this man get a breathing space or refuge? Nowhere! Hence for him to avoid rigorous and embarrassment of being forced out through dropping or sacking from the President; the Honorable Minister should just step aside voluntarily. This might allow the President to appoint him back to the Cabinet. He must not think that he would weather this storm.

But if he does so, will that end corruption or help the Government in Juba in any way? Hmmm! Yes it could help, as it will slow down looters. But there are pointers that show different overview as to how this vice could be eradicated. Experts on corruption are suggesting for other options rather than only sacking. They say GOSS is in short supply of skilled manpower. So, officers at some level do what they don't know how it's done. The officials who are at the front line of delivery are under performing because of their little skills, they say. Well, are skillful officials a panacea or better option against graft? Not really. Some people talk of accountable systems where computerization is applied. I think this is an option!

The case in question is of Custom Department. Take aside its ethno-staffed structure but look at how botching or badly are these officers in performing their duties. With no aid of computer they are manually administering money and no one bothers to say 'please you are living in different world where yz are no longer done this or that way'. The Custom Director in Juba could just monitor daily revenues from Kaya, Nimule and Nadapal with ease. That is where the war on graft should be directed! GOSS Anti Corruption Commissioner Mrs Pauline Riak & her deputy Mr. Philip Chol Biowei must take the battle right there right now!

Officials there are not doing good job. They are expert in demeaning public trust and only harass foreigners at the borders. Resources are being wasted there. Director of

Taxation in Juba knows virtually nothing on what his lieutenants are doing behind his back. Therefore we might sack the Director but not the graft. It remains alive & active however decrees we make in a day to sack senior officials. System needs to be put in place. Rwanda has one, the best one. Should we try it here?

If that is the case then, our GOSS leaders should keep their house in text and never turn war inwardly, instead they ought to follow Dr. Garang principles of reforming people. The significant war therefore is not yet over and prudent that our leaders sought out our burning issues such as Abyei, the SSDF perennial threat/case and the border demarcation. They have miserably done little to advocate for solutions or create their own solutions to the above. They talk and talk which is beautiful but the other side has no ears to listen or conscience to feel. In that environment there is an urgent necessity to keep our unity alive at all times! We cannot afford to lose key leaders and replaced them with officials whose loyalty is spread out to not than one cause.

Mr. Arthur shouldn't be axed (but that is if he brings back the money) and if possible the sacked team led by Makur-Francis must be brought back to Government. Lack of skills in one area does not make them infra dig to hold no other portfolio in the Government. Could that becomes a condoning of corruption? May be or may be not. The point then is that the enemies of SPLM and GOSS have used corruption issue to down play the achievements scored on behalf of Southern Sudan by the SPLM led Government (GOSS). Lastly, Jeech Wanjura a great writer once said, "great devotion begets great enemies": that is a word to the President! He got to watch out and ever conscious of political animal.

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SPLM, NEVER ACCEPT PIECE MEAL DEALS WITH THE NCP

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 9, 2007

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress Party (NCP), the major political and military players of the Sudan signed an agreement known as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) two and half years ago in the Kenyan capital Nairobi witnessed by several international figures and organizations, in an attempt to bring together the country after several years of unrest. It was a good beginning for the country that never enjoyed peace since its independence from Britain forty-nine years ago. They wasted no time in making promises and pledges to move this country away from war to peace, prosperity and democratic dispensation based on new models and principles. The death of Dr. John Garang de Mabior

however dealt a blow to this process as his predecessor (Gen. Kiir) had his own understanding and approach different from that of Garang. His counterpart Omar Hassan El Basher on the other hand failed to read Gen. Kiir in almost everything; and hence emerged gulfing wedge between the two leaders. But despite this diversion, the country never looked back and hopes and aspirations of the Sudanese were high.

The feeling change when the NCP tested the SPLM after the formation of commissions and the institutions that were established to safeguard the agreement. Things didn't go as expected and slowly the mistrust built up as the two camps dig or retreat to their original bases. The straw that broke the camel back was the Darfur and suggested shuffling of the SPLM members. The SPLM withdrew its members from the Government of National Unity (GoNU) asked the NCP to fulfill some conditions; otherwise the partnership could be divorced. The two sides made real their threats through military and diplomatic mobilization and almost went to war against each other; but thanks to the Sudanese people.

Southern Sudan could smile all the way to Referendum in 2011 because of tested resolve of the Sudanese people and particularly the de facto political players, namely the NCP, the SPLM, USAP and the Democratic Forum in their lately realization of responsibility. The SPLM/NCP to be exact have come out of age and mature now to work on their feet for the best interest of the Sudan. Not necessarily on this particular crisis but throughout that period after signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). If they had overcome Garang's disappearance crisis, what would stop them from overcoming the present crisis? This might not be the last crisis though, others would follow, perhaps most tough yet to come within the period of the Transition. The SPLM, to their credit, refused to get swallowed; this has been an encouragement.

The SPLM had woken up and there is no doubt that they aren't serious partners in peace of this country. The SPLM stood the test although non at this stage could say whether the crisis are actually over or about to be over, given the unpredictability color of Khartoum. They might say something and do nothing at the same time. The example is what the White State Governor is doing by stopping goods and movements of items coming down to Southern Sudan. Therefore, the SPLM must go slow on any promise that comes out from the NCP. The NCP must be directed to clearly draw its way more openly on how it wants to implement the pending issues in the agreement item by item; succinctly indicates how it would move from here on a time line observed by everyone including peace brokers. It must lucidly and unequivocally detail and specify how each item in dispute is to be resolved in whole, not in stages/pieces.

In the meantime though, the SPLM needs to maintain its steady head as to issues other than show of stuffed press conferences that portray intransigence and tension like feelings. The President and his team thus far nevertheless, were up to the job-

managing crisis. They rebuffed temptation of exasperation after each single provocation from the NCP and instead stick to why the agreement on this and that area wasn't being implemented. The Sudanese and the world stood and still stand with the SPLM. They must not just retreat and rush the SPLM members to their seats in Khartoum. Positions come and go but our beautiful Southern Sudan would remain time and again.

Southern Sudan struggle isn't yet over until it's really over. The question then is when is it actually going to be over? In another word, why struggle again when Southern Sudan is 90% under Southern Sudanese authority? This query comes straight from those who went into deep asleep or indifferent guys who assume that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is an end in itself. To them the agreement (CPA) is enough since it has brought some 'benefits/goodies' for the South among them peace. These gentlemen were caught gapping when the Sudan People Liberation Movement Interim Bureau pulled a trigger to freeze it's partnership with the National Congress Party (NCP). This action by the SPLM is perceived (mainly by this group) as endangering the CPA and by extension their undeserved free privileges that came their way. Far from it, the SPLM is instead for its full implementation.

We shouldn't be surprise if there could be individuals who want the boycott to end unconditionally. They would be flatly wrong! No boycott until things becomes so clearer and quantifiable! The same minority that has always straddled Southern Sudan with their shameful acts of collaborating with Khartoum on their sons' blood are again on similar path. But the truth on resumption is this: it would be cheap and very unstable if not naïve and possibly dangerous to simply put off the boycott without any solution to issues at the agreement. If it happened just for the sake of lifting we shall likely experience backlash in different forms and shades against the reputation of Southern Sudan, the party and its leaders. It might salvage peace yes but not the content of that peace. So, should the boycott be lifted or should it not? The answer is absolutely not, no lifting! Peace minus Abyei, oil benefits, General Election and Referendum is no better peace and just meaningless/useless.

The boycott however could be lifted when Census ingredients such as border demarcation and grey areas in contention are addressed. There must be no rush or hurry. There could be apparent signs leading to two sides closing their differences; but the SPLM needs to exercise maximum caution at this stage. The push is on both parties (SPLM & NCP) as confrontation could eventually lead to fragmentation of the country. The leaders from both camps know this very well. At the end after of it, there would be no winner or loser between them but the Sudanese people. CPA must be guarded.

We shouldn't at this stage blame anyone. Throwing insult here and there to our leaders help us not at this situation. The gentleman called Pagan Amum becomes soft target and the a scapegoat; he suffered for our sake and if we mind we got to give

him the space he needs to champion the cause of our struggle without mudslinging from his own people he wants to liberate. It's just disheartening to find others who care less about the record of this young man. Maliciously, he has all along been enduring all manners of false frames aimed at his reputation and name. Mind you, this gentleman is his own man and a true example of what it's to be a selfless and a revolutionary. He went to the bush when the SPLM/A wasn't born or say when Garang and his team were still in the Sudanese Army and made his own contribution for Southern Sudan along with his colleagues such as late Apollo Nakurnyang and Nyachigak Nyachiluk.

Abandoning his Law career in a prestigious Khartoum University (at that time) and joined others (Anyanya II) is not a small matter. He later completed with distinction in Cuba. He has been standing behind his people for an interrupted 21 full years without crossing over to the enemy camp or takes refugee in another foreign land. What of his efforts after the death of Garang and the face he wears against Khartoum whenever the interest of Southern Sudan and other Marginalized is threaten? Look at the SPLM party under his watch, who could have done better than him in the party? There is nothing wrong in criticizing a leader when he deserves it but certainly something is wrong when it's purely out to appease our ill motivated ego. They are human and they need our support when they are doing wrong or right. Forum for doing corrections are plenty and hence unfair to go world over and made fun of them.

Southern Sudan would not go anywhere if we pull each other down. The crisis at hand is enough where any distraction could worsen it and rendered the entire agreement tumbling. This is a moment we got to take maximum care of ourselves and work hand in hand with the Government in Juba. Perhaps something good might come out (inshallah) in the next few days/weeks, since both sides commit themselves to end their differences through dialogue.

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***TURN SPLM REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP CARDS
INTO CASH***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

The Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), between May and June this year went hunting for supporters in major towns in the country. The official figure of registered sympathizers or members is reported to be around 5 million members. If we believe the source and this figure, then this party is a major political force others must take it serious or ignore it for their own risk. There is no doubt that this party is

indeed very popular among the middle and grass roots levels. If the organizers of that party had money to get in to every County and Puma levels at ease, I believe this party would be a force to beat, in the South and in the North, be it at the distant and near future.

If that is the case then, why is this party not taking chances? Why is it starving of cash? The reason is this: lack of resource mobilization and organization. The party top brass never paid damn attention to these exercises that could have helped them organize party activities. They casually remarked something similar to this but ended up there. The party needs to strengthen its branches at State and County levels. To do this there is dire need for money. States and Counties level is where most of any political fights become dogged. Therefore translating 5 millions loyalists into cash should be revisited by the party. The ordinary way of doing it, as it happens everywhere is to make members pay prescription fees monthly or annually. Monthly payment works well.

If each member pays 1 (one) Sudanese Pound (SP) each month, then the party would scoop 5 millions SP monthly. If one pushes it a little higher, to raise this figure to 10 SP from middle grade to super- which we shall assumed to be 1 million members, here again we shall get 100 million SP which is 50 thousands USD a month. Bribe (woes) thereafter five key National Congress Party (NCP) swingers or Southern Political Forces ever moving elements each month using this amount, the party within a span of remaining four years would be a horse racing with donkeys and mules, as one politician in East Africa used to deride his opponents. That is the dirty part of this game (money).

But the real use of this money could go beyond this. We should be crying aloud in the open than in hiding as we hear words of disquiet coming straight from party die heart cadres against the SPLM Secretariat. The SPLM Secretariat is coming under barrage of attacks from party members due to its lack of democratization and organization at its organs. That means election on key positions of the party, such as the Vice Chairmanship, Organizing Secretary, Foreign and Treasurer, are not elected or yet to be filled. Another whispering voice is whether the party should elect its representatives right from the top to the bottom other than just nominates or endorses. To many it is possible but costly. In our current state of affairs democracy and others have to wait. We are still a polarized society and yet out to shun tribalism or provincialism.

Commendably, our leaders in Juba and Khartoum are doing whatever they are trying to do to keep us together, and this should be applauded. Unity in diversity is beautiful, but we got to exercise maximum vigilance all over our shoulders incase seeds of discord and disunity might drop shoots among our people. The going isn't easy and tough times are still ahead. Reading from our President's tone on Sunday, it was a spiral from straight talk, to frustration that led to depression and finally resignation across his face. Picking then from there, nobody knows whether the boat

that carries us will surely reach its intended destination or not! But the party, the leader and his team are doing their best to keep the boat afloat. It good that we know where the enemy's hit us most-divide and rule, we won't allow it to happen again. We should then prepare our heads as well as our pockets to stand on our own. We shall overcome!!!

Though there is a feeling of disrepute as to the ability of party chief (SPLM Secretary General) in running its affairs, particularly his disciplinary measures or appraisal approach towards his senior party officers (i.e. Party Officers at State levels), Mr. Amum is doing a sterling job there; torn between his party principles as to good governance at higher levels and his own organization problems. That is not simple job, isn't it?

The state party secretaries are accused of being arrogant, chest-thumpers, and political featherweights. Majority of them are young and inexperienced, it's charged. But this is not enough in it self. People learn through challenges. Age isn't a deal, character is. The only problem to observers however is that majority of them are poor public relation carriers. It could be a scare to those who want to jump ship. It's not enough to feature in national occasion's drabbed in party symbols all around your body; which is in itself is good, but it would be good for these gentlemen to fight smart behind the scene when there is no real occasion coming around. Shaking hands alone is an issue from those men to other members of another political divide, let alone visiting them in their homes and share political flat forms and gatherings. They are said to be detached and disparaged instead they should have been Officers of true change in their contact abilities and how they carry themselves and party ideals. Some of them are doing good work but not all of them. The political ground is very fertile but there are few genuine activists to make it productive. The inalienable truth is here: the party is rich in human activism and support bases which they should have use for the good of the party.

Just to repeat the theme, the party needs money and there is no safe way to let the party get that money from Bank of Southern Sudan (BOSS) without any legal challenge from other political parties and concerned civil society organizations. Party members must cough up something. This should be mandatory or voluntarily (whichever). Mr. Amum truly will have enough money to market any candidate and organize conventions and conduct important party meetings with less hassle as to cash. But that upcoming election (which in my rightful thinking should be deferred) the party needs money to level political field with money-stuffed ruling political party known to many as National Congress (NCP).

The SPLM party in its presence forms isn't prepare and time ahead is so limited for any miracle to happen within its structure, except chaos and divisions that would go down to affect the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) if there would be no money to sponsor activities. This is because other 'rich' parties will prey in this pool. The "program for life" tagged as New Sudan is heading to the grave

unless radical surgical methodology is sought by the Party. This is a noble grand project and lack of money would kill it. Again this idea must not be confined to Southern Sudan. Northern nationals who joined the SPLM are beginning to doubt the original direction of the party. Though the manifesto remains the same, others are seeing the country slowly and surely moving into regionalism (East, West and the South). But the New Sudan idea is and has been an open-ended dream. It was for everyone who felt aggrieved and denied rights in the country. Unsurprisingly, others in the North such as Darfur and the main Northern Opposition Forces are toying with the idea that the CPA wasn't cast on stones. Eh! That is too dangerous ground to tread. Anyone daring there touches our very blood! This agreement (CPA) may be is the mother of all other agreements between the two nations, and its demise is not in the interest of the country and the region, goes the prediction. It might arguably but also undoubtedly serves as the last agreement Southern Sudan signed with the North, whether it's implemented or not.

Events have overtaken expectations and therefore prudent if our society could exercise patience and stay united under its current leadership however difficult the going as far as governance in the South is concerned. It time to prioritize. Here come some unavoidable queries: was democracy and its benefits our main cause of our grievances or was it peace? Was the power one major reason why we lost 2 million lives or was it wealth? What of freedom, justice and equality? Do you know that some of our leaders are blowing kisses with the NCP and opponents of the CPA in the name of partnership, because of power, wealth, prestige and status? If you don't, then watch out, our quest for freedom is at risk. It was thought it would be partnership based on mutual respect on issues that build and develop the Sudan. We still respect the NCP to deliver on its promises. But it takes more than just a slogan and lofty ideas to free South Sudan. We need each other more than any other time if that day would be realized, when our voting cards hang close to our heart in our coats. Referendum is our fulcrum, others in this period aren't!

Therefore, Dr. David De Chand and his new-formed group ought to join the SPLM, Union of Sudan African Party (USAP I or II) or Dr. Martin E. Lomuro's Democratic Forum, and help improve and strengthen our political situations. Here and there he shall claim anything useful for the people of Southern Sudan. The USAPs or The Forum is enough to keep the governing party in the Southern on its toes. Dr. David is a great thinker and true Southerner. If he chooses to stay in that new outfit, it may be seen as bane of another anarchical, suicidal and meaningless quest for 'change' just as it occurred in Nasir sixteen year ago within the SPLM/A family. That rebellion haunts our psyche. Our people die senselessly under carelessness from our leaders. It remains as an inexcusable episode no matter what baptism we might dubbed unto it, whether we call it 'blessing in disguise' or 'disguise in the blessing' to justify it. It was a stupid act, like any other act taken by the mainstream SPLM/A groups! Ask then why...

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ROAD NETWORK FOR SOUTH SUDAN IS TOP PRIORITIES

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JULY 23, 2007

Put it this way: what are GOSS priorities then and now generally? Well, anything in our case as Southern Sudan Government is a priority; be it security (stability), reconciliation (unity), health (clean water & hospitals/clinics), education (schools and others), power (electricity), communication etc. Indeed Southern Sudan lags behind in almost everything, and hence it's has real massive needs. Decision makers in Juba therefore need to work round the clock as far as service deliveries are concerned. It requires more than just a clear picture of the nature of problems but also a gut, willingness and sacrifice to make things move fast. We are yet to see this coming out from our very leaders we entrusted our future into their hands. Yes in all our Ministries there are papers well crafted but those ideas end up being there for public relation purpose or to save face before the House or The President. There is more to individual inputs in everything we do or about to do and this where we have problem as advocates for better life for Southern Sudan. Our partners in the System, the National Congress Party (NCP) or Khartoum must not be allowed to laugh last or spew vitriol at us because of our weaknesses to govern ourselves wisely.

But a good servant leader will always work things within its own means and abilities, or create one or two to achieve something. A true revolutionary eats, drinks and sleeps with his eyes and ears open to see where to play his/part for the good of others. In another word, what he could do for the good of many and this land should preoccupied our thoughts, time, energy and efforts. One living story is here: Dr. John Sabur (SPLA man) finds himself doing what took him to the bush in the first-liberation. In 1992, the Government force was squeezing SPLA somewhere in one of our battlefields. It so happen coincidently that he had just acquired a brand pick up from Kenya. Graciously, he delivered that car and my cousin Peter Louju Lokwam broke that news to us at a very critical time. We were in trouble on what to do with one effective gun on the ground, because one of our cars was on its 'stomach'- lost all tyres. He saved several lives from that single little act and we treasured it! When crisis calls like in our situation a liberator or freedom fighter or leader put his interest second. Few leaders are marking themselves in our hearts and we only pray for more. I believe you have one or two stories of this kind, don't you?

A week a go when Malakal Military bases was officially handed over to Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), the Commanding Officer from SPLM JIU in the person of Brig. Marial Chinuor ordered his men to clear grass at the barrack, main roads and all

the way from the barrack to the main Military residence. He opened up sideways for water to pass to the river Nile and he deservedly got huge commendation from the public. With no shame on SAF faces they instead took away everything they could carry even carpets and windows. GOSS has few and don't want to get carried away on who has done what in the struggle or who is doing what now. The point to note and perhaps cherish however here is that every contribution for the public good however little or meager as far we could see, will go all the way for the benefit of everybody and our generation after us. It doesn't matter whether you do it in your house privately or at public place. We therefore felt proud and encourage when our brothers and sister trooped from overseas to our main city Juba about the future of this land. GOSS decision makers must not sleep over recommendations made by SPLM Chapters from abroad/Diaspora. Those young men/women in that workshop or participation were much exposed.

Back to our road now. We have been hearing officials of Road Ministry argue strongly that they are not getting necessary funding to tarmac Juba or Juba -Nimule or Yei roads. Unfortunately, that is too little too late. People again pin their hope that Hon. David Deng Athorbei would turn things around or do better than his predecessor. We shall see next year this time round. Ordinary, it's normal as per the style of leadership from our President. He gives enough time to his men/women to either do it well or 'mess up' and then allow them to carry their 'own crosses'. Good style isn't? Umm...The writer is the victim of conscience and in cold mood. But the President has enough time and could still re-brand himself and get our votes. He is a good listener.

In our situation that is what took Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial and his Khartoum counterpart in Nairobi in 2005 to chart out courses for development given our situation in the short and long run. Those ideas helped the new GOSS administration to pick things from and somehow that track got nipped in the bud. Our needs are basics and actually with no strategists or forecasters we could only see what is really urgent and what isn't. GOSS energies and resources in earlier 2006 were geared towards security and unity of our people. The two were interrelated in a way. Their efforts paid handsomely as our people for the first time have one strong Army (SPLA) and a Government firmly from all tribes of our land, irrespective of any history. It is time to move to the next item in the list-road network. Services from roads should come next. If the last reshuffle is anything to go by, we could expect good things coming out from Juba as to this need for better road coming out from our main city Juba then to other towns.

Madame Rebecca Nyandeng was shown the door last month because our road networks particularly in Juba have been under constant scrutiny from the public. The public got it right or wrong, though there are issues where we need to let our new Minister (Hon. David Deng) pick up a lesson or two. But why focus on roads and not hospitals or schools? It is asked. Besides being the most visible sign of development, roads are surest instrument of evaluation. That means, the

Government success in building roads is also its success economically and politically. That is why President Kiir couldn't risk his political future because Madame Rebecca has been or is his 'mother' in the struggle.

Roads however eat large chunk of Government budget and one could sense at that budget charted out for roads from that time in Nairobi for six year. But what do road works cost? Road works vary in cost depending on the size of the road, the traffic on the road, the area in which the road passes and the climate. There is though an average estimation for the cost on routine maintenance, partial improvement, sport improvements and then tarmac. We are at this last stage of tarmac.

Our people really want to see road flatted in our Capital city Juba. Juba road tarmac road could be 100 KM long. If we go by current or medium standard of how much a KM costs for tarmac construction (East African cost), we will end up paying the contractors \$200,000 a KM. Safely, our GOSS could pay for our city Juba \$20 mln. Don't ask me where or the source of these figures. Dr. Daniel Wani knows exactly what am talking about. He has been on paper work on this for long. But is that money unaffordable? Certainly not! Three times or more like that was spent by Mr. Arthur Akuein (Former Finance Minister) on luxury cars for Ministers, Commissioners and big shots of the Government.

Then we have the below begging questions: why GOSS spending category in the budget has always been too high and the actual services too little? Why spend public money on individual luxuries and benefits? The oil money from 2006 alone is big money and could have built tarmac road in the City (Juba), built several hospitals for our ten states and even something for our reserve. We are abreast with those details, I presumed. Southern Sudan Government must not also be afraid to borrow. We won't go long without good money or indebted along the way. Khartoum or the Government of National Unity (GNU) isn't supporting development projects in the South for Agreement sake or sheer politics. That is another debate on its own. We are not hearing President or our dear Vice President opening up this project in that county or that, as is the case daily in the North. But there is one more case for GOSS leaders as to roads; where is that body for road management? The Southern Road Management Board or Fund. I thought we have one. How certain are we that the Minister won't regionalize or monopolize this important service for his favor? Our Road Board Fund where we could expect balance and equitable distribution of road planning is of a necessity. I tend to think that the Cabinet ought to institute this body to overlook issues of unfairness and cheating in the services of roads.

Separately, as we approach the Commemoration Day (July 30) for the death of our leader, Dr. John Garang de Mabior, it's expected that the Day get its strength from the book- law to proclaim it as Martyr Day or simply the Presidential decree. May be main roads, buildings and institutions should bear the name of this hero (Dr. Garang) from all our ten states and 100 or so counties. That is the best gift we could give Garang as a living lesson. May his soul rest in eternal peace!

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SPARE NO ROAD ON SPLM ERRAND CHILDREN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 27, 2007

The ruling partners in the Sudan named as The National Congress (NC) and the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) have signed peace Agreement known as Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) few years ago but difficulties in the implementation of that agreement are still there to maintain that peace. The SPLM argues that the NC has refused to accept the finding by the Abyei Border Commission, set up according to Article 5:2 of that agreement. It has also accused the NC of deliberately maintain its army presence along oil Southern rich areas. The border demarcation and transparency in the oil proceeds and details among other triggered the SPLM to suspend its participation in the unitary government known as Government of National Unity (GoNU). There have been few voices abroad and Khartoum who wanted the boycott lifted without any solution to issues at sight. The impasse has been aggravated by their war in the media houses; each side declaring no war but no retreat. Khartoum and Juba never hide their hate for each other; attempt by other opposition parties from each region (South and the North) to usher in some compromise proves elusive. An international arbitration is rejected by Khartoum but favored by Juba, which could have help ease and bridge the differences. It's hard to think at this atmosphere whether any party would swallow its pride and give in to the other. The two camps know this at the onset and are ready for plan B. People are waiting to see that B yet, but the indicators show imminent break down of the Agreement (CPA).

But the real war is shoddier within each party ranks and file. SPLM suffers from this episode a great deal. Classical among them is a suppressed propaganda feeling where an attempt is at its grand stage to divide Kiir into his loyalists and conspiracy gamblers (Garang boys) who want to take over power using this situation to upped leadership agenda. Mr. Tellar Deng Ring, the designate SPLM Minister of State for Legal Affairs came fighting and spoiling for war against Mr. Amum, whom he accused of being a plotter. But this man never comes public without a controversy! Recall it's him who is discredited for being first Southerner who denounces Don Peterson's Abyei Border Commission and made serious statements against Mr. Deng Aloor Kuol and Mr. Pagan Amum over Abyei issue. When will this good lawyer cease from his bad political mouthing or simply grow up?

In July this year he again proposes himself for the position of Secretary General of the SPLM accusing Mr. Amum of spending much time abroad. What a farce and a gamble? This is best an abuse to our intellect as we couldn't all be retarded mentally

to forget what he and his team did during trying years of the struggle (war). President Kiir owes our people an apology in the first place as to what basis in the appointment of this man at the SPLM position when he long renounced it and refuge with Dr. Haroun Ruun plotting and spying against our people. Could Yei theory be anything to believe, if not what other grounds to merit him an appointment? Was the appointment done so because of his professionalism? Why leave out loyal SPLM lawyers as Judge Aleu Akichok, Judge Monythong Deng, Judge William Kon, Dr. Richard K. Mulla, and Judge Samuel Dong etc?

No one at his right mind denies democratic mockery within the SPLM. There are structural and organizational ones that could have been fixed; the party is sick and paralyze due to lack of transparent democracy within its ranks. The party key leaders are hand pick and party programs of actions and that of the Government are badly interwoven. These are situation even the SPLM party leaders are aware and working towards their solutions. But for a right thinker, is that any priority worth our circumstances? In as much as we need democratization and pluralism, we can't do them on the expense of the real flat form (freedom-Independent Southern Sudan). Oh, is this an agenda for the SPLM? No and yes! But the fact is this: there are still scores to settle with the NC on major issues of the agreement that could leave lofty universal dream hanging. We are obliged to work together for the good and better future of Southern Sudan now.

Unfortunately, our quest for join efforts have been misplaced and abused by some leaders who shout the loudest but lack the moral ground to do so. Careless political utterance could cost us dearly. Shifting issues to assassinate characters is too bad for those scrupulous leaders whose future is now and only today. Who knows why the SPLM made this decision of pulling out its members from Khartoum at such a time? May be to know who is with Southern Sudan and who for our adversaries. There are moles in which his Excellency the President (Gen.Kiir) made a good move to investigate and check their disciplinary credentials. But this committee must not be like others before. It has to produce some results no matter the cost, to serve as a lesson to those who spread out their loyalty. Gen. Kiir is a true son of Southern Sudan and our martyrs in the grave shall bless his soul before he joins them.

However this is not simple and blame has to be guarded here. Once we roll out throat cutting political whirl, the fall out or the aftermaths remain anything to worry many. The enemy is waiting to reap from any fall out within the SPLM ranks. Mr. Aleu Ayieny Aleu has sweet records among our people because of many lives he save while removing land mines and his heroic sacrifices and decision after he was implicated and down graded in Rumbek in the middle of 1980s. He didn't ran to Khartoum but rather be humiliated by his people than to share plate and table with enemies of his people. Dr. Ann and her team must not fall trap of emotional vehicles. Hon. Aleu didn't say an extraordinary thing. Garang was eliminated, period! Timing of his confession is another but there is no better time anywhere in criminal findings. Even at that time, evidences to the truth might not be there due to the implication

and deaths to those who could be implicated. Uganda interest is different from Southern Sudan. No confusion. But Mr. Tellar refuses to acknowledge that party decisions bind anyone. Mr. Amum must be supported and respected, not denigrated because he has been standing to say no to Khartoum on our behalf. He is huge and big!

Democracy (freedom of speech) won't run away but others would. That doesn't in any straw stretch of reasoning mean sending it to the gallows. The existing time as it has always been sung here is a determinant for better or for worse. But should we keep quiet and allow few leaders to mess us up? I don't see that 'mess up' as so damaging than what Khartoum is trying to do on us. The conference for Southern NCP members on Sunday rings a bad bell. We are fighting a clever and charming enemy; it would fight Southern Sudan even after Referendum. Ours is to make or break and we must check our loyalty and consistency.

In the light of all that, there is no fear when you know where you are going. The SPLM is just doing that. We must not take our eyes away from our freedom even if it means going for another lap-war. If someone doubts this resolve, then let him hear it here. The writer has been waiting for another step after Khartoum announces war on us in Wad Medeni couples of days ago. Our major challenge though is our heart to claim that position. If a liar tells you tomorrow that the South isn't prepare for war or the SPLA isn't in a position to fight back, then that man knows more than Garang. Believe me or not, Southern Sudan occupation has ended from Naivasha. What we only need now is recognition, which could come through UDI or through our Kalashnikov. The SPLM/A has not been about individuals leading it, but about people behind it. Hon. Tellar fails to read behind his stark poor ambition. It's his democratic right to vie for any seats in the Party but not his right to challenge why we request our ancestral land right in Abyei.

His other blunder or argument that Gen. Kiir removal could cause unrest and disunity in the Southern Sudan, confirmed my fear of this man's ability to reason. Does this tell anyone that Gen. Kiiir's people would fight back if their man loses in Southern Presidency if he's is elected out democratically? If yes then that is a fighting worth a thousand lives. Gen. Kiir would retain his seat through the support of others not necessarily on the support of his people Dinka people alone, as Mr. Tellar wants everyone else to believe. Southerners are also Gen. Kiir mania such as any other Dinka. He is our national leader and his backing shouldn't be pegged exclusively on the support of Dinka as a nation or community. He has to prove himself like his predecessor that he could be trusted to rally and protect Southern interest. The time to do this has been here and is now. After Referendum he might ride on a tight rope to power if he failed to govern well. SPLM leadership Council decision in 2005 after the death of Garang to fill in Gen. Kiir without a competitor was understandable and shouldn't be abused and misused as an exercise of electioneering. True, he has skills to lead as his past record show it. He has been firm and strong soldier fighting for the

freedom of his people from day one. He endured all hardship to bring us to this standard and deserve our unreserved respect.

Mr. Amum, the SPLM Secretary General shouldn't get scare because of those who are baying for his political blood. He ought to make history by working towards the slated Convention for the Party in January 2008. He got to make immediate preparations and work towards this end. He must invite and actively engage other party members in the Diaspora who got shortchanged for one reason or another. Other friendly Parties should also build the team in the Convention. On top is Union of Africans Parties (USAP). That would be a moment for Southern Sudan to heal and move together. There are damages that need attention and people want answers at that time. There are short comings such Security in some parts of the South, corrupt related cases aren't been seen in courts or sentence pronounce to some sacred cows, employment and appointment issues, land issues in the capital survey (laws for land) etc.

But strides have been made in the army, police and other law enforcing agencies. The Defense Minister Gen. Dominic Dim Deng has proved himself as being in control. Despite Yambio heinous incidence where we lost lives through savage killings, the SPLA under Dominic is coming out of age. Our men are now well-dressed and fed, thanks to Gen. James Oth Mai efforts in logistics. The other is the ongoing road works (tarmac construction) from the main Parliament Building through Bulluk to the airport. This is laudable and credit goes to the cabinet and in particular Hon. David Deng Athorbei (Roads Minister). The water and electricity systems in town have improved and the market is stuff with all kind of varieties due to business environment.

Credit goes to Hon. Anthony Lino Makana. Though there are still issues to be done such as the absence of Bureau of Standard, revenue or tax collection goofs on goods at the borders, the market is booming. There are others at your domain, but the point to note is that GoSS hasn't stable and would stable once Khartoum stops its dirty nose unto Southern Sudan. It's not just an excuse but true picture of what behind closed doors. Mr. Amum and his team are leading and therefore unreal for Mr. Tellar and his associate to escape condemnation however close he might be to whomever at the top.

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***TREAT THE CLAIM OF \$60 MILLION WITH
SOBRIETY!***

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JAN 18, 2007

President Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir declared in Juba on the 9th Anniversary to mark the 2nd Birth of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that he had given the Movement (SPLM) \$60 m as an expense for their return and participate in the Peace drive. This has been made public to the surprise and chagrin of many. So they asked: was it given to Garang? A bribe? Where did Garang put the money? In his Bank Account? The rumour spread like fire. The conclusion is...

Now the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) from there pick up the bait by establishing a probe to look into what has now come up as a scandal targeted mainly on the personality of deceased leader Dr. John Garang de Mabior. Dr. Samson Kwaje of Radio/TVs and Information heads the team. He has come out openly thumbing his chest of going against every odd in the process to unearth the truth. His boss President Salva Kiir Mayardit on his prime thinking wanted to exonerate himself from what he inwardly exude as mess done outside his watch to confirm and score home his unfinished business of being sidelined by Garang in the Movement affairs.

Looking carefully to the statement by President Bashir of Sudan, there wasn't anything specific or scandalous. It is GOSS President who scandalized it! Here we go. President didn't say categorical whether his Government gives the money on whose terms or levels. Nobody moreover knows whether the money was given as a grant or a token to the Movement to make them join the Government. But one thing is clear and that is the money was given to facilitate the process of rebels joining the Government. The money may have been used for any of Movement's activities during that time or say part of it may have been used there then. The individuals in charged of money I guess then were Mr. Arthur Akuien Chol and Dr. Chirino Hiteng. The former for the Movement at large, and Dr. Hiteng for the Chairman affairs. That money couldn't get into the pocket of Dr Garang without any prior knowledge by either Arthur or Dr. Hiteng. True or false? The two Ministers are now serving as living eyewitnesses. They weren't corrupt, as some of us know them. I can't swear now!

What we need to understand clearly however is this: the context under which the statement was issued doesn't qualify GOSS President to carry out the probe. El Bashir mumbled because of Mr. Kiir remarks on CPA failures on the side of the National Congress Party (NCP). He couldn't grab on anything against the Movement except to visit his unbaked truth about SPLM/A taking long from coming to take their seats in Khartoum & Juba. The CPA has a schedule and that

was Six Pre Interim Period has to be observed. Every detail there was followed to the letter. El Bashir did say anything.

Back to the argument. Most people know that much of SPLM funds come in term of assistance. Sudan Government knew that the Movement didn't have money for transport among others. They were right to send money to the SPLM and they did it on good faith (if...). Anything wrong there or here? Why politicize this statement? Supposed El Bashir is proven right and that the money had actually been sent to SPLM or Garang in particular, what is special? We might add any other bad name for Garang by perhaps call him a thief, criminal, corrupt, conman, etc but what is a deal? He was a leader and has the right to pursue war using whatever resources available to make it happen. We are seeing the fruits of those efforts; why not take the fight to the heart of the government (GOSS) where legal and formation is an established thing now and where corruption is lethal? It's not in \$60 m but in \$400 m. This is being hypocritical. Therefore, its purely an insinuation and at best a character assassination campaign by President Kiir and his men to tarnish the reputation of his predecessor late Dr. Garang and his men particularly Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial & Pagan Amum Okiech.

Nobody anywhere likes being associated with crimes or criminals. Corruption by any standard is a crime of conscience and it is just that bad. But to the best knowledge of many Dr. Garang wasn't a corrupt leader. He never handled money and wasn't in a hurry to make money. His Ethiopian days and Nairobi then plus his friends to bees heads of governments around the world would have made this hero a billionaire. If he was rich his children couldn't have been assisted by his long time friends Y. Kaguta Museveni and Dr. John Aketch.

When SPLA Nasir Faction in 1991 raised in their 'Why Garang Must go' leaflet, that Garang runs the Liberation Movemet as a one-man show: 'He (Garang) has been everything from the Chairman down to the Store man...' When realities availed themselves, the smearing slogans disappeared quickly! The two Drs (Lam & Riek) as rebel leaders afterward realized that there is no organized and systematic flow of money to rebels movements. What happen is that a group of individuals and in remote cases Government sends money to rebel organizations through programs and activities. In the details that is where the devil is! Here the leader doesn't under any duress handle money. Dr. Garang wasn't an exception.

Having stated the obvious, let's take this underlying scenario. If this matter is burry in the sand or thrown out altogether how sure are we to heal quickly the aftermath consequences to avoid eventual schism that could divide the Movement (GOSS) in the middle, between Garang's men (but in actual term who wasn't Garang student?) who are accused of corruption and their 'Holy than thou' self proclaimed corrupt zsans. This is an important draw of this writing! We shall pretend all along that all is well but in reality there is nothing like that here, given this development! Just read between the lines and that Organization is in trouble! Generally we would make as

many gestures to prove ourselves angels but the same methods could be used against everyone in the SPLM/A when it leaves power to others. Vendetta is uncivilized!

Therefore the true judgment from here is that we must not lose focus on our target to fight for our liberation and freedom against Khartoum. The probability is that Dr. Samson and team would only save face of the GOSS but not the face of the ruling party, the SPLM. At least for time being! It would have been better for them to protect the later. Garang and his men of course made some mistakes in their lives in the course of the struggle; but those so-called mistakes can't make us blind of numerous strides & achievements they scored on our behalf. Mr. President is flatly wrong on this and would be wrong in the future if this is the leadership he portrays. Staging persecution against his predecessor (the deceased one at that) is unethical and morally unjustified. Abacha's situation is unlikely in our case. If that what Mr. Kiir's men wanted to apply on Dr Garang then they are courting disaster to themselves and to the entire system they were once out to destroy or wish to die. They are mistaken! This probe should be disbanded. Mr. Kiir and his men would have taken the rumour in their stride and in private investigate. This would have change the situation for better. Now the cat is out and the interesting thing is how are they going to handle the damage caused therein.

Corruption in the GOSS shouldn't be magnified; its there yes and real but not exactly the way it is as circulated in some critical media. What we really know is happening at daytime is tribalism & nepotism. This is a cancer and if there is any fighting that is expected to be fought on our hearts, it's this one. We ought not to mix them and claim the meaning to be the same. Nepotism is just simple: an act of giving favors to your close relative or tribesman/woman. This is a fact of life and if GOSS wanted credibility, they must rise above petty cases of visiting dirty books of personalities and face this matter once and for all. In Juba if the Minister is from a certain section of tribe, other members automatically come from that tribe. This again is understandable as majority of appointments in Juba weren't advertised and the only way a minister could fill in several position to boast budget was to go for the 'devil they know than an angel they don't'. This situation however will change in the future, as professionalism will override the 'thick blood'.

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SOUTHERNERS ARE DRINKING THEMSELVES INTO HOSPITALS

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

FEB 22, 2007

The search for happiness is one of the chief sources of unhappiness. That is exactly the case here. What starts as pure enjoyment has turned out to be deadly. It is indeed a very sad state of affairs and shames every right thinking Southerner. The media is awash with unpleasant news about our beloved Land-Southern Sudan. This store is forgotten one but remains as another bad news for our people.

Juba in particular is a city on focus. This city is either a curse or somehow nearer to it. To die in Juba is easier than to pronounce or reciting abcdefgh...; if today is not an arsonist killing people or destroys properties, tomorrow death would be a car accident or someone killed on the vicinity of Juba by gunmen allied to either former Alfred Lado Gore group, Joseph Konyi or EDF renegades. If one escapes any of the above, the Ugandan bell drinks kills. What a tragedy!

Precisely a week ago, the writer refused to visit his nephew in one of the city hospitals who was writhing in pain at his chest and throat after he burnt up his tonsil in Value VEE, Bros and others at the Riverside. But pray that he gets well and revisit whatever wisdom was left out on the process! Shockingly, he wasn't alone. There are too many others who never daily missed one bottle of tusker or bell unless he dies. They end up in hospitals that are badly under staffed with obsolete equipment unattended on the dusk floor in the wards. The Minister is looking for doctors...

To one policeman who somehow looks fit, the taking of drinks makes him sharp and alert. My question to his face was what? 'Sharp' and 'alert', on/in what? He was defenseless because had wanted to go few miles piercing ourselves with live stories (facts) on this new found Southern friend. That is to tell him one or more facts about alcohol in general. Something to do with his productivity mainly (not economic & social).

Now if we really care about Southern Sudan & future why not stop wasting away our golden opportunities to do good for upcoming generation? Time is so precious and hardly recoverable, why spend huge time in bars? Unless we forget history will judge us harshly if we failed to rise up to the occasion of making Southern Sudan place to live in! We are now masters of our own destiny and therefore oblige to do what is best to our people. Let us prove to Khartoum that we can and will do without them.

Khartoum tried to regulate or say put a stop to drinking all together. We complained loudly and the Sharia was stopped in the South. How do we justify to them that drinking is harmless when our hospitals are full of alcohol induced/related illnesses?

This last question is directed to all Southerners not the GOSS. Our leaders are busy doing other things and even trying to shade their skins after they had unfairly or fairly come under fire from the public on corruption and other malpractice such as nepotism/tribalism. They didn't have time to look at statistics of people dying from bad behavior (drinking).

However behavioral change is one important school of development. It has also anything to do with the top. Some among them are classified as heavy drinkers. Their refrigerators are never dry of beer bottles. This is unbecoming! Some appear into their offices late from hang over wore on their faces and assume they could get away or 'run and hide'. That is impossible! If they preach prosperity through development when they are not doing the actual work (few hours a day), then where will that development come from? This can't help us at all. In each and every so-called Riverside Hotels in Juba one will never go without stumbling on one or two big guns exchange one bottle of beer with Sudanese Dinars or now Pounds. Anything wrong there? Affirmative! If they want to drink away stress of that hot city why not in a while? Some have pitched camps there and their bars are their offices.

The first few months in Juba were productive. People were conscious of time and resources. Now work ethic has gone far away. Why? Is it because there is no one to police us or urge us to do the work? Who will really come from anywhere to build Southern Sudan? Our young Southern Sudanese who are in Europe and Americas have turned their pens against us (their people). They grade everything that had happened in Southern Sudan with grade "C". They are not even thinking of coming to Southern Sudan or offer/preach any good for the South. If they come they are interested in business and investment ventures. They hook up in their Skype phones to soothe their instigative/ itching ears. When disarmament was carried out by the SPLA in Lou land this time last year they were quick to condemn and later rush to inform everyone about it including that of the UN and the Security Councils. They called it then abuses against Nuer. Now if they could come and see the situation they would ever be silly or angry to themselves!

We should take the challenge on our own pace and shame the world especially Khartoum who always documented that Southern Sudanese can't govern themselves. When our leaders went to Yei and redefine their fundamental political strategies against none but on foot level, it caught enemies of SPLM by surprise! But the SPLM didn't also go out without looking into her house or say its shortcomings and therefore guess that the tenure for Dr. Lam, Arthur Akuein, Tellar Deng and Justine Yaac Arop is at thin razor blade! The said gentlemen have caught Southern shot end of the stick. They are under question why! Congratulations SPLM Chairman!

Though El Bashir team had shown indignation when Dr. Marial was called for Regional Ministry of the GOSS, Mr. Kiir shouldn't stop short of tearing into NCP policy of poaching SPLM members or shy away from removing suspected or

adversely mentioned Ministers implicated in corruption. Reshuffle (not sacking) is of necessity. He should remember the saying that “justice delayed is justice denied”

If there is any yardstick so accurate than the rising of the sun, then societal behavior is one. Southern Sudanese aren't lazy but carelessly enslaved by their own behaviors. We must prove to Khartoum that with or without alcohol our world will still go on. Leaders must go in front and display good example. Its is unfortunate to SPLA top brass in Juba Raha comfortably giving away important information about Southern Sudan to foreigners under the influence of beer. Our land is our life, we got to be serious and make no mistake that could haunt our children and grand children later. Sharia is the best, away with beer!

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*****2008*****



***JEM PROPOSAL FOR SUDAN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT MUST BE REJECTED***

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 14, 2008

Darfur JEM is making it clear that their intention is to overthrow the current Interim Government of the Sudan by hooks and crooks, and this isn't a secret or a joke- they mean it. They are everywhere: in the field, at the UN and lobby groups (Human rights and ICC) and virtually anywhere. Their ranks have swelled with supporters from other armed groups from Darfur when the larger Sudan Liberation Movement

(SLM) disintegrated into splinter groups opposed to each other. They are equipped with guns, communication means, money and intention. Their ranks including (possibly) others who are known as distance brothers (does that sound like Chad Zaghawas? May be or may be not). Oh, no! May be that is too much of speculations.

These people (JEM) after their failed attempt to take over Khartoum and overthrow Al Bashir they never stop there: they then resort to master the power of the media, capitalize on the suffering people in the displaced camps in Darfur and Janjaweed phobia factor in that region. They bend things so cleverly and lured Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo in to becoming a stuff or say part and parcel of Darfur problem. He is no longer a solution given his shrouded legal puerile or irresponsible approach against the people of the Sudan through their President. You could read how badly that man look like (inconsistency in defence)) during his latest interview on the same about his world politicize and publicize indictment against President Al Bashir.

JEM furthermore, made another dangerous move by posting its position or face of what they want to do when they take Khartoum's power through Luis Moreno-Ocampo (ICC). They say there is 'uncertainty' and 'vacuum' after the ICC and hence it's ok to establish Sudan on these premises;

- 1) Institution of rule of law and preservation of citizen rights
- 2) Preservation of unity of Sudan and its people
- 3) Implementation of fair division of power and wealth.

I must stop here for a moment. JEM objective is beyond Darfur just to narrow our argument; they are there to establish Sudan on new basis in which Darfur shall be the seventh state within a state. It's a condensed plan. But who is really behind all these plans. Dr. Khalil Ibrahim Ahmed is the man- a physician cum politicians and held social, health and education portfolios under NCP- is a serious Islamist and former staunch member of the NIF when El Turabi was at the helm of things or right when the Junta came to power in June 1989. No one is against his personal conviction however; it good to believe in Allah, Allah is indeed great and good!

This man thrust himself in to Sudanese political world after the arrest of his mentor Dr. Hassan Abdallah El Turabi in 1999. He knows what he is doing and must not be ignored. He would go for anything to make sure that the Islamic fanatics government under Dr. El Turabi is back in power in Khartoum. For him the CPA is nothing but a document that could be amended or expanded. They see nothing wrong so long as this isn't a threat to Sudan territorial integrity and unity.

For my people Southern Sudanese, let's exercise discreet and care when things are at this stage. In this situation especially after the ICC things are at cross road, either for good or bad to our people; possibly not for our own good. I have a feeling that the

CPA is indeed in danger of going Addis Ababa or Khartoum Charter history lane. We must not close our eyes and assume that JEM and Darfur would not affect us indirectly or directly.

Transition wouldn't be for our favor. Northern political history against the Southern Sudan is still fresh. After the CPA the majority of our people thought the North is changing towards Southern Sudan and allow it to pick its chattered pieces of their lives. JEM and Darfur move at this point is a bigger picture of what we have been suspecting and experiencing from the North. Their proposal of the new government shows that color so clearly.

Whenever Southern Sudan goes one step forward, the Northerners always makes it two steps far behind or backward; how long would that continue God? I'm reading tough times ahead unless the head of our Government maintains his current stand against the ICC indictment. We will lose, as the writing of the wall is a classical reminiscence of Northern routine abrogation of Southern Agreements. How dare is JEM to reconstitutionalize Sudan after historical Peace Agreement?

I don't care whether you are a Pan-Africanist or simple Sudanese who see another part of the Sudan burning and then sympathize. The indictment of President of Al Bashir would harm us as people Southern Sudan and even other marginalized areas. How? The departure of Al Bashir whether through ICC or others (coup de tat) shall make the CPA irrelevance or difficult to be implemented fully. That must not surprise anyone, its right here. This is a bitter truth.

We aren't in a monarchy to have another (continuation) of the NCP dynasty ruling Sudan, are we? Removal of Al Bashir isn't that easy; he's highly likely not going to go to The Hague alive whether as head of state or after leaves it! Ali Osman Mohamed Taha moreover cannot be like Salva Kiir of the SPLM in succession; there are others after this seat in Khartoum. JEM is one of them among other hosts.

The ICC and others won't go for Al Bashir and leave behind the institution in tact. He isn't just an individual but head of a government and when the head of the government is gone through that process, how would the transition look like in our crowded political competition of this country?

You might argue that this agreement (CPA) is an institutional agreement but will insist on saying it's a bilateral agreement. You know that difference, yeah? This distinction is critical. If not JEM and others couldn't have struggled to topple it. Why remove a system when you won't change its laws. JEM is exactly doing it (remove the system). Where are we going to be if non-signatories of the CPA come to power? Don't talk about an agreement between the North and the South. It's not like that.

That is what Southerners say and others but that is not what northern political parties or leaders think. JEM and other political parties in the North want the South

to declare and independent unilaterally and then turn to accuse us of being separatists. They know this won't be recognized so long as they haven't sanctioned it. They could borrow from Georgia (Abkhazians), Russia (Chechnyans), DRC (Katanga), Nigeria (Biafra), Somali (Somali land) etc.

Are these 'nations' mentioned above independents yet? Probably not so soon. Why? Because, of the power of the center- no amicable agreements or cooperation to reach that right (example are Ethiopia vs. Eritrea, Indonesia vs. East Timor, Somalia vs. Djoubti, South Africa vs. Namibia etc.) The final phase of anything, dear people, is legal spectra. Go for it even if the going is tough, it's safe and sure.

Isn't that cheaper to have the NCP for three more years to decide whether to remain part of the Sudan or be an independent nation than to have another uncharted future? I strongly think that the NCP will deliver in its promises in the agreement. The opportunity is on our hands, why do we want to throw it away when we know the outcome of each situation ahead of us? It would be wise therefore to have a devil that will deliver than running after solidarities. I have taken you around for a reason...

JEM are already toying with the idea that the CPA wasn't cast on stone. That is a familiar language for us (symptoms of dishonoring agreements), right? But what better offer could JEM Government gives to Southern Sudan that the current Northern Party (NCP) hasn't? To make President Kiir 'equal' with other six vice Presidents of the Northern President is that the cost and cause that snuffs away 4.5 million lives within a span of fifty years?

We must be grateful to the President of this country, H.E. Omar Hassan Al Bashir and his party as Southern Sudanese despite our past bad history with them. Southern Sudan should rally behind President Al Bashir at this crisis and stand to support H. E. Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit in his effort to avert ICC ill timed and biased attack against the people of the Sudan in general and people of the Southern Sudan in particular.

The latest move by the SPLM on a solution for Darfur is good. Dear President Kiir, go ahead and never listens to those who want to mislead when they won't be there when things are out of control or to help. Lips service doesn't work. Stand with Al Bashir and he will stand with our people. Sudan is after peace more than any other thing at the moment- we have been saying it times and again here.

Mr. Persecutor (Ocampo) is not sincere with the 'mandate' the UNSC gave him about Sudanese Al Bashir as to indictment. How could anyone be independent body and at the same time acts on behalf of another? This is a contradiction. UNSC was after crimes that threaten world security. May be Darfur crimes weren't threatening world security or genocide either. So could Lawyer Ocampo justify his cases when

the UN itself isn't in agreement to some terms he uses to put forward his defence? I don't think the Security Council go further than strengthening its mission in Darfur. By the way, what justice are we talking about here when the atmosphere for it isn't there? Take for example: if an arrest warrant is passed what would be next step? The man shall still be there firmly in power and if the intention of the ICC is to intimidate Al Bashir to make peace, what if he complicated it. Mark that word (complicate). On the nutshell, nothing is certain after the ICC thoughtless created environment; it might just add more troubles to an already troubled situation in this country.

But why would anyone attempt to intimidate the head of a volatile government on an unverifiable circumstance and allow rebel groups to do the same with impunity? The United States of America should come out and help the people of Southern Sudan in this crisis by deferring the ICC case against the Sudanese President until at an appropriate time when peace is restored across the country. Uncle Sam has a big role to play to stop this mad man (Luis Moreno-Ocampo) from destroying the aspirations of the Sudanese and that of the Southern Sudanese and its three traditional marginalized areas of Nuba Mountain, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei.

Get me right, am not saying Darfur should not be safe but safe on unstable grounds and on my expense is not acceptable! I know how it has been to suffer. Southern Sudan case is too big and unfinished and once it's over, we will see whether to help Darfur and others to burn that 'house' or not. Right now, La!

May be ours was the most tough under successive regimes in Khartoum in which Darfuris were key arms of our suffering. Do they really know now that what it's to kill, maim an innocent armed civilian, burned their villages and clear the land from people in the name of religion? Southern Sudan has a heart, otherwise its easy to open up wounds against Darfuris. We aren't recovered and anything that brings that dark memory to light is egregious and contemptuous.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation has been bumpy but on track. This is a fact and we should appreciate and acknowledge it. The voices that say it's dead are just gangstering for a real death nail on the same agreement. It's on the implementation and safely under responsible leaders (Field Marshal Al Bashir and Gen. Salva Kiir). There are hawks of course somewhere under Al Bashir but it's too late to scrap this agreement at this point in time.

Politicians and the public must make this agreement live through compromises and negotiations. Hopes of millions of people are in this agreement. Renegotiation of this agreement will be a disaster. Darfur JEM must stop interfering with this document. JEM must claim its share of wealth and power from within the parameters of the CPA (Northern quota) not to erect another one or act to advance interest of another body or country.

JEM's clause in their proposal to protect 'the tandem CPA' isn't justifiable; it is in question given the preceding package of the proposed government. How do you protect the CPA out of the system or guarantee its existence when you pulled out its structure (constitution) or rewrite it. Southerners won't buy this proposal simply because someone clones it with the word "CPA"; not at any 'cheap' price. This is a hoax.

No clever scheme shall stop the people of Southern Sudan (and the three areas) from exercising their right to self-determination. The SPLM leader has taken a correct and wise decision to stand with the NCP objection of the ICC allege charges, specifically the intention to remove Al Bashir from power at this time in space. Their paper for Darfur is workable and a good move. ICC Prosecutor and JEM must not ignore President Kiir concerns about peace in the Sudan. JEM paper is bad for the people of Southern Sudan (and the three areas). This Proposal is an opportunistic and an extension of an agenda to disrupt or Dafurite the whole country.

A story before we go. Once upon a time, two sons of a cruel man met when the elder/older boy requested that its time to eliminate their father so to divide his inheritances or properties between them. The little boy (younger) instinct advises him to ask his brother for time. Fortunately or unfortunately t a friend of this little boy came along and they both share their thoughts over the matter. This friend told his friend (little boy) to object his brother plan to kill their father on the ground that if he (little boy) accepts this plan, his elder brother might turn up as another cruel 'father' like their father. The option? He continued, is to wait until 'you become mature enough to decide on your own'. The plan collapses because the older boy couldn't kill the father alone. Southerners aren't ready to join bandwagon or mob justice to kill the 'cruel father'. We also know our friend, don't we? Africans leaders are...

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SPLM CONVENTION DESERVES A SPACE

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 9, 2008

The SPLM has gone public to appoint a contingent of members to map out plans for the upcoming National Convention for the Party that is slated for May 2008. We don't know yet whether the said team is at work or about to start working at this point; what we do know however is the idea itself whose time is right. If that is the case then why is the Convention not been given its political, publicity (media) and economic backing or support to make it an event that shall make it way in to our hearts, minds and books for the good of Southern Sudan and the other Marginalized

people of the Sudan? This so because we might not gamble or undo our past as to truth but we could surely gamble with our future through forums such as these for the good of the party in question and people they purported to represent.

So, what if this convention come and passed? In another word, what impact shall it make in our political spectrum of our country? Will this Convention really come up with resolutions and recommendations that might push this party to another level of recognition or could it just be another Yei SPLM Conference resolution that took several months to see the light. Clearly in white and black, any political gimmick anywhere is not welcome as we have hangovers from our bush life we got shed if we really mean business. But looking back again what is this Convention all about? Any legal references in our books (Constitutions) that shall binds it and accommodate its findings? Is James Wani Igga a right man or good planner/political surveyor (tactician) to avoid blunders of the first Convention of the 1994 in Chukudum? Is that period of three months good enough to meet the required ground breaking activities for the success of the Convention?

I don't have time to impose another question as to why is the committee formed to prepare the eventual event short of party heavy weights members such as Nhial Deng Nhial, Pagan Amum Oketch and Dr. Samson Kwaje? This is another controversial analysis on its own and could take another page to dig into the underlines and political games coming out from the answer. However, there are arguments that are deduced from all of the above where you and I could figure out clearly the outcome of the meeting before it's commence.

I have four kinds of arguments to make it in this case. One is the simple repeat of the query as to why is this historical event kept out of our political life and left to leaders to clandestinely make stuff out of their schemes to get away with our psyche without being challenged. The black out we are experiencing as to this event is not coincidence or omission but clear attempt to rig you and me out from this an important exercise for the good our beautiful land. In 1994 in Chukudum, the Military Commanders maneuvered their interests into that meeting where representatives making up the meeting were selectively hand picks right from the military. We could sympathize with that circumstance however but not again at this very Convention. The Officers and their affiliates makes up two third of the delegates then. Their contribution at those meetings was largely influenced by their military leaning other than true sense of objective reasoning and pros pondering on serious national issues that require unbiased and impartial inputs/contributions.

The second argument is the focus itself; what does the SPLM want to achieve from there? What issues at the table the party wants to discuss other than the CPA related adjustment plans for the party? Is that party really ready to chart out crucial issues in regards to governance and the forth upcoming election for the whole country and Southern Sudan in particular? As you know better than me and as our leaders also know, there is an urged need to look at democratization of the SPLM in the context

of the new political dispensation. There are members who weren't SPLM members from the original bush life, but who want to be part of the party but are yet to see vividly the party cardinal principles/issues that are poised for political markets. Democratization within the party is an overriding feeling that should top all others in the discussion. That bluntly means all office holders from 1994 to 2008 ought to renew their mandate in a fair and a transparent process.

SPLM from 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Bloc cruised into spiral of voices that call for its overhaul; some of the then Political-Military High Command approach Dr. Garang in Addis Ababa to press for the change. The response aided an already grown up Itang created crisis of the August 1991 mutiny of the rebel leaders in Nasir. Unfortunately, we are still bad students of history! Everything escapes our memory and we are arrogantly pushing our heads into another crisis assuming that everything is just fine so long as Khartoum question remain a bigger picture to worry everyone.

When Gen. Joseph Lagu left the Sudanese Army in 1963 and became its head in August 1968, he met our Southern Rebellion as a unit despite several changes in its ranks from the time of Saturino Ohuro. Gen. Lagu uses his skills to bring everyone on board and appointed key officers from other regions to represent his South Sudan Liberation Front (SSLF) at the top. After the agreement in March 1972 Southern Sudan stood together down to 1980 when Khartoum uses Abel Alier and others to undermine our people quest for freedom that came through the Addis Ababa Agreement. Within that period we were all united as just Southern Sudanese and work anywhere in our land. This has changed for the worse as in the near future some states in the South shall introduce passports and work permit to the so-called 'from another state'. Imagine Madi or Dinka Bor (makes no real percentages to our 10 millions people) if each produced then a leader, why not try it again at our time to give our higher position (s) to anyone who deserves to be there? Am just afraid this won't happen; it wasn't in the bush and our leaders changed colors in their new offices in towns. As a nation to survive we got to get down and design our future much more carefully and the place to do it is at the Convention.

Third, Southern Sudan interest and success in the National Government depends mainly on its image that is about to be created through this Convention. There is little logic to preach democratic and transformation when the "log is still in our eyes"; who has time to listen to this hypocrite when there are others out there waiting to spoil for the same recognition? There are talks of alliances that might pit the National Congress and the SPLM to form a bloc and divide the cake between them on the expense of true shift enshrine in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The ongoing political war of words among parties as to national laws and constituents' quotas makes sense, as our main opposition parties read mischief in the positions of the SPLM and the NCP. Let the NCP go to the poll with their candidates at the national/local levels, if their member loses he/she loses and if he/she wins he wins. The SPLM must do the same.

The position of the SPLM Chairman should be subjected to competition and if non Leadership Council Member dares it, so be it. It shall draw radiance precedence for others after Gen. Kiir or Dr. Machar. The CPA though gives our current leader the tenure within the interim period and hence understandable that this chair should be reserved for our big man until his period expires. The problem however is what if he doesn't live to the expectation of his job? In another word what if his government continues with its presence shape of no service a stop to looting of public money by its senior officials, could the party be quiet and indifference when the public is at unease?

Forth, the Sudanese and their country after all remain the same again. The voice of our late dear leader Dr. Garang that this country will change forever has gone again to the dogs. The country is back in its obvious shape and character. The business as usual as families and special political groups and tribe in the country join hands again to falter an opportunity to pull back this country from its path to prosperity and progress. We are not surprise when the beloved son of Sadiq El Mahdi joined the National Security under the NCP. His uncle already at the Presidency as an advisor to the President, what do you wait to hear and see coming out from Khartoum? Believe it or not we are not anywhere interested in making unity attractive when our brothers Arabs make no pretense of their long term plots against the black man in the land.

The theme of our argument then goes thus: if we care about everything then let's stop dreaming and try our very best to help the marginalized man/woman from being finished politically, socially and economically. Through sound and durable laws like that of the other advanced countries we could do it. We have the opportunity to make things work better now and in the future. The agreement (CPA) before us is a remarkable achievement in our history where we should hinge our strategies for our own good. This Convention ought to drives it's strength from there and allow our people to move forward with clear-cut strategies. Chukudum managed to lay down that plan and it's up to us to maximize our intention to make that dream come true.

Therefore it's our duty to make an extra effort to bring forward leaders and ideals that are paramount to our own existence and survival against our own selfish and egocentrism. There are many ways to make things work for our own good. Our honest evaluation of our current state system of Government should be revisited and then budget allocation issues. Others related to laws governing land and politics as well as investment laws. Foreigners are getting away with our meager oil resources in the form of contracts when we should have devise mechanism to live and prosper within our own status/means.

The Government still largely too slow to strength its tax systems and revenue collection policy and even afraid to put forward plans to reduce risk of fund mismanagement by the Tax Unit junior staff. There are bad reports coming out from

there. In as much as we need support from private agencies, our system clearly never monitor what the agencies are offering to our people? Some of them are still putting up makeshift structures such as tents to oversee relief activities when they should have gone to capacity building and real development. Transfer of skills is not near the back of their minds. We could go on and on talking the same things but the reality of writing it negates not the idea of limitation we have as a nascent Government. Our Government is trying and they should be encouraged to do much more; am optimistic that through time our new Government shall pick itself out and do more to our people. Don't ask me when, do you?

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DARFUR MINAWI AND THE ICC

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Put it this way: what is the relationship between Presidential Assistant decision or 'defection' and that of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor charges or threat for a warrant of arrest for the Sudanese President H.E. Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir? I mean the timing of his departure; does this tell any story or purely coincident decisions? In plain tone, was Al Minawi nudged to get out before the ICC decision and if yes who tipped it and why?

Remember this man called Minni Arco Minawi, the leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) faction that signed Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) with the Government of National Unity (GoNU) on May 5, 2006 left Capital Khartoum days before the ICC Prosecutor issued his freaky charges against the Sudanese President. How about SPLM Secretary General jabs and jibes against the National Congress Party (NCP) at that time? Were they connected with ICC's or not? I don't know but we shall talk about this question somewhere (another time).

As Sudanese, there is nothing in Sudan that is called risk taking or just out of the blue; our people are ever calculative (everything must be of an interest), and therefore easy to read a theory between the two decisions. Whether anything is gonna worked out for the two conspirators or not is immaterial, but the possibilities for risk are very high for both (the ICC and Al Minawi). Mr. Al Minawi demands or conditions are deep under the carpet (drawer) of Dr. Nafia Ali Nafia and in fact at the moment he doesn't has time to look in to those files. Apparently Arco Minawi remains isolated and chances are getting slimmer day after day for his victorious return to Khartoum, the same way SPLM return.

Maybe he is currently under attack militarily and probably engaging the so-called special forces for 'clearance of bandits' in Northern Darfur in a fierce battle that is endangering everything for him. He found himself between a hard rock and a sea as other rebel chiefs have firmly entrenched externally and even on the ground on his expense.

Dr. Khalil has already asserted his authority as does Paris self-exiled Abdul Wahid Mohamed Al Noor. His forces on the ground moreover mainly from Zaghawa are conning out of his control as majority of them are on the process of being absorbed into the Sudanese Armed Forces. His deputy in Khartoum has already denounced Al Minawi's defection and warning up to replace in Khartoum Palace.

Here is then the argument: where does this situation lead as far as Arco Minawi's political future is concerned? Where will this gentleman go to get out of this quandary? His attempt to meet Dr. Khartoum (I think they did it long time ago in N'djamena) explains how things become difficult for Arco.

The SPLM moreover is deeply fractured (politically); the group looks wishy-washy (confused) and rudderless saved for Dr. Machar, Paul Mayom, James Wani and Madame Awut Deng. Leaders of that party speak with disjoin or passivity on official issues with less regards to their impact. No help from there anyway. Arco's calculation of the overthrow of Al Bashir through the ICC or at least pressure from there is fast flopping. That is where Khartoum is always smart. Unless you are prepared, goading Khartoum isn't simple; it needs a bit of vapid and sanguine characters or approach.

There are however options for Arco to salvage his image and that of the people of Darfur. He must beat the retreat and return to Khartoum before Khartoum complicates things for him and the people there. Rejoining other rebel groups won't help, as they are unlikely to treat him with respect. The likes of Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, Suleiman Jamus, Abdul Ahmed Shafi, and Dr. Maburuk Mubarak Salim, Abdul Wahid etc. are not going to give him space to organize himself and claim back whatever that was of his status.

Returning to Khartoum is painful but objective for the good of his party. The other is to officially resign and leave others to play the game much better, if he feels strongly he couldn't go it any further. He knew Abuja Agreement (DPA) was an agreement with some grey areas but agreed to sign it. To others it was 'waraga bedha' to borrow the words of Dr. Khalil Ibrahim but if one reads carefully, it is an agreement worthy to be inoculated from those who see nothing there and out to discredit it.

The wish by other rebel leaders to make it (DPA) like that of Southern Sudan's (CPA) isn't realistic. Why? Because to arrive there you got to fight for fifty years and lose 4 million lives. I guess that is the price tag Khartoum has put on CPA type of agreement. He must not think he could have everything at the same time; he can't be

in the government and in the rebel at the same time. He will lose and the cause of Darfur would be trampled on by Khartoum.

For the people of Darfur, this is your chance to convince us and others people that you are serious. The world and ICC in particular has taken your case a notch higher but you have an obligation to help others and yourself. Unite and stop shooting at convoys and travelers. Southern Sudan rebels weren't behaving like that. Secondly, you have to talk to the government. There is no way the security would be guaranteed unless this is negotiated. Don't be fooled by outsiders, make use of your own. Your situation affects everyone else; Southern Sudan for example isn't recovering quickly because of your crisis. Please stop dragging us in to your problems with Khartoum. We aren't party and never claim to fight for us; we know how to fight for ourselves. Ramadan Karim!

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QUESTIONS ON SPLM INTEREST IN THE SUDANESE PRESIDENCY

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 3, 2008

As you may have heard, the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Political Bureau has resolved to go for the Sudanese Presidency and promised the Sudanese masses, political parties especially the National Congress Party to be prepared for a grueling battle for power ahead in the next year general elections. H.E. Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit has been placed in the ring as the top party flag bearer per the SPLM Party Constitution to face it out with Sudan National Congress Party (NCP) Chairman H.E. Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir. Foot soldiers such as Hon. Pagan Amum, Hon. Yasir Saeed Arman and the company are beating their chests in confidence that this is going to be a sweep leap to power since the current head of State has a rope place on his neck by Lawyer Louis Moreno Ocampo of the International Criminal Court (ICC), over his handling of Darfur conflict.

They have made real their threat when the same men during Garang Memorial in Juba put a gauntlet and bravado to challenge other political parties to join them in the struggle to take over power in order for this party to “stop Antonov planes from bombing women and children, raping and pillaging/displacing of innocent Sudanese from their original homes”. Lofty idea and only wish them good luck there. But the candidate (Mr. Kiir) steered clear and offered instead to honor his colleague in the Service. Everyone was waiting to hear him say little about his campaign plans but he didn't, though you could read whirl of ‘conspiracy’ on the air. I then applauded him for making the occasion memorable and devoid of controversies.

But is this plan easy said and done at the same time? I will answer this in inferences later. But granted, political parties exist for sole reason of taking over power and hence it's in place for any political organization to pursue that course regardless of where they come from or who are behind them. SPLM has every right to go for anything in this land; you call it pluralism and democratic right, fine. Sudan as a country in fact needs an over haul in its deep political 'architecture' and every political party that came to power since independence only squelch in the murky waters of political direction that has always been about identity, religion and sectarian competition. Mr. Amum and his team are excused for any move. The problem however is whether they should have put their house in order and concentrate on what is popularly needed.

It has been stated hundreds times that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is just a process until it becomes of a necessity to come together again as a country as one. That is then its natural to talk about an overhaul. That means, the interim period calls for reorganization and confidence building; the two important components for viable governance. We are just mid way and almost to start another journey next year; but looking at the past as to whether we are organized and indeed trusting each other for coexistence, the answer is in the negative. We aren't organized or prepared enough to take power or trusting each other with our brothers in the North. We are far from reaching there. So, what do we do?

The process of change did start in Naivasha and right there in the Interim Constitution of the Sudan. We have for the first time opened up specific positions to others when this was nearly impossible for any Southerner or the like to get in there. That change will take a bit of time and efforts and therefore curious to read theories other than actual practicalities from Mr. Amum interest in the Sudanese Presidency at this point.

Let's head straight to the argument. The whistle has been blown about taking over power using the marginalized people, how sure are they that this time round the said victims (marginalized people) shall heed the call and come in large numbers to vote in SPLM party and the leader? Remember this is not the first time for this call to be made, right? From Anyanya One through Deng Nhial senior and again from 1983 from Garang even today this call never cease from being heralded and as usual the callers receive subdued response and in other case an outright rejection.

Do we need examples to prove this piece of argument? Certainly not; we have heard the partnership but is it base on what? If that is the situation what makes Mr. Amum so certain to galvanize voters in the North to come and support the SPLM at this point in time? Look, the East has their umbrella (Eastern Front). The West has SLM/JEM and so on. The South has several other parties; how could these parties phase out or dismantle in favor of the SPLM or simply unite to topple El Bashir when they have been competitors together with the SPLM for the same reason- power? If Mr. Salva becomes Sudanese Presidency would that change

anything here in the South? He is second to Bashir did that make meaning to southerners or changes their lives? Southerners are specific. They know what they want!

To reiterate my previous argument, it's not uncommon for political parties to cease from political competition; they are there to seize power through persuasion (election) or coup de tat. The bottom line though is whether the party could actually do what they have been saying in their manifestos. I challenge the SPLM on matters of governance, to be precise. As earlier as 2005, we waste no time to remind the SPLM that general election will surely come and if it comes they must not give any excuse of any sort when voters turn to other political parties. They had the opportunity and it was up to voters to judge and give the verdict. Respected leaders of this party have wandered from their dreams of sowing equality and justice across their paths. Their true colors have changed and some are now corrupt while others are disillusion with power. These men weren't like that before.

The following are some two areas the SPLM should have put more inputs in the South other than power for the sake of it. One has been the balance of power or distribution of Southern national cake. The party didn't do enough on this. They still have time to rectify it however. It's a crisis. The SPLM Government was expected to be far more representative, balanced and highly disciplined party ever to come to power in Africa. Leaders of this party were seen as models to make our ever-suffering people enjoy the fruits of their hard won achievements. There is too much hate and greed at the moment. Jobs are dish out to who knows who in the system. It came about because the government is dominated or tilted towards certain group or tribe. Advisors of the President never applied what their leader Garang has been saying. I wish these men free our President to dish out jobs on merits and only meritocracy.

The other is the resource management plan. We need thriftier to allow our little resource to get in to public intended purposes or use. Dr. Pauline Riak, Mr. Stephen Dieu, Mr. Gabriel Changson, Dr. Achol Marial, Dr. Alfred Lokudu just to mention a few are tested members of our society when it comes to resource management plan. We have money but we aren't conscious of its value. No waste that comes back. Foreigners are smiling all the way back to their countries because of loopholes in our financial regulations and systems. Foreigners are still occupying logistic positions in the plum and rich international organizations in the South as if we don't men/women qualified to run these positions. I don't know whether they are being taxed or not. Is that a governance style Mr. Amum wants to apply in Khartoum and the whole Sudan? Who doesn't know SPLM pickings? Mr. Amum should have proved to Southerners their abilities in governance other than just aspire for power and show off.

We have men and women of integrity who aren't utilize. This is an area of great concern and hence unthinkable for this party to jump from failing to manage little things to manage big ones. The National Congress Party (NCP) will not leave power

the same way Mr. Amum and the group are dreaming of it. When we dig deep others cast doubt at it and smear shoddy to justify their shallow thinking assuming that by being heroes in bashing over the internet they will gain back their charred past of abandoning us during the war and ran to acquired questionable decrees. The little boys moreover rattle at what they know little all about and have no problem with them. They don't know how the war and the peace were staged and achieved. SPLM as an organization is firmly established by its founders but leaders who are managing now are true let downs.

In short, the world is all about interests and if any one thinks otherwise then I challenge that person in his face. Things have change and if we are still after the international community then we must be prepared for a rude shock. It takes a little faith yes to believe that the NCP is not invincible but the situation in this country is not all about the NCP; there are other powers who are also interested in changing Sudan on their own terms. The attention therefore should be the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). If overthrowing NCP and El Bashir is part and parcel of the implementation package, then I must be pitied. To me its not!

Removing Al Bashir and his party will make other political in the North to unite against the South under an Islamic agenda. If I am making it up then ask Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, Sadiq Abdul Rahaman Al-Mahdi, Osman M. Marghani, Dr. Abdalla Hassan Al Turabi, Musa Ahmed or Abdul Wahid M. Al-Nur, whether they have it in their script to have a Christian ruling them or this country. If anyone thinks there is any short cut for Southerners to freedom then am afraid that is a pipe dream. You can declare independence many times as you choose but this will not give you recognition.

So, what is it all about the New Sudanism others are chanting out there? That is pure politics and here it's fair for Mr. Amum to listen to himself and us before making his monotonous and rhetoric about 'Darfur' 'Darfur' 'Darfur' and 'failed state' 'failed state' 'failed state'. These statements have not changed situation in Zimzam, Abu shook, Ardha Matta etc. None in this part of this world (the South) have an ear and eyes to allow the nook back to its misplaced spot when we are just months away from deciding our destiny. If Mr. Amum won't listen and insists on being an Arab in Southern skin, the blood of our martyrs shall haunt him and his associates; we know how to deal with him! Our President must be left in the South to see us through in 2011, not chasing after utopias.

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SOUTH SUDAN MINISTER MUST COME CLEAN

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 24, 2008

Southern Sudan Government (GoSS) after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), has been accused by many people of having done little or nothing on good governance issues particularly the handling and the fight against corruption. For the past three years, there are documented and otherwise (theories and talks) cases of graft everywhere- high level of corruption by senior Government officials- but nothing has been seen or heard to stop corrupt practices in the system, at least openly. The government however had attempted to sound fighting it but somewhere its efforts were nipped in the socio-political bud of this land. A lot of politicking and only politics found its way in to the process of fighting corruption; needless to mention our tribal gloves or closets that are place by defenders.

But the tribal element in the fight against corruption shall make this evil to stay in our society for ages. Whenever there is any graft case against an individual in the system, his tribal peers often cited it as a vendetta against their 'own' tribe or section by other 'other' tribe or section. This is very worrying. Though there are few among the leading personalities who aren't mentioned by the anti corruption team, the majority of our leaders are corrupt. That is a sad reality. Therefore, Mr. Aldo Ajo Deng defend of the government on graft was just misleading and misguided.

Mr. Aldo, there are cases of graft within GoSS Divisions and if not go down to Dr. Pauline-Philip axis (Anti-Corruption Chiefs) and find out by yourself. I tend to think that this is the time to open up those books because we are heading for an election next year. But Madame Rebecca Nyandeng finger was wrongly pointed. She was selective and that was just not fair. The Vice President from my humble submission isn't corrupt or has traces of this vice before GoSS formation; but to paints him, as an angel is 'corruption'.

For starters, the ugly face of this menace (corruption) came to the fore just last year when Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Planning Hon. Arthur Akuien Chol was accused of financial mismanagement or crimes and was shown the door (fired from his job) along with other senior officials of that ministry (Finance). No further court proceeding though to try him and his group; but until to date, the law deems them innocent until they are found guilty. The former minister I guess is in pain, as it seems he has something to say but no proper forum to say it. People have expected him to be heard but the Ministry of Justice has dragged its feet far too long on his case. His rights and wrongs must be accorded due respect. May be the former Minister could unearth some information badly needed now by the Anti corruption team and the Southern public.

This month again, the graft tsar Dr. Pauline Riak cried out aloud in frustration that she won't go any more, because of an obstruction somewhere around the ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Parliament, about 1400 cases of graft in her Commission. In Parliament Honorable Minister of Labor and Human Resource Development- responsible for public services stuff- brought yet another salvo against the Justice Ministry on the graft clustered as payment for Senior Officials and Legal Counsels under this Ministry. Where is this man going to hide?

There is little time to talk about the role of this ministry when it comes to interpretation of some legal clauses or simple discharge of legal advice to the Executive in its relationship with the Legislature & Judiciary. There has been words on interference and obstruction of justice and I could believe so; not to mention the then side show grumbling about staffing procedures in that ministry- one tribe is accused of having taken over that ministry right in the middle.

Southern Sudan must not keep quiet and burry her head because of fear of unknown. Righting the wrong is a duty of every citizen. Southern Sudan meager resources are being siphon out of our land by few individuals in the government and only get blanket slogan of zero tolerance to corruption. People are tired of talking and want action. Relieving or dismissing of officials implicated in corruption isn't a solution but a process to force this criminal to bring back taxpayers money. Officials need to help the President. Imagine, no single senior official is charge or behind bar over corruption, even when there are cases against him/her. Why? Because the Ministry entitled to gazette and advertise bills related to moral and ethical issues never took enough initiative to force its way in Parliament. There are no legal grounds (laws) to guide cases in courts against those accused of corruption.

Southern Sudanese didn't fight the war to allow few members of our community to loot our funds in the face of development challenges, just to enrich their families and their bank accounts through their families in Australia, Canada, USA, Britain, Kenya, among other cities in the world. If Deputy Minister (Undersecretary) gets close to \$10,000 a month, how much budget to we need as a government to support this gentleman within the next three years of the interim period under the CPA? In each Ministry and Commission they have Legal Officers (Counsels) with close to \$8,000 monthly, how much money is going to be paid in the next three years before the Referendum?

After Referendum of course people shall rise up and take no novice and mediocrity in the government! Right from the top to the bottom, there would be proper scrutiny of who should be our Chief Executive and his team. If someone refuses to leave power peacefully after being bundled out fairly through election, it's easy and safe to fight him no matter who he is or tribe he/she comes from. Days of abusing public offices by irresponsible leaders are gone. Even the officials of the National Congress Party (NCP) aren't doing what our ministers are doing to our people.

Back to Justice Ministry: Hon. Minister has a case to answer about the said hefty pay to his legal officers against public service policy or standard. The Minister again must tell our people why he is not fighting the graft he has been saying he would fight. Who intimidates him to slow down and at what magnitudes? There is a rumor that says the Minister is fighting his political life due to graft “counter attacks” or fighting back. To me that is unfounded and just a cover up for a failure. If he thinks there have been difficulties prosecuting people who are politically connected to the top then why serve in a government that is corrupt? Why didn't he clear his name when Madame Pauline Riak of the Anti-corruption presented his case about the lack of law that shall permit her to publicize cases and forward them to Prosecutors for action?

But for crusaders against corruption, corruption sometime preys on decent people having good intention. Corruption is subtle. On matters of ethical behavior, there is a grey area that is generally undetected until the spotlight shines brightly; then what seemed to be a mere indiscretion suddenly becomes national scams. Therefore care must be applied. But there are real crooks, scrupulous and swindlers who say ‘this is our government, we fought for it and therefore right to eat as much as we can before we leave it’; that mentality is morphed, they must be stopped.

Madame Riak must not stop by just groaning in Hai Cinema, she must take the fight to the enemies of our people. There are troubles (corruption cases) in the army (SPLA), she must not fear to be shot. This is another biggest challenge to our government and deserves concerted efforts from everyone. I therefore commend Hon. Minister Awut Deng for her courage to come open and exposed one biggest scam of all times. She is the only ‘man’ among many who put their tails behind and only shout the loudest when those who preach ‘water’ and drinking ‘wine’ are doing their evil business as usual. Great lady from a great background! It's unbelievable to read and hear that the Ministry that supposed to be the guardian of the people trust has turned out to be the graft-invested den. Horrible Minister would you resign honorable?

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WHAT IF SALVA KIIR LOSES OR WINS SUDAN'S PRESIDENCY

BY ISALAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

There has been political drama in relation to SPLM interest in the Sudanese Presidency in the next year General Elections, between those who want GoSS President to run against Al Bashir and others who simply think this is just a political suicide on the side of Gen. Kiir. Whatever we have been hearing and reading as conflicting statements about this sensitive political calculation, come from the above-mentioned two positions within the SPLM party. Stakes and risks are really high and hence the ambiguity and confusion. The likes of Mr. Martin Majut, Dr. Luka Biong and the group belong to the last category (Gen. Kiir must not contest the Sudanese Presidency election); they aren't saying it in white and black but that is the currency. Their fears are real. The public is also divided the same way they (leaders) are. President Kiir himself is not sure what to believe or pursue. Some Northerners unsurprisingly are celebrating Gen. Kiir interest in the Presidency because to them Southerners would not have any 'reason to separate from the North as long as their man is in power in Khartoum'. May be they are right (._.)!

But which one is easy, realistic and achievable: the fight for New Sudan vision or Sudanese fighting for New Sudanism? You see, the idea of Sudanese fighting for New Sudan vision is a long-term vision that involves a bit of political time and efforts to reach it. But the fight for New Sudan vision is a process and might not necessary brings changes as expected. Just to paraphrase it: people who want Gen. Kiir to contest next year General Election with Al Bashir are only seeking the process for new Sudan and not the actual achievement of that vision.

That means if Gen. Kiir defeats Al Bashir next year (and the probabilities are abysmal) and he becomes the next President of the Sudan, could that bring New Sudan vision to every Sudanese? I don't think Sudan could change over night when Gen. Kiir assumes Sudanese Presidency. Why? Because when South Africans rise to South Africanism against the whites/Afrikaans, there were shared values, feelings, and visions across that land. We on the other hand in Sudan are far from the South African's situation or becoming engrossed in Sudanese shared values, visions and missions. The East and the West as well as the South of the Sudan are worlds apart. The point is, unless everyone feels the idea of New Sudanism, the ascension of Gen. Kiir would only be that party self gratification or actualization; and as time passes, we shall find nothing really happening.

To option then is to allow the process of New Sudan vision to get its roots and soak down with time, in the hearts and minds of Sudanese without patching it. In case it becomes impossible to get it done, then everyone is free to decide on what to do with

its destiny without being coerced in to something unworkable. Therefore, it's our wish that the SPLM party leadership treads carefully here and makes no mistakes that might just dash the aspirations of the marginalized people of the Sudan. SPLM should have entrenched in Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile before heading to the unknown territories.

It is argued that if Southern President loses to Al Bashir he might remain as First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan. That is correct. But the problem is what if the SPLM goes ahead in between and lobby to amend Part 2: 97 in the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan and that of P 2.3.7 in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) about the need to separate GoNU elections from that of the GoSS's. For now the same person shall be omnipresence (in Khartoum and Juba) as First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan. That is if he loses. The equation however changes if he beats Al Bashir.

I pray that he beats him and goes there (Khartoum). I have already prepared a party for my candidate Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhorgun as the next President of Southern Sudan. Gen. Kiir shall be in Khartoum and Southern Sudan will have its own election for the Presidency. Under Dr. Machar we shall see positive changes coming up so quickly. He will define what is to govern and eventually makes our adapted cancer (tribalism) a history. He shall make investors feel at home and even start to give directions for ministries to provide badly needed services to the people. A workaholic person like him will never rest until our people dignity and honor are restored (read corruption and mismanagement of public funds among ills). He will unite our people on the basis of skills not on the marks on our foreheads, backs, ears and mouths. Prisoners would be released and the Government shall be for everyone. Judicial issues shall not be interfered with and laws of our land shall protect everyone.

He will be accessible to everyone and his vision would be Southern Sudan belongs to Southerners. We will know where we are going and Southerners abroad shall come back home. Good governance shall be embedded in his leadership opposed bad governance and mismanagement and lack of respect for the rule of the law, as he is known to be an impeccable character as far as corruption & public office holding and trust are concerned. He will developed Kondokoro and start naming roads after Kerubino, William, Garang, Gai, Galario, Manyiel, Nyachigak, Deng Nhial, Lagu, Saturino, Mortat, Boll Kur, Francis, Daniel Chok, Koang, Arok, Boll Nyawan, Bens Kuany, D Warabek, Majier, Lokicho Ngartho, Tumbura, Aru, Ageer, Bona Mundir, Kiir, Machar, Lam, Awet, Chirer, Gutala, Awet, Baggat, Manyang, Nhial and Oyai. He will name his office manager from my village (Namurnyang) or your village if you aren't from Naath. He will feel your pain and shall offer himself to help you even if that is so tiny for the head of our nation.

Dr. Machar will stop undeserved verbal attacks and old fashion onslaughts against Arabs in general and the National Congress Party (NCP) in particular. He will fight

our case with one heart to the finish. He will bring back and develop our neglected agricultural potentials of our land. He will make his place among regional and world leaders and countries even that to of assistances and support politically and economically. He will reduce dependency on Khartoum. He could even start sensitizing the public and the world about the right of the people of Southern Sudan in the forthcoming Referendum in 2011. Gar Machar shall be on the forefront against illiteracy.

Dr. Machar will give Garang his rightful place in our history. Garang deserves more than just attending and commemorating his death. Governor Taban was trying to do something about this giant. He's our father. Some one needs to archive his past and the government to use media to pass it to generations after us. What a tragedy from the cold hands of killers.

Dr. Machar being civil engineer himself he knows what it is to have decent housing, roads and bridges. Dr. Machar shall make SPLA a conventional army and equipped it to meet the challenges of this era. This is so because he is a planner and a visionary. Oh, how I long for that day of his inauguration! Oh, how I love the sense of humanity and humor in this gentleman. Dr. Machar has completely changed and no longer in the eyes of 1990s, even Garang took him serious. May Mr. Amum efforts to take over Khartoum be true?

But in all our lofty calculations let's not forget the interest of other Sudanese political forces in this country. We could be planning something but they might pull a surprise that would actually jeopardize the entire meaning of politics. In addition, it's of utmost importance for our leaders not to bank so much on the international community support other than the internal community. People at lower levels are powerful more than what could be source outside. They should not therefore settle on short terms political gains and fames. Whatever that will happen, Southern Sudan must not be returned to square one again. I wish H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir good luck in his quest for Sudanese Presidency.

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SUDANESE PEACE INITIATIVE IS A NORTHERN AFFAIR

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 20, 2008

We had argued somewhere here that Darfur crisis and its resolution is within Sudanese political horizons and therefore importance for others to understand it and respect this country judgment. Now the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and majority of political players or parties have joined hands to put to rest that matter in the West of the Sudan. Despite its earlier skepticism due to the National Congress Party (NCP) selection methods or criteria for participation and suspicion that perhaps the NCP had actually framed an agenda only out to sell it (to be rubber stamp or bless), the Kenana initiative or move for Darfur will surely deliver what would otherwise be impossible to achieve in Qatar.

The highlights are that: there would be compensation for the victims and constitutional accommodation that might actually work against the current Vice President (Ali Osman Mohamed Taha) as well as complete cessation of hostilities and the returns, one approved by the House are somewhat solutions to the crisis at hand. However the issue of unifying three states for Darfur remains hanging and chances are not near; it might not see light due to its implications and translation on an overall federal system in the country. The fear perhaps could be that others might join on this quest (unifying their regions) and clearly this is so complicated for the survival of unity in the country. That is just a guess. Do you read the right of self-determination there? That is the dissection and of course none would run away from it if actually we mean plural society. Sudanese leaders must walk slowly towards this end, because one pillar of an open society.

Then within this argument how is Southern Sudan going to benefit when that arrangement happens? In another word, if one of Darfur leaders (Al Minawi, Khalil, Al Shafi, Suleiman, Ahmed, Al Nur etc) becomes the Vice President of the Sudan in the place of Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, what difference would it make to us as Southern Sudanese? There would be two Northerners against one in the Presidency and that means we shall still be where we are now, isn't it? But also what if the compensation takes place for Darfurian victims, should Southern Sudan victims be part of the compensation arrangement; victims of genocide for the past 50 years? The CPA talks about it mildly in that an aggrieved party (person) has the right to sue anyone/anything including the state. There are implications however contexts and need not to go in them. Now that door has been open, could Southern leaders renegotiate that element in the CPA since the agreement is poised to be reopened for the sake of justice, not necessarily for peace?

How about the interim constitution, how does the North want to reform it without an infringement on Southern gains in this Constitution? What of the election next year and the referendum thereafter, do Southerner politicians know that these two issues won't take place on time if the constitution is amended? Do you want us to argue? Here we go briefly: politically (power sharing arrangement), there is nothing like amending the constitution without amending clauses in the South-North Peace Agreement (CPA). The compromise would be two ways not just about the NCP but also from the SPLM. That means that anything between the two sides (the NCP & SPLM) must not be dogmatic or it was written, since the third party named as Darfur must get its space in the pact even that of their own referendum whether to stay as one state within one Sudan or break away as an entity or state on their own.

The NCP in this might ask the SPLM for some seats on its 28% representation in the National Cabinet or Assembly because here the Census suggests (unofficial yet) that the South Sudan population is similar to Darfur. After all the Kenana initiative is all about Sudanese not just the NCP issue anymore, it's argued. Two to three SPLM ministers are likely to be sacrificed in the interest of Darfur; isn't that benefiting the North against the South? Our case moreover as Southern Sudan would take a second fiddle as it has become and everyone attention has been focused on Darfur in terms of development. South Sudan hasn't benefited from National Development funds since the agreement was signed 3 ½ years ago. The South only receives its state 50% oil quota even doubts hanging over the actual production figures. Unfortunately, the world is taking no attention to what the North is doing against Southern Sudan, only interested in peace without dividends.

Hon. Bona Malwal projected an important argument on Wednesday on the same and this time the people of Southern Sudan must not just close their eyes and think everything would be alright when others their noses on Southern interest. There are no concrete assurances again from the outside than from within. We have been singing it here. I don't see us talking too much about economic aspects (wealth sharing impacts) here but politically we Southerners and three traditional areas would be marginalized by the North as they have been doing it since the agreement was signed.

The point therefore is that whatever that happen between Sudanese political actors; let them treat matters independently and at their own nature. Darfur needs a political solution yes but on its own nature and peculiars. There are issues everyone knows but we often pretense that they aren't core issues in Darfur. Do we know that Darfur problem is all about competition on resources and land? If this is not done, any political solution in Khartoum such as offering of the Presidency seats won't stop blood from flowing in Darfur. Again we are all aware that there is oil underneath in Darfur; that oil has attracted foreign interest and if that foreign interest isn't satisfy, there would be blood letting in Darfur. That is Northern issue anyway and Southern Sudan isn't interest in any of those whatsoever. But Northerners must watch out, we are sick and tired of 'joking' (compromising) and we won't do it again! The North is

free to do whatever they want to do to sort themselves out but never touch any comma or dot on the CPA. President Salvatore takes care!

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PREMATURE FOR SOUTH SUDAN TO CELEBRATE OBAMA

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 9, 2008

Last week election in the United States of American in which Mr. Barrack Obama emerged as the winner after a bruising political competition with his rival from the Republican Party John McCain- that took him exactly 18 months to materialize- brought a momentarily excitement and joy to many Southern Sudanese. The Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) party in the Sudan has been quoted as planning to stage a party in celebration for an American elect President Mr. Barrack Hussein Obama. The leaders are making final touches for the occasion that is scheduled to be launched this month in Khartoum. In Juba the leaders whether in parliament or in the executive were seen and heard sending congratulatory messages to the United States of American (USA) President elect and his team for the successful victory against their Republican rival Senator John McCain. The mood looks the same across Africa, especially in East Africa where the Obama senior came from.

There are several factors as to this mood and this is normal. People hug, shed tears and dance spontaneously especially in Kenya. Change though is an abstract in its real term, so many people didn't buy it but the fact that the unthinkable reality if not notion of black man occupying the Oval House resounds strongly in the minds and understanding of many Black Americans and majority of Africans. Everything there is in place and no one denies those feelings from that democracy in that great part of the world (United States of America). People start to think twice about themselves and the world around them as far as individual achievements are concerned. Everyone hails US stable democracy and its power and system.

Everyone at least I know on the morning of Wednesday was wearing a radiant face of happiness but I kept no secret of my unreserved support for John McCain. The reasons? Senator John had what I need to pull me out of my political quagmire with the North. Does that sound selfish? Not really, the author is after his interest as Southern Sudanese. Senator (then) Obama am afraid is another Clinton in extension. Clever and articulate but calculative and risk shy. May be am alone; but talking sense alone or lip service doesn't make sense to me at all. I believe in action; perhaps a leader who would look at my enemy in the eyes could have brought that difference! Under Republicans President then the North started to talk the talk. The North has

started to croak defiance now even before President Bush leaves office- read President Al Bashir rally last week in Eastern Sudan.

But also internally, President Obama priorities would be stretched due to world or say American financial meltdowns among others. He would be engaged with his top economic advisors on how to fix his (world) trouble economy first and then possibly put forward strategies to pull US troops out of Iraq within 16 months from January 2009 when he assumes office, as he pledged. Taliban and Al Qaeda elements again in Afghanistan and Pakistan are posing eminent security headache to the new American Administrative. Mr. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev of Russia is also forcing his ambition of unifying Russian Empire before the watch of the United States new Administration; there is no time to talk about hosts of other world problems Mr. Obama would inherit from his predecessor, do we expect attention from this leader at his crowded problems? Absolutely not. Moreover, he has been heard during his campaign as a believer in multilateral approach opposed to unilateral. That means, he would take his time to talk to China and Russia in their Security Council veto block before he intervenes anywhere in the world incase troubles erupted. Khartoum is relishing to this kind of approach, as this shall always provide opportunities for escape.

But directly, what do you think President Obama would offer us different from what the Republican had offered Southern Sudan? Republicans are accredited with something for us, in the person of CPA, why didn't the SPLM organize a party for George Bush second term in office? Senator John to my judgment was unfairly treated and unlucky chap, I must step there to say it. I started seeing him going down right from July when many political pundits in the America known media houses started to desert him. The World Street Financial crisis makes it even worse for his party not necessarily him. But Senator John fought hard and tough and went down a real man to beat. Senator Obama was shifting until polls portray him ahead of Senator McCain when he began to 'settle'. To me in short, the whole thing after the results favored Obama made me think may be this was a beauty contest between the two gentlemen. But who am I when millions of Americans voters chose their leader. I wish them good luck as our President (Gen. Kiir) had sent a congratulation message on our behalf.

In general term, there is that curiosity as to the unwritten relationship between Arabs and Democrats; one can't just wish it out or forget it easily because a black man came to power in the US. Unless the President elect meant what he has been saying for a year (change), there is no hurry to celebrate Obama victory in the US Election here in the Sudan. It's a bad idea. Obama is clueless and I have a conviction that he won't stand with us during tough times when Khartoum starts misbehaving. He won't be himself the same way I would expect Republicans to react to our cry. At least that is the assumption; may be he would turn to be the opposite. We shall wait and see without getting carried away (celebrate) by euphoria brought about by a single achiever surrounded by the same people who never stop Murahliin (Arabs nomads)

from marauding Dinka and Nuer villages in the 1990s. Our time to celebrate will come in 3 years times. SPLM must concentrate on issues to do with election next year, such as the need to form an election commission and electoral vote education among others.

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***UNFORTUNATE MEXICAN STATEMENT ON ICC
MOVE AGAINST SUDANESE PRESIDENT***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 23, 2008

The Mexican Ambassador to the Netherlands last week made an uncharacteristic if not irresponsible statement about the International Criminal Court (ICC) indictment of Sudanese President Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir. He had categorically used the same line of wording or intimidation such as that of the United States of America (USA) on the begging need to defer the ICC case against the Sudanese President. The Ambassador Mr. Jorge Lomanaco Tonda has bragged about Mexican vote in the Security Council against President Al Bashir.

This clearly exposes that great nation non-stable foreign and diplomatic influence in the world. This is so because the Mexican Government was then seen as objective when it stood against the invasion of Iraq by the USA in 2003. But somewhere, the country tipped towards blind allegiance to the USA even if that is against convention wisdom of restrain and sobriety. The sponsors of the ICC are making another world grave mistake against the people of the Sudan through its President. Mexico is playing it cheap this time. Mexican Government was expected to show leadership. Why Mr. Ambassador do you want to stoke embers in the Sudan? We had enough of this stuff; don't you care about innocent lives here in this country?

Mr. Ambassador, we know your ties with the USA but we the people of the Sudan (Southern Sudan for that matter) are tired of blackmailing and this is our hour of need. People of the Sudan want peace more than any other thing at the moment; accountability and justice must wait! We will say it again and again. Your statement that the ICC is 'independent, mandate of putting an end to impunity' is clouded with suspicion because of your conflict of interest. Who do you want to teach about the ICC body independence and roles? Calling ICC 'independent' is a poor display of realities. That word is misplaced.

Your position doesn't bring out what the people of the Sudan, particularly Southern Sudan expect of your clear-cut foreign policy. You know better than anyone that the

sponsor of this project acts with impunity in another part of the world. What forces you this time about to give in so easily? Your issues with the USA or USA issues with you such as border security, narcotic trafficking, bourgeoning trade, immigration and so on, that have put you closer to the USA can't blind folded you about the impacts of Luis Moreno Ocampo careless move against the Sudanese.

Where is justice and balance in Luis' argument, when he relies on one side and demeans the other? Anyone might want to put blame on the government of the Sudan and Al Bashir in particular, but sometime it's incumbent upon everyone to find out the truth in its naked form from different sources before jumping to conclusion. Please Mr. Ambassador acts independently and responsibly and keeps off Sudanese affairs; they are intractable and complex. The United Nations position in the Sudan and the African Unions among others aren't stupid; they know why its importance to give peace a chance other than justice for the sake of it, even confrontational justice. The argument all along has been that: the ICC miscalculated decision is putting cart in front of the horse. It sounds simple but that is where the truth is. The man is going unprofessional if not crazy to accept so called 700 pages evidences bloggers and lobbyists for case against the Sudanese President; Argentine, take your man to the hospital for mental check

But also: is Al Bashir a big deal for Darfur or the support for the poorly equipped UN-African Union force? The West was to provide logistical support and leave the rest to the Africans to man Darfur? Did the West honor its pledges in Darfur and if not why? What do the West really want done in Darfur by the government of the Sudan? The Sudanese Government isn't being trusted by the West to protect Darfuris and the West is also failing to do it on its behalf, yet the blame and condemnation goes to the wire against the government for failure to protect lives, isn't this hypocrisy? This is just bullying! The Sudan currently is slowly but surely moving a step forward and the Mexico Government must not ignore this progress.

But why would anyone want to just issued an arrest warrant and still leaves someone on the throne, what difference will it make? What also if he commits 'suicide'? By the way, is the Darfur's issue the only problem the country Sudan has at the moment? How about Southern Sudan, the East, the Funj and the Nuba Mountain? What guarantees do we have in place to protect lives, operations, logistics, unity/separation cases incase things go awry through ICC senseless move? Where will the National Congress Party get enough time to spare other peace partners while engage in hostility with others in the country? Note carefully, the government of Sudan currently has prepared itself for the worst scenarios. They might not throw out Peace keeping forces directly but they will throw them out indirectly, do you get this? They might attend Darfur peace negotiations but the negotiations would produce none of the results badly needed right now by the Darfuris. Think of any sabotage in the book, the NCP would use it against Western interests and in turn this could affect everyone. Aren't these not enough to delay the ICC case?

War is contagious and dangerous; it affects all pillars of stability be it the economy or political (democracy). Khartoum doesn't mind going back to war; may be they have started preparing for it (Mig 29s?). Within that chaos, what if non-signatory to the agreement between the South and Khartoum and between Khartoum with the East, Funj and Nuba Mountain, seize this opportunity and put off the constitution and other arrangement done among these groups through coup de tat? These are hard question Mr. Ambassador. We are afraid, very afraid of your position about the Sudanese President on ICC. It's not just about impunity but also about impacts of making a rush judgment when the country has just emerged from war.

The CPA sir Southerners cherish today didn't just come out of the blue, it was from a responsible leadership of the NCP and Al Bashir in person who made it happened. Someone might want to say that the West solely cowed Khartoum to accept the peace agreement (CPA). That wasn't the case. Pressure alone couldn't have made it; had it not the 'willing seller' (President Al Bashir). We Southerners aren't political prostitutes; we are sick to the bone about the so called the international community double standards.

Where is Dr. Garang Mr. Ambassador, how did he die? People are yet to figure out what went wrong. It might not necessarily be Westerners who killed him but questions abound there! It's documented that there were three Westerners with Dr. Garang that fateful evening in Uganda; who invited them to a private meeting between Garang and President Museveni? Why was that meeting kept outside world cameras in a village? If Southern leaders didn't rally quickly and move on, where would Southern Sudan be today? Furthermore, where did the 2005 Oslo money that was pledged for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Sudan go? But also right now in Darfur, non one even knows the West plans about the Darfuris in camps apart from relief supplies. That is that about you Mr. Ambassador.

For the SPLM, they must show leadership and never serve two masters. I have two kinds of SPLMs as to Darfur issue. The first group operates outside the Presidency commanded by New Sudan Visionists. They have been misled that Darfuris will give them 4 million votes during next year general elections. Interestingly, they have short memory: was it not the same Darfuris who attempted to take Khartoum in February this year, using force in an attempt to install Dr. Al Turabi who daily curses the CPA by giving it a new name (a bad one)? They are operating behind the back of His Excellency the President (Salva Kiir). Their problem is power in Khartoum. They have been very vocal even in Nyakuron during Southerners Parties Communiqué even to include an odd clause namely "cooperation with the ICC". My feet!!

The second group is where the President belongs (those who see impact in the indictment of Al Bashir); and these men/women are real! The power of wisdom and love is stronger than the mobs of evil who are currently the majority baying for Al Bashir blood. Killing or eliminating Al Bashir will not bring stability to the Sudan or make it a safe haven. Tit for tat doesn't pay a penny. But reforming Sudanese systems

of governance in an evolutionary pace would bring out that missing link. The CPA (as a process) is all that is needed to fix this country; elimination of this document should have been the concern of every right thinker. The past must be rectified through dialogue and reason not through revenge and retribution or violence. Every ruler in the Sudan has committed crimes against humanity in one way or the other; the CPA deliberately overlooked those dark pages, aware of their consequences among Sudanese communities.

On the first group, I have not been either persuaded by their argument that the CPA won't be affected since it wasn't affected when Garang dies. Who was Garang after he successfully negotiated the agreement? He was just a mere receiver/taker. The same group also thought it's just easy to have the American marines across South-North border when the South goes unilateral. It doesn't work like; the much-hyped American incoming President might not even know whether the CPA is dishonored or not. Others are even thinking that if the arrest warrant is issued, the National Congress Party (NCP) would either collapse or it will nominate its candidate to replace Al Bashir and the 'life will go on'. Few more others yet are banking on the international community to bear pressure on Khartoum to allow Al Bashir safe travel to The Hague and forces NCP 'orphans' to implement all agreements it has signed with the South, the East and the West. Again that is another fallacy.

These people among other defenders of the ICC are just pretenders, only splashing ignorance anywhere. Who mesmerizes them that Al Bashir will go to The Hague with his hands down? Who says that the NCP will fill up another candidate over an open grave for Al Bashir? Who again lies that the Chinese and the Russians would abandon Sudanese government against the Western aggression? Who promises the South would be an island in the sea of turmoil? Get serious, we won't be spared in one way or the other. That is an inescapable truth.

But also did I have to sacrifice for painful 21 years fighting for my rights, only to throw it away in the name of solidarity with Darfur? My arrangement with the North under the CPA- albeit with shortcomings- is in no doubt on track! I don't moreover believe that Darfur cares so much about Southern Sudan all along. Southern Sudan has lost thousands of lives in the hands of Darfuris and the history is our witness. Please President (Kiir), be strong and never waver, these people (Darfuris or backers) won't be there to lift a figure when things get out of hands. Stop making short cuts and be focus for the sake of Southern Sudan; Southern Sudan case is too huge to get swept aside by an international interest. Not acceptable while we are still with breaths. It's time to roar and rail! God left you there for a purpose and you got to stand up for our cause. I beg you sir.

JEM/SLM and the West have an agenda contrary to what was agreed between the North and the South. They are keeping it secret and our people must not be 'squeezed'. Get back Mr. President to your seat in Khartoum and stand with Al Bashir; he is serious and others aren't. Tough times call for tough actions. Be ever

proactive and stern, its gonna be well. Get your acts together and stand with the wishes of the people of the Southern Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Funj. There are some issues that are left to juniors to opionate but the hot ones require your show of direction. Your Excellency usual habit of hiding behind others doesn't count here: you got to tell off individuals and stooges within your party that there is time for everything; one thing at a time. You can't leave Al Bashir and his party to fight the West alone without your support as partners in the government, it is too bad! Darfur is a thorn and a distraction; its aim is to torpedo gains achieved thus far through the CPA. Southern Sudan will win (inshallah)!!

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NHIAL DENG APPOINTMENT TO SOUTH SUDAN DEFENSE IS LACED WITH CONTROVERSY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 22, 2008

The President of the Government of Southern Sudan, H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit has confounded friends and foes one more time and this time, it's in a big way. Mr. President has made one of his usual belated decisions to appoint Gen. Nhial Deng Nhial one of the bright leaders of South Sudan to become the next second Southern Defense Minister, after the ill fated planed killed Gen. Dominic Dim Deng in May this year. This is a covetous ministry each senior member or regions jostle to convert. At last now we have an NBA basket ball lover (he was one of the players anyway in his student times) becoming forth to non in the hierarchy of Southern Sudan, what would happen to the much circulated rumor under which Gen. Kuol Manyang, the current Jonglei State Governor was link to it? How will it go down with the public, especially supporters of this gentleman? I have specific word to this general at it all and it will be up to him to decide.

Before we fractured that question however, let's look at the appointment itself, how significant it's to our current security state of our affairs. What impact would it makes for our immediate or short-term issues? It's very significant in that. The curtail has come down to uninvited messengers who juggle between the Presidency and the public about who to fill up that position. But specifically, there would be someone to answer questions in parliament when issues of the defense arise. There are troubles in the army especially issues to do with reorganization and financial management as well as training. A new Defense Minister will have a lot to do to ensure that our army meets the challenges of a true conventional army. In the face of internal and external challenges, the people of Southern Sudan shall watch closely the man in charged of our security; a huge force bloated at the top- many generals and officers with less training and unscreened large army. How is Gen. Nhial going to make changes direly needed by the army right now is another thing, time will tell. Does he has enough

military skills and even character to reign over wild Generals who are in hurry with their lives, busy buying companies and houses abroad and inside using 40% army budget? There are rigorous issues in that army that put question to this assignment given Mr. Nhial absence from uniform. We shall wait and see.

Gen. Nhial appointment back to the cabinet is big news to the people of Southern Sudan. Gen. Nhial is an upshot of the liberation struggle and has what it takes to lead Southern Sudan not just a ministry. He talks sense and butter, but also walk his talks. He has tirelessly stood to ensure that the rights of his people are guaranteed and it came to pass. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is one of his achievements. His further achievement also is that he managed to bridge negative perception or ideological differences between the United States of America (USA) and the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) while serving as the Movement foreign chief, when the later was accused of being a communist movement. Now his resume has been topped up with the defense portfolio, who shall stop this man from going up to the top after Gen. Kiir and Gen. Dr. Machar retire? He is now a breath away from power, is he going to play it fair and focus or would he throw it away when untouchable generals near him there start to choke his plans, the same late Dr. Justice did. Unfortunately or fortunately, the generals are thanking their 'stars', for their prayers are answered. They were really in their knees when the rumor was matured and out that Gen. Kuol was coming to the Defense Ministry. One of the generals from that region this morning couldn't hide his joys when he started behaving Santa Claus or Christmas man by giving children sweets and the likes while driving because of Gen. Nhial appointment. Make no mistake, Gen. Nhial might not sack anyone but he will use his legal skills and intellectual weights to frustrate our corrupt generals.

But Gen. Nhial departure from the cabinet one half years ago generated hated arguments among Southern Sudanese about his ability to withstand difficulties or challenges. He was justified few months later when the Minister in charge of Southern Sudan money was implicated in one of the biggest graft in our land- he was relieved from his duties but never charged or tried. Gen. Nhial didn't like corruption (or he claims it so); he is highly credible and am sure he will do his best there especially that he is so dear to the United States of America. With positive signs tilted towards him nonetheless, Gen. Nhial appointment has been dented by an earlier controversial claim by 'Ahmed Chol' or says the media that the position had actually been filed up by Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk, the Jonglei State Governor.

The people of Jonglei and Bor in particular where he hails from were excited and that is natural. In disbelief I guess they are now scratching their heads as to what really went wrong. Was it the governor who blew it out himself by breaching the President's confidence or whether the President himself was the problem or both. Now that the position has snubbed them (or Gen. Kuol) for another homeboy of the President, the same place that previously held it, what would be the reaction of these people towards the President in the long run? For now, the business yes might go on

as usual but what in the long run or in between- during up coming elections and beyond? Take for granted that the President made that 'approached', how did he change his mind so suddenly to make another approach to Gen. Nhial? My guess is like yours; someone must be responsible for that political fiasco, I don't know who he is. That is about Jonglei people reaction, how about others, how do they think through this drama? Your assignement...

It has been said or denied that nothing has been 'approached' and even the governor (Gen. Kuol) was reported to be saying he was misquoted by one of the Tribune writers there in Bor. We don't know who to believe. It has been however a big relieve that this position has finally been filled. Our phones were breaking up hoarse or crying with people wasting money phoning everyone at night with 'news' from the Presidency. They don't know that some of us have switched off long ago and aren't interested anymore about any positive news from the Presidency. We are however waiting for a miracle to turn us around! Let me be generous to be general: am congratulating the President and the new Defense Minister and pray that they go ahead with that ministry plans from our late Defense Minister. Plans to strengthen our air defense systems and continuous trainings outside and inside. Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak (Southern Sudan Chief of Staff) did start an excellent deployment criterion (mixture of tribes in the army); it must be followed religiously. Soldiers are soldiers; they belong to no group or tribe: their mixture is critical and it has to go like that! I saw my younger cousin John Loryam Lokwar coming from Aweil this week speaking a bit of Dinka and was surprise how quickly that boy changed. By then he (we) thought these people are 'animals'.

To General Kuol, there must be a political price to pay; whether he had shown an interest to that position or not, the events surrounding that appointment are embarrassing to the heart. With the quality of leadership and experiences he has, it was unthinkable that he could come public with a claim unless the writer put that word in his mouth and even so, there is no way to let it go. It must be public knowledge that perhaps the President had actually approached him but later changed his mind without consulting him (something not unique to rude employers), some of us can sympathize with that discourteous political gaffe on the side of our leader. The best think he could do therefore, to save his skin, is to resign not in protest but simply to heal from that 'wound'. Reasons for his 'healings' are many but two among them are forcefully standing out: one is trust or confidence. Once that is lost, there is nothing you can do to recover it.

Recall how he came down three times- the first was when he was denied appointment to the same ministry and again when he never made it to SPLM top brass (Governor Agar over jumped him and then his removal from Federal Ministry to Governorship). The President surely has seen something that shunned him from keeping him so close to power or this particular job. To some of us, Gen. Kuol he is a smart hero, whatever capacity he is assigned to, he delivers. I don't know you but for

others he is a villain and murderer. They are missed him. Gen. Kuol will go down in the history of our struggle as a warrior and a liberator who goes by the book (law).

Second, is his integrity: it has suffered a damaged and therefore not easy to re-brand himself before the President for any other serious job at the top. Governor Kuol would be fine representing his people in parliament until leadership changes. He is not too old to be in the next government. For supporters of the Governor, you have to swallow that bitter pill (if its true your man was 'approached' or promised the job); but also, it's the Presidential constitutional rights of His Excellency the President (Gen. Salva Kiir) to dish out jobs to who he wants. There is nothing you could do but to keep quiet and eat a humble pie; time has come for our President to do what he want to do and tomorrow would be another time for another leader to do his/her part. Let's stand with our government, the President and our new Defense Minister for the sake of our beautiful land called Southern Sudan.

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UGANDAN PEACE MUST NOT BE ABANDONED

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 3, 2008

The rebels of the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of the Uganda have been engaged in peace talks for the past two years in the capital of Southern Sudan, Juba. Like any other peace talks and initiatives, the Uganda peace talks or negotiations had its ups and downs, especially the responsibility toll on the peace mediators, the UN Secretary General Special Envoy President Joaquim Alberto Chissano and the Chief Mediator for the host Government H. E. Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan. At the beginning of the talks, there was no much interest until after the level of violence by the LRA slowed down and the people in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan started to break from fear for the first time after nearly 15 years. Thousands of internally displaced persons from Uganda and Southern Sudan began to return home. This has reduced burden to the two governments (The government of Uganda and Southern Sudan) in many ways.

Despite attacks in Western Equatoria Region/State, the insecurity caused by the LRA has significantly gone down. Peace then has been embraced and everyone wants the leader of the LRA to finally append his signature on the Final Peace Agreement (FPA) for Uganda. I also believe that the world especially the UN has demonstrated its commitment to ensure that peace return to Uganda and Southern Sudan. They have tried their best and are given a solute. The man to be credited for that difficult job is non other than the Chief Mediator H.E. the Vice President of the South Sudan (Dr. Riek Machar).

With all the odds he has navigated since this peace was initiated by the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) earlier 2006, His Excellency the Vice President is a concentrator and has a fixed mind on important things; some of his colleagues if not his boss were in the middle weary, frustrated and tired of going further when Joseph Kony was showing inconsistency in the peace talks. The Vice President must therefore not give up pursuing this noble cause. The Ugandan Peace Talks must not be abandoned and the reasons are: one, the cost of fighting the LRA would be too high than the cost of making peace. This is self explanatory, isn't? Second, the South is going for two key important exercises next year and the year after. Our people need to have a long 'rest' from 50 years of fighting the North. There is a need to have a peaceful environment for our people to go campaigning in the elections and the referendum.

Third, the SPLA reorganization and focus must not be stretched at this time; there are major issues the SPLA must be on stand by to address. Currently, the Messiriya and Baggara Arabs aren't listening and with border disputes are becoming realities, the SPLA gallant force ought to be reserved to face the uncertain future at that border. You never know moreover what Darfur case has brought to the country; anything can happen and our men must be ready in case the North engineered ugly eventuality that might force out us to vote with our blood to the Eastern African block. The North is preparing but Oyai/Gat Mai are ahead and we want them even to be far ahead! Southerners sleep soundly, you have a future! SPLA Oyee!

Forth, the Great Lakes Region is volatile and unstable and therefore easy for other terrorist groups and enemies of Southern Sudan to exploit anarchy at the borders to advance enemy or their personal agendas. So long Arabs have money, don't estimate the power of 'gurush', they can manipulate any group to cause our people more pain even that of assassination of another leader. Our own sons could do just that, not even an alien.

Fifth, the return and resettlement activities would be hampered and development projects stall. We have suffering people on the outskirts of Khartoum and other rich Sudan Arabs cities, who want to come home and if there no peace and progress as to services they will opt to remain there and get Islamized and Arabised. Sixth, South Sudan economic and education lifeline is Uganda; anything disrupting this lifeline would have economic and future repercussion to the people of Southern Sudan. Though there are unanswered questions and a clear scandal regarding the so-called funding to students in colleges in Uganda by Hon. Martin Majut (South Sudan President Office Chief), we can still believe that they are children of Southern Sudan. Southern Sudan is too much and big for any small groups to lord it over if what we are hearing is true. It has an end. Seventh, strategically and politically; unrest in Uganda affects Southern Sudan directly or indirectly. We will feel the pinch once the government in Uganda is troubled by unrest.

Eight, our reputation as people of Southern Sudan through our leaders would be tainted, as this is the first time ever for an international activity Southern Sudan had committed itself in to it. If we can manage this responsibility, we are likely going to manage big things in the future. Am a very proud man as Southern Sudanese to have Dr. Machar manages this huge responsibility with maturity, calmness and forthright posture; he has shown the world that he's more than just a Southern leader but an international one. If the agreement failed (which I think it must be allowed to), this image would be put to question.

There are however challenges as to the above mentioned considerations- the need to keep the door opens for peaceful resolution for Ugandans conflict. One is cash. The sponsors of this peace talk might decide to dig no further into their pockets; where will the small government of Southern Sudan going to get money to buy food to the rebels, communication, transport, housing/accommodation, press/publication, conferences costs as well as food/entertainment services?

Second, how easy would it be to convince the International Criminal Court (ICC) to drop charges against Mr. Joseph Kony so to sign the FPA? The ICC is a huge obstacle and others don't want to see this now, damn! Third, for how long will Southern Sudan allows its Vice President to be on Uganda Peace talks doing side show/extra jobs besides myriads issues under his care as second most powerful man on our land? President Kiir can't be relied to do everything on his own; he looks slow and a feet dragger or being hand 'drag' by others. Forth, what if the UN pulls out completely to be part of the monitoring units supervising the cessation of hostility between the Ugandan People Defence Force (UPDF) and the LRA? Again what if the LRA start misbehaving like before, disregarding the FPA Cessation of Hostility Protocol?

In summary, everything is tricky yes but the best intermediary option is to keep alive that peace talk by: maintaining the process no matter the going (cost) and also start to implement reconciliation package leaving the security behind until the ICC drops its threats to arrest the LRA leader. Israel is right: a court without any appeal isn't a court. So, what is it? Hmmm! The Government of Uganda in this case must swallow its pride and face the ICC case head on. Defer the ICC warrant of arrest is a necessity. Dr. Machar must not be swayed by pressure internally and externally, after all peace is tried and is tested sweet. Talk! Talk! Dr. Machar and God will reward you; you have saved lives in Uganda and Southern Sudan.

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GOSS STATEMENT ON \$3 MILLION SCANDAL WAS UNCONVINCING

BY ISALIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 16, 2008

The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Regional Cooperation Ministry hasn't just denied that there was no corruption involved Gen. Stephen Madut Baak in London earlier this month- General Stephen was reported to be running away with big money when he was caught red handed with US\$3 million at Heathrow Airport from Sudan- but the Ministry has actually confirmed everybody's fears by giving a wobble defense to the said transfer of money to the United Kingdom. The Under Secretary Dr. Cirino Hiteng Ofuho confounded the world on Friday (12/12/2008) when he admitted figure \$137,000 and then LS 200,000 in that money laundering. He further explains that the purpose of \$137,000 money was to open GOSS London Office that will include the support of the three staff members and purchase of a brand office car. The LS 200,000 was given by GOSS as 'loan' to Gen. Stephen Madut Baak, according to the Minister. Dr. Cirino asserted that the government 'official' in question and his government aren't graft players in that matter. The money was officially a government's mission money. He was emphatic and thorough. Well, who has believed the Minister from that 'clarification'? May be the author was alone in not believing him straight because of questions hanging over this saga. Recall we have had similar statements after other previous scandals involving GOSS and the truth there never delayed or disappointed.

Hon. Minister didn't give time enough for journalists to prod him further otherwise the simple truth (which he cleverly attempted to evade) stain a seemingly an interested graft and that is: where on earth in this modern time and day could a big government like our government (GOSS) deal with money transfer in cash against bank accounts. Besides, Gen. Stephen has been living in London for over a decade, who could believe that he was on that day bewitched to ignore risk associated with cash transfer, especially that big money? I don't think we have enough time to waste to reason behind the so-called 'loan'. There is nothing like that here. The proper terminology should have been 'assistance' and here also comes this query: why is Gen. Stephen assisted with that large sum of money when there are dire need of cash for our education, health an sanitation, infrastructure (roads and bridges), food security, technological innovation and security. But again is there an article or clause in our interim constitution that guarantees and allows the Finance Minister or the President free hands in the public copper? Anti Corruption Unit has an MOU with GOSS on major transfers, what happen to this gentlemen agreement?

Get it right, the author isn't popping up an insinuation jab against Gen. Stephen Madut and or GOSS Presidency; not really, I love his quietness and the President listening ability. May be everything there was done on good faith or purely an official

duty, these days nevertheless don't take things for granted from this government called GOSS. This is a wealthier government that spends or gives money anywhere with no due respect to law (or cry of its citizen) and still get away with it. Gen. Stephen could be innocent like his supplier (GOSS) but never overlook this truth: Gen. Stephen isn't an Advisor to the President, right or wrong? Who is he then? Excuse me; I don't know his title yet and therefore a concern.

Gen. Stephen assistances amount to LS 200,000 from the Ministry of Finance consideration discredit the ability of our Chief Executive to control public money entrusted to him by the public. That is an argument. Giving one person that amount of money as 'loan' or whatever is unforgivable. The matters are made worse when it seems as if the Gen. is close to the President. Let me give the President this advice before I stop and then moan: our dear President do your legacy a favor by firing the Minister of Finance or at least formed a committee headed by Anti-Corruption Chief Her Excellency Dr. Pauline Riak, to get to the bottom of the matter so to clear your tainted image through scandal. It's upon our leader furthermore to do the right thing for the good of the ordinary Southern Sudanese who still suffers from everything since this peace was signed three years ago.

The huge gains made in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the South and the North in term of stability and development have been shaken, thanks to corruption and slow (inability) leadership of the current SPLM party. The heroes turn avarices united in a looting spree mission to cripple peace dividends through gross mismanagement and lack of accountability. With lofty promises and slogans by its leaders the people of Southern Sudan are short changed by their own sons and daughters who are making no mistake to siphon public money in to their personal back accounts as quickly as possible. Who can truly believe again that the gentlemen in power are serious?

Though it's not everyone in that government that is corrupt, the few within that system have spoiled the names of many zero corrupt officials in that government and unless something is done quickly, that government will remain corrupt dented government in our history as Southern Sudanese when people rise up and pull it down. Shockingly as it appears, there is no will at the moment on the side of these leaders to push forward Anti-Corruption Bill. The toothless Anti Corruption Commission is helplessly waiting in vain for that bill to be passed. The Minister of Legal Affairs has done his part but unfortunately the Bill is being strangulated in the corridors of Parliament in a clear attempt to delete its flavors and tastes after it fell in to the pool of sharks whose preference is the status quo over accountability. Hon. Minister of Legal Affairs don't give up, fight for poor ordinary Southerner.

To be honest, I don't care what is happening in GOSS as to corruption. This is a sad thing you don't want to know from this author who since opted to stay aside, but I have a reason: so long as these gentlemen keep on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement cause in tact, there is no bone of jealousy in him to flex about what is

being stashed here or abroad. That means then that our leaders must not look at the CPA as an end in itself, they got to eat as much as they can but keep on focusing on the Self Determination and Popular Consultation for the people of Southern Sudan and two traditional marginalized areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The General Elections next year must be allowed to go ahead in July as planned. The Census results and outcomes next February must be accepted even if an Arab called Dr. Yassin Al Hajj Abdeen (Census and House Chief) manipulated actual figure to give South Sudan 3 million people. Compromise for strategic purposes is of necessity and it amply helps. Our men/women in uniform must not forgotten, their salaries must not delay even one week! Though there are real financial irregularities in our army, they need proper attention. CPA isn't the end of the journey. To shorten the days as promulgated in the CPA should have been our focus. The promise land is still ahead and if we start feeling comfortable here we will miserably lose and possibly forever. The SPLM should nominate Mr. Pagan or Dr. Mansor for Sudanese Presidency against Al Bashir. President Salva I guess isn't a serious contender there but has an interest for Southern Presidency seat, ruining chances for Dr. Machar who is undoubtedly the man for the job. Let's not despair and look inwardly, its gonna be alright if we fix our attention to Khartoum. We will come for Gen. Kiir and his administration later on; his government isn't invincible.

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***GOSS PRESIDENT SPEECH ON GOVERNOR'S
FORUM WAS GOOD BUT***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 5, 2008

Any speech by head of government carries weight or often goes with a lot of authority. Southern Sudan President since he came to power August 13, 2005 never failed to deliver a memorable or say good speech that touches issues affecting his government or generally policies of his government. His speeches are always timely and connected with daily events surrounding his administration. We have been hearing speeches of this nature on prospective policies of the government; though most of the time, they are more of reactive speeches other than retrospective. His speech writers appeared close to what an ordinary Southern Sudanese says on the street of our cities about their government and issues they are grabbling with, namely poor quality of their lives and their political future. A big cachet or mark on the side of writers for doing an excellent job for our government. People shall expect them to do the same again over and again, we are proud of our President and his team! They have brought us thus far and people shall expect them to finish the good/bad work they have started in 2005. I'm hearing that comrades Aleu and Tellar are in town (Juba) possibly reinstated full members of the party (SPLM). What a good gesture!

Thank you sir for being a good listener; that move was highly welcomed; your people shall be always loyal as you are now cracking a good flavor to produce what is direly needed in your administration.

But on speech what is it that never been said and heard since GoSS came to power in the South after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) or Accord? In another word, what actually is an added value to the speeches or words of our President to his subjects since he came to power three years ago? Does his speeches make impact on government performance or what struck you most in all his speeches by the way? This is what we are trying to hypo size briefly in two angels or segments. One is the fact that even at this point more need to be done on the same to spice up those speeches other than just play them to the public and disappears. There are problems the head of our government must understand as he delivers his speeches as a leader. As stated above, he ought to be more pre-emptive in his speeches other than reactive as this is the norm in his speeches. But also his speeches are purely devoid of legal ligament, a source of strength that could have bound together political and administrative. What is terribly lacking moreover right now is not good talks or ideas from anywhere but mechanism to make those noble ideas a reality. For example if the President shout the loudest about zero tolerance to corruption when there is no legal grounds to enact that statement then he is fooling no one. However, nothing is wrong in our President speeches at all, only a bit of translation of those ideas in to actuality. Everything is in place and if we insist to say that isn't his business to get down to details then we shall make speeches only to end up at our hands as we clap. He must get involve personally to work of his own mouth.

Let's prod further or get to slice this man called Kiir. The head of our government is undoubtedly a disciplinarian or perfectionist who never permits a blame to stick on him. He makes sure that he's right and always right even if that isn't necessarily the case. That is a good quality. Looking to this trait compares to his governance style since he came to power, there is no major shift or changes whether in speeches or leadership culture; he remains above issues as blame games swirl along his lieutenants, Governors or Ministers. Whenever there is an issue, his cards are ever close to his chest not risking anything until the dust comes down or near to his office. That is delegation not abdication, take it like that. It has its good taste. He trusts his ministers and never disturbs them on whatever decision they are making. His relationship with the ministers is through speeches, other than this he opted to stay off handed. The Governors and the Ministers do their jobs with only parliament over their shoulders. Somehow this is an advantage or disadvantage to his administration. For the past three years we have seen this and could faithfully squarely judge positively or negatively, whether this style is in place for our nation or do we need high handedness.

The spice up am talking about above or clear cut between political speeches and that of the governance through legal connection is this: The head of our government needs to follow through what he has been saying in his speeches. His subjects or

juniors never put to use what their boss says or advises (directed). He needs to make sure that whatever that comes out of his mouth is translated down to its intended purpose. Our people can't afford to wait for change when those who are responsible for that change aren't taking that change physically visibly. Actions after talking must accompany his speeches otherwise it would be meaningless making statements that end up not being implemented. His speeches furthermore need no other than him to start effected them, rather than others to do it. He must set an example of fighting tribalism and nepotism from his own office and security aides surrounding him. He has started though as Martin Majut is likely going to be outside the circle after his Office became an embarrassment! Wish him well in his new assignment.

The follow through on the other hand means using his mandate, as head of our government through sound legal means or powers to make things work. If it means taking 100 times presidential decrees a day, so be it. But before going public with his decrees he must do his proper homework with his special team and advisors. This could help in many ways in case of backlash coming out from any decision or decree. In fact much work lies ahead and it's upon our government through its leadership to race against time and harm. They got to keep focus but shy from cult of celebrity or beny. Liberators or freedom fighters or revolutionaries interest come last after having realized what they have been struggling for. This time of peace should have devoted entirely to hard work. Leaders must show it first before they expect others to do it; nothing that comes out without conscious effort. Eritrean and Rwandese Presidents are key leaders at the moment who are ahead when it comes to good governance. No one however underestimates challenges faced by our leaders or the small government in Juba, the leaders are doing their best only if they keep on adjusting and learning on what is that best to the people. We should have done more by now because we need literally anything and the opportunity to do it is right here.

But what was really in the Presidential speech when he closes 6 Governors Forum in Juba last week? His speech was so brief but good. The President no doubt struck chores with his people when he directed the ministry of legal affairs to gazette laws on corruption, local government, civil service, financial management and so on. 'Direct' in official or military term is an order. I hope these orders shall be executed forthwith. He talked about the standardization of Public Service through Public Service Reform Program and also an over all need to decentralize the entire system. I like the way he gives credit or token of appreciation to his subordinates when it's due! Questions? Who is going to lead him to make everything there to happen? What different would it make to avoid the repeat of 200 days program or speech of 2007? Is his legal chief (Hon. Michael Makuei) the right person to carry out that reform? Ummm! May be its time to shake up his government because reformers aren't there currently in his administration; there are only informers or deformers. Michael M. Hussein remains short changed after his colleague Tor Deng Mawein was accommodated and he wasn't when they together switched side for the SPLM party. He is a reformer and a nationalist despite his alien surname. How about the Governors Forum Recommendations, where are they going to get their strength

from? These recommendations are basically executive in nature yes but how do they come to light in an isolation, is parliament anything to be sought? I don't know.

Let us look at the second angle or scenario in the speeches of the President. Whoever that separated writers from deliverers- of speeches- because of time to the later may have missed an important element of ownership and responsibility in case of blunders, backlash or power of words. Once deliverer owns writing, he/she feels it and if that happened it becomes part of him in everything he does or says. For the head of our government there have been cases like that when his speeches were full of promises (beautiful recommendations) that never came too passed. One place for example was Yei under similar agenda of decentralization. Something like Local Government Act we are talking about today was well advocated. But despite this hard lesson, the leaders are still making more promises; how do they want to be different now than they were last year? People have given this government enough time and benefit of any doubt but the government leadership must not take people for a ride.

I guess people have their hopes peg on next year general election to flash out this weakling system of few individuals or clan hood who are insulting the party that has done wonders for the people of Southern Sudan, Nuba Mountain and the Ingessina Hills. Individuals or groups of tribesmen who always think that they are the best rulers and others aren't. SPLM was almost to be high jacked by those who cares less about tomorrow but busy to make quick and fat bank accounts when an ordinary Southerner goes to grave prematurely because of curable diseases through unclean water and lack of food due to hunger. The Governors Forum and that speech from the President has given a face lift to GoSS though it's too earlier to celebrate. Frustration was too much. Some key leaders have been buying a meal (a plate) with \$50 excluding a glass of drinks that accompanied it, when the poor goes hungry, not to afford to buy a bag of floor in that market that costs SP35. Children for those leaders were at top schools in Europe, Australia, America and South Africa, while the children of the poor are still under trees in classes; their teachers are without basic teaching training and are poorly paid. What do you think would happen after 10 years from now? Our society would be split in the middle between extreme rich and the poor. That will affect production because the rich shall be few against the majority poor.

The argument then boiled down to insensitive leadership. Why could they do such things when they should have at least deliver and still keep on with their privileges. They deserve it as our leaders and no one would be green with envy because that isn't sensitive either. Once people give them space they are expected to do the same to their subjects; that is society with its classes (upper, middle and lower). But on Thursday at Home & Away on new promises, may be that is a beginning of new dawn for this government to deliver in its promises to take towns to villages (Counties and Payams). Hon. Minister for Finance has been given a tall order and people shall wait and see how he will react in the next few months if at all he would

escape being affected by any reshuffle in the near or distant future. He deserves to go quickly! Hon. Gabriel Changson is the man for that job. He could have gone sometime this year if someone had impressed questions up on him on financial irregularities, especially the reported road construction allocation to his home state- it was reported or said, not proven! He must heed the President orders and do the necessary advances, provided that he follows the money through to the end users or activities, because the same criminals could still stretch their arms to take it to Australia and America where their children live. But again follow through won't be enough unless may be the idea Garang started before he dies is applied. An official from Nasir could be appointed commissioner of Kapoeta South and the same is true to Bentiu, Jur, Ulu, Yei, Maridi, Manyo, Renk, Maiwot, Bor etc. Governors appointment similarly should go by who is qualified not on the basis of birthright.

But on President's speech that was hyped such as this, I have a word to the political auctioneers: they must exercise care not to bite more than they can chew. Reform requires collective understanding and tentative approach through a refined and defined methodology. I heard something that sounds like a mission statement for the government. It's at its initials. That is much anticipated and appreciated, but the place to do this could have been National Convention or Party Forums such Political Bureau or any organ of the National Convention dealing with leadership or governance. The time we are in should have been devoted entirely for election next year and of course services. There are critical issues to be address before reaching there and those issues should have motivated their actions. For instant, there is a pressing quest for elections and referendum laws because without them, there is nothing concrete that will come out next year or in 2011; the agreement (CPA) suggested so. People aren't interested in slogan anymore, enough is enough with it! The environment is purely political and should be left like that.

There is disenchantment everywhere. People have waited and still want to wait but that patience is being tested. Cities or State capitals aren't changing much except some appearances from private activities. That mirage therefore has forced others to think twice about loyalty to the party or government in power. They questioned the ability of their man in charged though there are voices that continue to suggest that he should be left to complete the interim period. The issue is what if the seat becomes sweet later or messes up too much before that time. Political time is critical however brief! Three years under the leadership of Gen. Kiir could inform decision as to whether it's fair to go for more years under him or look for someone who is energetic, vibrant, visionary, meticulous, selfless, caring, internationally abreast with concept of governance, highly calculative, thoughtful, unifier, corrupt free, tribal fee, level headed, peace maker, democrat or liberal, developmental oriented and an achiever, simple, tested zonal commander, humble, loving, reachable, Mama Teresa, God fearing among other attributes. Did I mention his academic ladders and warms? Do we have that packed character or that complete guru in that from among us? A big yes, we are blessed! May God bless him richly!

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ABYEI SOLUTION COULD ALSO COME FROM THE SPLM

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE1, 2008

When Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) party was at its crucial meetings (Convention) in Juba, the National Congress Party army (SAF) unleashed its cowardly attacks against innocent civilians in the region of Abyei. Southerners all over the world as usual unite and condemn Khartoum in its failure to protect innocent lives through its ruthless army. Our people further request an immediate withdraw of SAF in that region without any delay or negotiation and the reinstatement of joint forces known as Joint Integrated Units or JIUs. Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) is there illegally. The Abyei Protocol prohibited neither force in Abyei except the JIUs. SAF mobilized, organized and then aggress innocent residences of the town that they accused of being pro Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Unbelievably, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) there at that time watched conspicuously as the Arabs army drives away thousands of innocent civilians from the town and allowed the occupiers to carry away everything their hands laid on. What a shame to that UN body and the international community for failing to condemn killings in Abyei when they had done so with Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attack in Omduruman (Khartoum).

The truth of the matter is that the world is indifferent and difficult place to live if serious violations are attended with gloves on hands to specific interested groups while others are vehemently condemn to their faces. UNMIS in that region judgmentally failed the test as peacekeepers. Why? Because they didn't moved quickly in March when it was reported that SAF has entered or about Abyei town with 22 trucks full of soldiers. They didn't again take it serious then the threat posed by Misseriya in January 2008 that they would wipe out Dinka Ngok people from Abyei land. They refused moreover to stop SAF from setting fire on structures in Abyei town. The UNMIS therefore must get out of the area and allow capable peacekeepers like those in Malakal to get in there if they aren't there to protect lives and properties. These men/women are trying to spoil the harmonious three years of UNMIS presence in our land. UNMIS generally has been doing its work satisfactorily but doubts are raised to that particular group in that situation in Abyei. That isn't pointing fingers, I reckoned.

Let us briefly return to where we got this agreement from. The then American Government Envoy for Sudan Senator John Danforth drafted Abyei Protocol when things were at deadlock and after it became apparent that Abyei solution is no where

in sight; both sides in the conflict (the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party) failed to compromise position in favor of the other. Senator John wielded his Government power and intellect bids to make everything happen. It was reluctantly accepted by the NCP but was accepted by the SPLM albeit with reservations. The process for implementation was to demarcate that land and the Abyei Border Commission per agreement started off and quickly wrapped up its work sooner and presented its reports to the presidency. The SPLM again agreed but the NCP rejected it outright. Garang was never disturbed and knew what to do and was even poised to involve the Inter-government Authority on Development (Igad) or International Court of Justice (ICJ) but fate never make it to happen; he was killed in that month. The entire agreement (CPA) though has been on course but slow and bumpy especially on Security and Wealth Sharing Protocols. Abyei status remains dormant and thorny through out that period, as each camp refuse to budge to the will of the other. There have been cases of provocations on the side of the NCP army in Abyei and its surrounding but the SPLM refused to response until this year when it became impossible to contain harassment by security forces to our people in Abyei.

Here we have an agreement (Abyei Protocol) nearly at its knees as the one to the 'last stroke the broke the camel back' was Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) attack on the police in Abyei town on May 13, 2008. Do we have enough options really or remedies available to make this agreement it work at this juncture? Yes there are options but for the short run. This is because there is no easy way to assume that the two sides would one day abandon positions in favor of peace without a stiff political or even military resistance. Each sides claims huge stake about the land and the people. The NCP tribal support base known as Misseriya won't accept to be part of the South and the opposite is also true with Dinka Ngok.

For starters, this protocol did promulgate two keys resolutions that are too bitter to be swallowed by the NCP without an immense pressure internally and externally. First is the land resolution where Misseriya existence in Abyei has been determined or decided. They are no longer bone fide or part takers in the land; the land belongs exclusively to the Dinka Ngok. But their right for grassing has been reserved. The other is the sharing of wealth particularly oil. Southern Sudan is entitled to get 42% share of the oil wealth there but the NCP all along has been after its 100% fraction; they have gone ahead to do it and even driving several millions of barrels of oil reserves in Abyei to the North using simple pumping through huge pipe that is reported to have amassed it to anyone imagination. The belief is that if they could drain oil in Abyei before the end of the Interim Period, why not do it.

To recapture our argument, there is no magical formula better than what Mr. John Danforth put forward for Abyei dispute. The reason why this piece of writing comes at this time however is to piece together our thoughts on how to stop further bloodshed and allow our people to go home and rebuild their shattered lives. This is easy said than done; but if we keep on trying without compromising substances in the Abyei Protocol, something could come out for the benefit of our people there and

here, at least again in the short run. I know our leaders have been on it and still doing something to make the agreement work, had it not for an intransigency of the NCP. Our President (Kiir) has been talking and pleading hundred times and no one has ears to hear him in the Presidency in Khartoum.

Here we have two tough choices; either the Abyei Border Commission (ABC) is reviewed considering its mandate and scope against the protocol spirit, i.e. ignore for time being ABC findings and go ahead with Dr. Machar's proposal for a joint admin that could run the province until things becomes clearer in 2011. That will practically mean that the joint committee should be formed for the area minus the ABC's. The ABC could still formed the basis for argument even in court but for the sake of losing everything all together the Presidency should uphold its right to decide Abyei status within its own pace without pushing it through ABC report. That is difficult thing to do I know but we are faced with few options. Perhaps on good gesture again, the SPLM should pull out Mr. Edward unilaterally to ushers in an atmosphere of joint efforts. More importantly as came above, efforts must be made urgently to order out Brigade 31 currently station in Abyei town.

Otherwise there is no tear to shed of anything burn in Abyei town. Nothing was there in the first place. A beautiful agricultural land of Abyei has been reduced to makeshift camp. With all its oil resources, the town is far behind than any other towns in the ravaged towns in the Southern Sudan. Imagine there has been no fighting in that town during the war; what a wreckage town that was? Basically there is no single government or private block built in that town; if there is, this could be the current Northern National Security Office building south of the town where Arabs meets and never allow anyone else an entry including Zacharia Atem, a man who is solo in his decision to stand against his own brothers and sisters. He is on record to have opposed and even condemned ABC experts. He accepted the belief from the NCP Arabs that Abyei is from the town down to Kiir River; Arabs don't want to accept the fact that two third of Abyei Dinka land lies north of Abyei town including ancestral home for Mr. Deng Aloor, the Foreign Minister. They do it deliberately because that is where most oil from Abyei comes from. It's time therefore for our leaders in Khartoum and Juba to make this matter to rest on the basis of diplomatic approaches other than the military. NCP has an agenda namely land and won't help our people instead they want them die. Attacking SAF in Abyei shall come on self defense; SAF in Abyei doesn't know SPLA yet but restrain needs to be applied as anti-agreement sentiments still run high within the ruling party (NCP) and its new found allies/friends (Umma Party & the DUP). Next year (Inshallah) isn't far for a black man to be heard; New Sudan vision is shaping, at least at its claims and professions.

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BASHIR'S INDICTMENT IS AN AMERICAN CONTINUED REGIME CHANGE PROJECT

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JULY 16, 2008

In as much as we want to sympathize with our people in Darfur, let's not forget the external interest of the Americans/west in this episode. I don't think the indictment of Al Bashir is anything exciting as far as our future is concerned. This possible indictment though is an accountability (justice), its untimely and unwarranted just to say the least. The good lawyer (Louis Moreno-Ocampo) makes no pretense of his ignorance of Sudan and the actual happenings in the country; he has slavishly gone ahead to act on the behest of another body. The ICC Chief Prosecutor has little regards to the nature of jurisdiction is to apply his defendants. Hence this body and the man are perfidious only out for a scheme, namely the regime change in the Sudan.

Africans know justice but they also care about the consequences or casualties of that justice. Africans solutions will always remain the best! It's not secret that the powerful nation on earth stands for the unity of the Sudan irrespective of other views in this country. It's not a surprise and everyone knows it was just coming; but unity on Americans terms won't help the situation on the ground! We have fragile peace agreements that need nurturing and protection.

Its mind boggling therefore that the regime that has brought about peace almost to the whole country is push to leave power half way before the work they have started is wound. The world moreover didn't even bother to verify cases purported to have been committed by the Sudanese Government. Unfortunately we are quick to jump our guns and demonized El Bashir even when there are begging questions hanging over issues that need answers. None is innocent in Darfur to be exact and there is too much exaggeration if not propaganda going on there. Indictment should have been applied to rebel leaders if the world is fair. They have been responsible too for atrocities in Darfur against their own people.

The group attacks UN convoys on daily basis, conspicuously however they always get away with it. They shoot down planes and attacks sitting government frequently, and whenever the government responded the world come out with big mouth hard on it, what do you think is going on here? That is not justice we all know but blackmailing. Legally still the Sudan never been any signatory to the Rome Treaty or Statute of the 2002, the same way the USA is. I just pray that the three judges throw out Mr. Louis's charges against El Bashir. Mr. Louis couldn't be realistic indeed; he should have allowed peace a chance however the pace. Justice won't run away but peace.

The west and Darfuris groups aren't serious; they are spoilers, if not why didn't they come to declare it genocide when the same horse riding attackers (Janjaweed) were abducting, slave trading, raping, torching and systematic scorch earth campaign against Dinka population in the 1980s? How many lives were lost in Mading Aweil and Twic land at that time? More than 300,000 lives were lost and no one lifted a figure to call it crimes against humanity. People want others to suffer when they are living in Western cities reveling while the innocent person who feels the pinch goes from dilemma to dilemma each passing day. Why would anyone want the world to get in to a situation when those who are responsible for that mass are living in luxuries in Western capitals using every available communication means to twist things for their own good. People in the field want protection, compensation and the return. Justice is an obstruction at this point. Darfur refugees are suffering and efforts should be exerted to help them out of the camps back to their original homes.

It would be good for the rebels to unite quickly and come to the negotiating table for a peaceful resolution of the conflict other than play dirty politics in this country. SPLM must not serve two masters; Darfuris (leaders) aren't interested in the stability of this country anymore. Southerners won't go easy on them since their intention is to disrupt the implementation of the CPA. Violence, pressure or conspiracy won't solve that problem, peaceful settlement would. The world is making another mistake, Sudan future lies with the CPA and the Sudanese not in Washington, London, Hague or Paris.

Southern Sudanese aren't ready to play double standards. We have seen it and tasted it and never worked. We want our rights as guaranteed in the CPA to be respected; anything short or meant to undo this position is an affront and an act of aggression and our people won't accept it. El Bashir must be left alone to finish the job he has started.

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WHO COULD BE THE NEXT SOUTHERN DEFENSE MINISTER?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 7, 2008

Friday has been another dark day for our struggle like the 30s of July when our dear leader Dr. John Garang de Mabior was brought down along Uganda-Sudan border. Our people are still in the wood (jinx) moving from one disaster to the other. We have been a nation under curse from above; if not why should this disaster strike so soon? We have known grieve and agony from time to time and the heaven never

opens itself to us (showers of blessings). May God in heaven heals our land and protect our remaining leaders wherever they may be-Amen.

Having prayed thus above, Southerners don't lose hope or be at self-pity. We got to move on and dwell not on the bygone. We should look at the future with the same confidence the same way Mama Rebecca de Mabior challenge and defied her conscience to calm our nation at that hour of deep hurt. Today we are being encouraged by our leader H. E. Salva Kiir Mayardit to move on despite the tragedy. Life must go on until freedom becomes you and me. Other Dims, Justines and Deng Ajaks are there in our midst; let's us God to give us a break!

Death and life are with us and therefore proper to get on with the other in the event the other strikes. The position left by Gen. Dim is an envy of many; and others before the burial went ahead and proposed individuals they think could shoe that position (Defense Ministry). This is an important Ministry that deserves an important person to run it. Gen. Dim tried his best and the button should go to another patriot who would do the same or more than the deceased.

Some scholars and writers already advanced names such as Gen. Thomas Cirilo, Gen. Elias Waya, Gen. Daniel Awet, Gen. Tahir Bior, Gen. Majak Agoot, Gen. Paulino Matip, Gen. Mamur Mete, Gen. Pieng Deng, Gen. Bona Bang Dhel, Gen. John Koang Nyuon and Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk. All of the above are perfect officers of the liberation struggle and their contribution for our freedom is quiet an extraordinary. They have been excellence officers running our battlefields with success and commitment and hence it's in tune to have the said candidates table to the President to choose from among them.

But I tend to think that factors such as military seniority, affinity and closeness will determine who would get that job. It would be an acid test for our Commanding in Chief (C in C) to produce an acceptable candidate if he chooses to narrow his choices around his people (tribe). People would be critical. There are indeed capable junior Generals outside the circles but there is no way of course for anyone to by pass Gen. Oyai, Gen. Bior, Gen. Mathok and Gen. Mamur unless one scheme to court trouble. The other Generals at old age bracket have their own individual problems given the enormous task ahead at the Defense Ministry. So, what are we going to do? I will tell you my take shortly after this.

For us to make real our intention of making unity among our communities a reality let's trust each other and stop fearing each other. Let's develop culture of the 'right man at the right place' irrespective of his backgrounds. Ability is ability whether you are white, black or red; whether your tribe is small or big. Once we move away from prejudices or negative branding such as this 'tribe or clan can't do this or that', we will go along way. There is too much stuff we got to change to allow us move forward. Some positions must not be reserved for special communities or tribes; we

must quickly run away from such schools and open up to each other. It sounds like a lecture, yeah? Not really.

From my experience in the bush, there is this one man who happened to be in the High Command and then to the Leadership Council and now occupies top state position. This man, beyond any reasonable doubts, proved to many people as an individual with a character (strong and positive). He has lived and acted beyond tribal scripts and tough enough to assume challenging responsibilities. He is a soldier 100% and a manager 100%; who do you think is he? A person who is both ways, at our presence time? Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk is this man in depiction; he is unifying figure our leader Salva Kiir should try. He should have been given this job long time ago.

He is faithful to the cause and not afraid to make changes that are for the common good. A fighter who sustained bullets wounds during the war. His troubled Jonglei State is better off now and if Jonglei cares enough (as they often pride themselves for being ahead of others) they should release Gen. Kuol to do larger challenge than their state perennial issues. There are cases such as the disarmament and demobilization coming up soon and that is where the experience of this man would come in handy. Gen. Kuol would make the President to enjoy full time doing others. But if the President thinks otherwise, we could still respect his decision and give support to his choice; he's the President.

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SPLM PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2009

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 1, 2008

The year 2008 has been one of the most difficult year we ever seen in the past three years in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Naivasha Kenya nearly four years ago. On positive notes, we have witnessed the redeployment of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) outside South Sudan after an intense pressure. There is also security improvement all over the region (though there were some isolated cases of insecurity mainly in Warrap, Abyei and Lakes areas). We have seen some improvement here and there such as business and market expansion, private activities and increase in trade movements across Southern Sudan something so encouraging to the government and the people. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activities were contained and no major incident, saved for Nabanga incident against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). We could go on and on.

But also the year 2008 would be remembered as the year in which we lost our key SPLM/A leaders in a plane crash around Tonj in Warrap State and the smoldering military and political hostility between the NCP and the SPLM. Although the two sides are still playing politics in the minds of the Sudanese, its common knowledge that the two sides (the NCP and the SPLM) are slowly but surely edging towards an open hostility against each other. We have seen the First Vice President abdicating his duties in the Sudanese Presidency and remain hole up in Juba. He has shown defiance and negativity throughout that year especially after he was joined by an overzealous SPLM Secretary General who was booted out of the Cabinet after his infamy statement against the state generally and the NCP in particular.

Specifically, the year 2008 has been marred by tension between the NCP and the SPLM. The external factors such as the ICC and Darfur are by products of this hostility. As things stand now, the SPLM is technically an opposition not any longer a partner with the NCP and the NCP has accepted that reality and had already shopped for another partner within Northern political spectrum. The casualty therefore is the agreement between the two erstwhile partners. The CPA is slowly going down to the grave within our watch and here comes the argument in this topic. We could dismiss it but that is the reality as this year begins. We shall expect more troubles unless the SPLM and the NCP work together harmoniously.

For this year to be successful and to avoid escalation of hostility between peace partners (NCP and the SPLM), the two big political players in the Sudans now must recommit themselves to partnership and open up to one another. The First Vice President of the Sudan Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit ought to return to Khartoum in his seat and work together with the NCP. They must publicly work together and cease from competition and tendency of overdoing one another. There is no other way round to make the CPA implemented unless the two camps remain engaged to each other. His Excellency the First Vice President must stop from being an opposition, or seen as agent of the United States (US) and work for the success of the Government of National Unity (GoNU) policies. People respect the US and no doubt the US will remain our faithful peace broker due to what they have done, but must stay within the limit of our status and allow us space to decide on our own. This an implementation time and it's purely for peace.

His Excellency the First Vice President has to support Al Bashir no matter the pressure from the West to ensure that the CPA isn't swept aside by international interests. Let's believe that the ICC will issue its verdict to indict the Sudanese President (as the wind suggest it so to be soon), Gen. Kiir must not run to look for other allies leaving Al Bashir to fight alone; and he must stand with him and if it means to allow him to contest alone in the upcoming election with ICC warrant of arrest hanging on his neck, so be it. This is very critical and our leader must not ignore this voice. Working with Al Bashir is a necessity! Forget about the so-called International Community for now; there is nothing there like that. The ICC move shall trigger an already impaired relationship between the two partners. People will

keep on ignoring it on their own peril. Call me names, fine! The Court must listen to those concerns with an open heart.

The other challenge for that year would be the election for the Southern Presidency. President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), to my little judgment, has failed to unite his people, fight against corruption and provide services badly needed by the people of Southern Sudan. He must own up his shortcomings or mistakes and allow other energetic leader to try his mind on Southern Sudan affairs. People don't want to embarrass him by kicking him out or resort to force him out through violence that could invite our enemy in Khartoum to exploit our differences. He started well no doubt but had since veered and stubbornly not willing to return where he got it wrong. President Kiir could just remain as the First Vice President under Al Bashir and allow another leader to be elected in the Southern electoral box. That is my solemn advice to leaders in that party. That should be an agenda number one when the SPLM Political Bureau meets this January.

We have seen by our own eyes how difficult it has been for him to govern as a leader. He has tried his level but that the farthest he could go. A new leader will have this task of distribution national slots to all corners of our region. You can't have the defense, finance, judiciary, interior, civil service, education and presidency from one region. This is too bad! If the Presidency from Bahr el Ghazal, the defense unit should be from either Equatoria or Upper Nile. Interior and Education should have been also split and the same is true with Civil Service. That is inclusiveness we all know late Garang was preaching and doing it all along. You can't repeat it in saying and never do it.

LRA case is again a challenge. His Excellency, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan efforts were thrown out of the window by recklessness thought from GOSS Presidency or say pressure from his Ugandan counterpart. The peace efforts and initiative must be resumed and efforts made to convince the Ugandan People Defense Force (UPDF) to stop attacking the LRA rebels until the agreement is signed. How long? Even if it takes eons, let the peace path be maintained and sustained, it pays. So long as there are sponsors for the talks, the trend must continue. His Excellency the Vice President must double his efforts to ensure that the ICC case against the LRA leader is delayed. LRA spirit for peace has been tested; they really want peace and have been quiet not attacking one for long now and our people in Acholi, Madi and Northern Uganda have benefited so much from that equilibrium.

The process for making peace is never easy; it requires a lot of patience, tact and determination. The Ugandans Peace is Southern Peace. Our people in Western Equatoria today are starting again to run leaving their homes unattended, because of UPDF attack on the LRA rebels in the Eastern Congo. We have heard of massacres in Eastern Congo from the same group, what if they could do it again in Uganda or Southern Sudan? We can't afford losing lives when we have means to stop losing lives. Our men (SPLA) can't be everywhere, under every tree. When we are free

from Khartoum, we shall have enough soldiers to go after the LRA rebels if the need be. At the moment there is no justification to engage in attacking the LRA rebels when they aren't harmful or threat to our security. It would be good for the Vice to maintain that stand about the non involvement of the SPLA in the joint operation carried out against the LRA rebels hideout in Kiswahili Camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This year challenge furthermore must be about services to the people of Southern Sudan. We should know by year end how many schools, hospitals, water systems and power, boreholes for rural populations, roads/bridges, agricultural production, governmental housing, sound trade policies, macro economic plans for the government, improved security, reconciliation/unity. These among others are mandatory things why government exists. People have waited and its time for our government to start to be seen moving towards those issues. Dropping one item and start crying never brings out why people trust you with power. Three year of peace are enough for any government to start delivering.

Abyei court case must be finalized with Abyei Protocol package with all its comas and dots untouched. The leadership must not compromise a little about Abyei future; that land is Southern Sudan land and our people must not be fooled by outsiders to award an inch of land to Messiriya in our land. Abyei is starving financially yes from the NCP presently but Juba ought to step in and provide regular budget to Arop Moyak administration there. Abyei youth meanwhile are asked to get to military trainings for that purpose; singing alone and talking don't help here. The Abyei case remains too hot and it's their turn to swamp military camps for future eventualities for their own land, other than other Southerners fighting on their behalf.

We want to see Corruption Bill out and functioning. Derailing it must be discouraged and the will be infused to allow our oil money to go for intended purposes. We shall see the blame game disappear when the Bill is approved by the Parliament. If Madame Pauline is the problem then there would be good reason to question her ability to head this sensitive unit. People of Southern Sudan are really cheated out of their deserved peace dividends. No one knows whether individuals who are deeply engaged in this vice are people with human hearts or not; Paulino Lukudu pray hard for them!

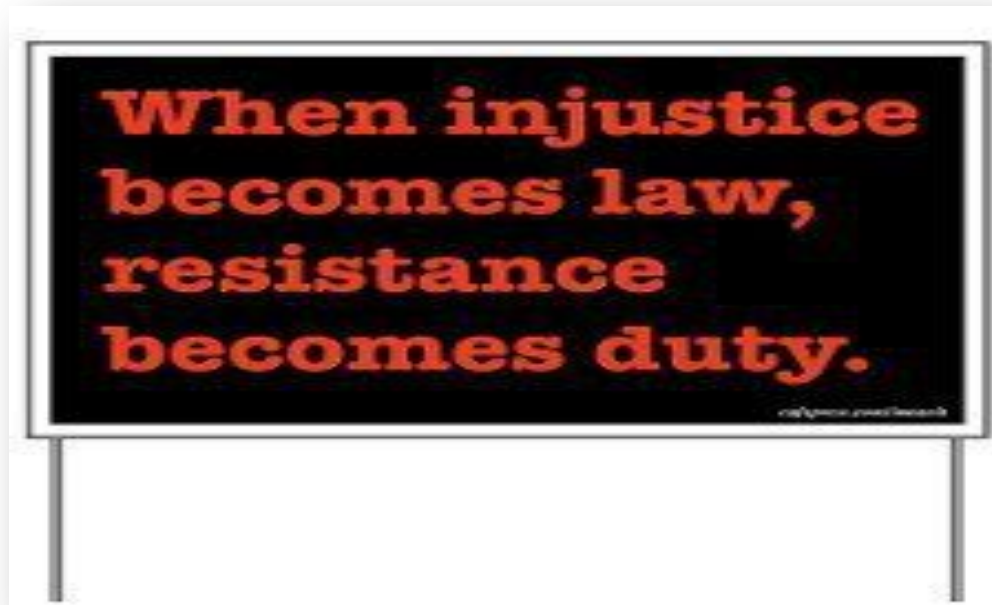
Looking around and see how difficult our residents in Juba, Malakal and Wau are at the moment, struggling to get something to the table to their children, you would start to shed tears, when you hear stories of one individual given \$3m from the public money. You would feel ashamed to be called Southern Sudanese when your government is becoming so flashy with lives in almost everything even to celebrate an American Presidential victory with \$10m. When children of leaders in power are changing sprawling cars each time and study abroad in the developed countries leaving the poor and those who actually fought the war struggling with their children

on what to put on their mouths, you can start questioning the liberation spirit that snuffed million lives. One isn't just coughing cynicism but engrossed in pessimism of what the future holds from now to 2011 due to the way this government is run by individuals charged with our national affairs.

The short and long of this story is this: am looking at a total change of guards for the Southern Presidency and then see an improved relationship between the NCP and the SPLM for the survival of the CPA. I would like to see Gen. Mamur out of detention and our army shaken at the top. I had thought that Gen. Kuol was the right man for that challenging job, but our President goes for Gen. Nhial Deng Nhial instead. Gen. Nhial appointment to the army was off the mark. The President got his gamble wrong and it was a big mistake. I don't know whether his hot tempered won't drive him again to punch one of the generals the same way he had then punched Mr. Mayom Kuoch in Bujumbura-Burundi in 1988, knocking off all his front teeth. I like to see Governor Aloysius of Eastern Equatoria replaced by a popular young patriot in the person of Brig. Louis Lobong Lojore. I want to see long awaited Land Bill passed and attitudes change from everyone in this city called Juba. The Juba Land Registrar is distributing land to rich men/women in Juba and is known to have more than 100 plots of land in town. That Bill will stop this greedy old man and other corrupt officials from exploiting this important community for the benefit of every Southern Sudanese. Happy New Year!

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*****2009*****



***SOUTH-NORTH CONFLICT HAS MOVED INTO
THEIR POCKETS***

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

In the latest turn of events in the Sudan, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have taken their differences deeper; a situation in which one party refuses to release money to the other. You may have probably come across this twist of events, namely the delay of Southern oil percentage or cash from the Central Government under the Northern control. It actually started last year and culminated in December the same year. It began that year when the Government of National Unity (GoNU) attempted to address economic crisis that has engulfed the world. The Federal Finance Ministry put across lame excuses one of which was the drop of oil price in the world market. The other was the cut to about 35% from the Southern quota to compensate for un-levied duties from the developmental agencies serving alongside young Government in Juba (the Government of Southern Sudan).

Here we have civil servants and many other needs begging for cash since December last, what does this lead for the agreement popularly known as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)? Its not any secret that Dr. Awad Al Jaz (the Northern Finance Minister) has made it his intention to starve Southern Sudan on the basis of sheer malice or political reasons.

The action by Dr. Jazz has never been without a clue as to what causes the change of mind by one important signatory of the Naivasha Accord (CPA). In December, it cost our beloved Vice President H. E. Dr. Riek Machar temper to break the deadlock when he personally shouted the loudest to Islamist (Al Jazz) to release the money. From that time to date (though the signs are matured that he had done something or actually the money should have been reflected in our Central Bank in Juba, from last week). Imagine the efforts by our leader H. E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit have fallen on deaf ears in the Presidency in Khartoum. As expected he recoiled and went into hiding leaving the powerful man (Dr. Machar)- whose brain that government exists, to juggle between Khartoum and Juba in his usual trademark to serve.

So the crisis now in its brewing stage, how do you associate this with other development around us? Should we call it a violation or impact on the implementation of the CPA? Of course, all of the above. But calling it violation, shall only serve an interim meaning or focus, which is in essence is generic; while impact is the results of that violation. I mean word 'violation' is abstract and descriptive unlike 'impact', which is an indicative of an action.

Let me not bore you there. There is more than interpretation of those words and here I have one. There is nothing that comes out of nowhere; an action must have a cause as the law of physics says it. The NCP/North Minister isn't acting from nothing or just doing something (refusing to pay the South) out of his own personal volition. He is under an overall scheme from enemies of CPA and only executing what the North had agreed to do against 'parasite' known as the South through the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS). The plan comes as a no surprise at all. The South was reading nothing out of Khartoum insistence that GOSS ought to strengthen its revenue bases, particularly taxes.

Khartoum in addition wanted Juba to cooperate on matters of international and domestic importance. Unfortunately GOSS looked away and the North/NCP raided or invaded the Central Bank of Sudan doing the necessary to toe them. Today, our streets are full of whispers as to what had really happened or been the problem. There is a political reason behind this crisis, it's repeated being whispered. The fall out between the NCP and the SPLM was imminent after Mr. Amum decided to go against his leader and the people of Southern Sudan who prefer leaving with the devil they know than the angel they don't. Since this man and others have jumped to bed with the Darfuris on the expense of their peace partners the NCP, the NCP is saying it in bold that 'am going to show you who am I'. That means, they are

punishing the SPLM for not being faithful to them in the middle of NCP crisis. The NCP takes the South and the SPLM as one and the same thing.

But truly 95% of Southerners aren't ready to buy Dr. Al Khalil's, Yasser, Pagan, Mansour and the company the American new Sudan vision of unity, equality and justice. We won't be equal or united whether by force or conscience; the North is for the North and South for Southerners! No ambition to annex any territory anywhere here on the ground. Southerners have accepted to live peacefully with the North on matters of territorial mutual respect and cooperation.

Refusal by Dr. Awad Al Jazz to release Southern quota is a blessing in disguise to borrow Dr. Lam Akol's phrase. GOSS economic advisors or decision makers shall think twice about their dependency on Khartoum for Southern survival. Unless we pretend, Khartoum shall do everything in its power to ensure instability in the Government of Southern Sudan. Southern Sudan in this situation needs to do more in its income generating boards; a need to expanse tax basis and a total revamp of its levies methods. If for instance it means to increase taxes for PIT (personal income tax) to 30%, so be it. The same could be applied to other macroeconomic regulations, be it interest rate, excise duties, VAT etc.

Secondly, GOSS needs to reduce its wastages or reckless spending. The government should tighten its expense outlets and ensures that our little income goes for intended purposes. The Majut's Uganda' Project type of assistances must cease. Finance Minister hands are to be tight and cartel: that man economic experiences are begging. There is further need to strengthen and even appoint Auditor General from renown or serious economists who are currently residing in Europe or America. Creativity is lacking here. There has to be interrelation between this office and that of the Attorney General (Legal Affairs Ministry). Auditors Chambers mandate is devoid of 'jam' that could have link them together. Anti Corruption Bill again should be hastened by Parliamentarians to allow this unit to carry out its mission with urgency. Once the two bodies above take off, we shall see big heads rolls and perhaps the return of chunk of money they have looted from public funds.

GOSS Offices that were literally turned into bars and restaurants are eventually going to revert to their original purposes-offices. How do we intend to be productive and rebuild our land when our offices are becoming 'hotels'? Imagine a set of large TV, a fridge stuff with all kinds of drinks (beer included) and food and a huge space for idlers to gossip, what do you really think is happening in that office? Waste of resources and hence good that the money is delayed to help our government changes its unproductive habits. That was just 'by the way'.

Third, leadership needs to speed up demobilization within our regular forces. There are men and women who shouldn't be there in those forces but eat up large budget unnecessary. Some are too old and others are young or untrained; they should be given other opportunities to help themselves and leave our force free from

underlings. I'm not talking here about wounded heroes, but those who never fit to have uniform, even others who just join army on economic reason. If for instance we have around 10,000 of them, during Referendum time in 2011, we should have saved 116 m (29 months@ 400\$@ 10,000).

We got to look at money value. Dr. Pius Subek (Juba Commissioner) destruction of markets in Juba is an example of economic ignorance of our leadership in Juba. Those shops could have been tapped to pay our services and as its not enough the government could not think of compensating individuals who lost millions of pounds in the demolition. After all nothing is going to fix on those places in the short run.

Another by the way. Let's hypothesize further just to wrap up: what if the NCP extend their 'sanction' to six months, what would happen in the South? Many things and on top is the collapse of GoSS; where will the CPA be? I believe you can agree with me that anything is possible under the sun so long as human being has interest to satisfy. To declare independence, or shout at our roof tops or curse won't change our presence situation that is connected with Khartoum. That is a reality check!

Khartoum holds our future and prudent that we court their attention and partnership. We must not live in the denial that nothing will happen if we continue to pinch, conspire or play double standard against Khartoum. Therefore, it's incumbent upon us to remember wise words from a brilliant thinker in the person of Dr. Riek Machar that our partnership with the NCP is strategic and a necessity. Dr. James Okuk has echoed on similar line for a need to have both peace partners walk together. I urge then our radicals to keep their ambers under control and keep limping with the NCP party. The journey is almost over, and its time to lean on each other. If one partner is in trouble, the other should stand up to support until at a time when we shall all be convinced that the journey is indeed over. It's time to tune down and leave Al Bashir and Kiir to complete the journey.

We have important issues to address collectively by both parties. Issues that concern the whole country not part of it. Both sides need to show political and leadership over census results and process leading to election. They got to close up their differences over Abyei International Court of Justice case and the border demarcation impasse. There is no time to waste.

Some politicians (Northerners mainly), pretenders, spoilers and electrical or media houses opposed to the NCP who are relentlessly campaigning to destroy the CPA are ask to go slow. They should use their resources including time on matters that build up and restore peace for the whole country. Nothing is going to change even if the arrest warrant is issued against the Sudanese President; they might as well be shocked. No amount of press releases and shouting shall stop Al Bashir from finishing the job he has started. He will still rule next year and after. People are tired of monotonous headlines about ICC; that body will plunge our land to turmoil.

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OCAMPO, AWAY WITH YOUR LUNACY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 6, 2009

ICC Prosecutor (Luis Ocampo) remarks-beating of chest - about so-called cooperation by Western induced countries on his decision against the Sudanese President is not only dangerous to the stability of this country but has far reaching consequences on international relations between those who called themselves rich and others they termed as poor (less developed countries). When this man opens his mouth, I see flax that requires psychiatrist. Mr. Ocampo has made a name through his obsession to nail President Al Bashir, under superficial legal grounds. He has forgotten the moral gem behind his refractory legal prosecution. Being a defendant, President Al Bashir team requires no bullying. Away and enough with your legal hullabaloo against the head of our government.

The whole country isn't ready for more crisis at the moment; the country has been hard hit during its times in the wilderness. Blackmailing at this stage isn't acceptable. Your sponsors' intention is well known and documented; Sudanese don't take it anymore as legal matter, but something else. Mr. Ocampo you are insulting our sovereignty, allow us to heal. How many times has it been advised that the country still reel from its own political dilemmas? Why do you insist on stoke fire on an already burning house? Justice can wait, but peace. Mr. Ocampo, what are you doing will backfire on you in not a long distance. You have been asked to go slow because the case against a sitting head of state is webbed and so complex, particularly at situations like the Sudan. It's difficult if not impossible to execute it without ramifications. Wait until he retires, please! Allow us a space for the country to pull away from its current status.

Don't care that we have an election next year and majority of the Sudanese want this man back into power, what do you make of this? You see efforts are matured for peace in Darfur and problems between the NCP and the SPLM is under control, why is it by the way do you to ignore our context. Our situation requires gentle approach not under ground schemes from Washington and London. People are tired of your mouthy against the head of our state. Who are you to poke your ugly nose on him if we say he must do his job? You in fact not a friend to Darfuris of Sudanese in general, but an enemy, out to scuttle stability of this country (destabilized). Who do you think would bring criminals to justice in Darfur when the head of state himself in indicted?

Your prosecution of five top commanders Argentinians and the then head of military junta there (Gen. Guillermo Suarez) can't be replicated in the case of the Sudan. Sudanese (saved for those activists) are requesting you to understand our context. Sudanese will judge Al Bashir and bring him to justice, not you. We can't all surely be fools to have this man leading us. Time to account isn't yet come; when we shall refuse him and ask him to defend himself. Not just him, but others who commit atrocities against other regions in the Sudan. Al Bashir moreover isn't the criminal; he was attacked first by the rebels who had their bases among civilians. What do you think will happen in that situation? Kindly take first the big fish to the dock, not Al Bashir. A selective justice is injustice. People want the Western machinations to stop; Africa isn't a place for mad lawyers to experiment legal practice. Your homework on matters of legality is wanting.

Look, the Argentine trials were triggered by a truth commission formed in 1984 which in eight (8) good months investigated 700 state sanctioned murdering, kidnappings, and torture. In Darfur, the state didn't sanction anything, there were more than one group operating outside government control. This fact you won't run away with. But that trial in Argentine was meticulous, efficient gathering of evidences was standard by the Prosecution, which called more than 800 witnesses and presented thousands of documents in courts. Now in our case in Darfur that is a sharp contrast. The pompous who prides himself to be against the top always, went instead to the web sites, political activists and imperialists to be given the 'evidences' he wants to carry out the legal demeanour against the defenceless. From 2003 (time of your appointment) to date you have undermined everything including your career man.

Mr. Ocampo, President Omar Hassan Al Bashir is an elected head of state and by insisting on your ignorance, you are as much inciting the entire nation that elected him against you, and by large Washington. He will be elected back to the office next year before your eyes, whether Washington/London likes it or not. Though the South still has some problems with Al Bashir, your humiliation can't be left unchecked. We stand with our President. Give us a break, you are a stooge. By the way, why didn't Uncle Sam sign up for ICC if there wasn't conspicuous thing in the cooking? Darfur is recovering and people are preparing for election, what do you want Mr. Ocampo? We need peace now not justice; one thing at a time! Africa must wake up! Down with USA, Down with imperialism! Down with Ocampo! Long live Sudan!

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MR. PRESIDENT RESCINDS SPLM-DC BAN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 29, 2009

The First Vice President of the Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, His Excellency Lt. Salva Kiir Mayardit has roared by using a decree to ban the SPLM faction led by Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin. That is, the SPLM -DC party political activities aren't needed in the Southern soil- in the ten states of Southern Sudan, in the April next year elections. This comes at a hot heel of a major political alliance among Southern political forces by filling one presidential candidate in the person of Dr. Lam Akol. Now that the presidential candidate has been bandied as unwanted, that camp is technically in to trouble. The DC is in court and situation down here is tense, with equal measure of those against and for.

To begin with, my conscience bleeds with nondescript of what this madness will lead us in the long run. The political trump card that portrays the DC as NCP mole doesn't add up to what we have cherished all along, namely the right of expression and association. Our law documents (constitutions) were written to safe guard the interest of the minority. If they chose what suits them, why do we (say SPLM) stand in their way? Isn't that not what we recant as leaders when they swear an oath? I don't know whether advisors of our President knew what they were doing by going against the grain of basics rights and democracy in our virgin land. The first liberal activity after window of opportunity had opened big and wide, must not be torpedoed by few individuals who are spine shivered for no reason at all. The advisors have reduced our leader to a punching bag in an attempt to score a political point against the entire opposition groupings that refused to endorse Mr. Kiir. They did an excellent job, because you can't reward a leader under glaring decimal ratings.

I sympathize with our brothers and sisters in the opposite camp and here plea before our president to repeal the unjustified, and barbaric so called directives against the SPLM-DC (opposition). It doesn't make sense, even if we don't deny that the DC is being sponsored by the NCP. And so what? What will they do with that money in the South that has gone tucked into our hands? The advisors have given Dr. Lam and the company a reason to boycott the election, a scenario that might put the election exercise into disarray. Yet deep within me, I know Comrade Lam Akol Ajawin can't betray our cause and turn 10 million charged Southerners to vote for unity, save may be for Dr. Riek Gai Khok and Ali Tamim Fartak group. We can't create problems to ourselves at this hour. Even an individual vote counts.

Mr. President, don't buy the idea that the DC is a security threat to our people. That is a lie. Leave Comrade Lam Akol alone to try it out with you at the ballot, if he wins fine but chances are that you will retain your seat over the heap of an opposition pressure, since the man who is loved by man (Dr. Machar) has decided to stand

behind you. Please sir these are tough times, the world will not take your rhetoric about democracy serious anymore, you will be isolated. Many even within your SPLM party will secretly take the matter and use it against you, in 2011 when we shall chart out our new nation. We need unity of our people; unity is key to our success. Southerners from all walks of lives should be together same way we were in the 1972 under Joseph Lagu. Let's unite like Dinka and the Khartoum will be irrelevance. But also a strong political opposition is good, its an eye opener, it will help your ailing government. People shouldn't panic.

Generally however, what is it that we should decipher from the presidential decree against the SPLM-DC? Well, for starters, the DC isn't the problem but the NCP. The SPLM grills on the NCP due to the stand off on national issues, has spilled over to the opposition. That is perhaps the place where the rain starts beating us. It has no bearing on anything down here or within the DC camp. The ban is in fact against the NCP. The DC is victimized because the NCP and the SPLM have had their smothering war that will cost and cause troubles to the overall political picture in the country (CPA). We have seen how the two has drawn up daggers to go on each other throats even on trivial matters already in the fine-tuning. I fear now for the status of the entire CPA under such circumstances. The NCP is pondering of making similar move in the North and if it happens, then we shall have crisis beyond our control. May be President of the Republic and that of the NCP and Ustaz Ali Osman Taha need to stick their neck out and stop the hard line that brews from Dr. Mustafa Ishmael and Dr. Nafie Ai Nafie. Don't give the SPLM an exit strategy/excuse to boycott an election. Already their hands are full with problems as to who should go to contest against the President of the Republic.

Down here, there is another lie that says the other Southern political groups are free to contest this election. This is a hoax and hocus-pocus at best. How will the opposition regroup after such a stripe? Referendum and the election laws must be discerned from the prospective of fall out between the two camps (the SPLM and the NCP). This should be avoided and tolerance embraces. How can Dr. Lam be a threat and others aren't? In what way?

The opposition has few options therefore and would urge them to soldier on and lobby. Mr. Kiir is a good listener. There is no need to boycott and election, we know it has already been rigged in advance, but at the start like in our situation, a dictatorial seed can't be allowed to take a foot hole. Democracy could have been allowed to wait but given the look of things, few individuals are making fool of many in the name of liberation through Khartoum. In another word, the lull others by an outdated political fashion any defective comes from Khartoum. For the sake of many (generation after us), let's stand together not as Bari, Azande, Dinka, Toposa, Anyuak, Nuer etc, but as Southerners against evil forces of bad governance, injustice and inequality. Long live the SPLM!

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SEPARATE REFERENDUM TALKS FROM ELECTION PROCESS

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 14, 2009

The highest political echelon of the party (SPLM Political Bureau) has met and decided not to accept Machar-Taha proposed agreement on referendum. It was a crucial meeting vis-à-vis NCP position on Referendum and elections. Call it a crisis meeting and may be rightfully so. The SPLM was face with serious choices of bowing to the NCP unnerved positions and that of the USA's push for regime change. The air was already filled with ominous speculations, one of which the SPLM might announce a boycott or pull out from the upcoming general election altogether, in revenge to isolate further the President who is accused (allegedly) of having masterminded killings in the region of Darfur, the human right lie the big boys (Westerners) prank to confuse third world countries, when in fact the agenda lies with economic and political brief. The others (rumors) were internal sensitive matters of who should be elected to contest as candidate for the party, as well as the endorsement of Mr. Al Mahdi of the Umma party as an overall candidate of the Juba All Parties Groups. Fortunately however, none of the above, except an amorphous stand that calls for rejection of the proposal, with the hope that the other side must climb down. I stand with my leaders and give them my utmost appreciation for job well done. But granted, the issues at hand weren't laughing matters; they were just hot potatoes. Why? Because we were asked by the giver to take it or leave it- eat a humble pie.

I just want to remind our President, His Excellency Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit to stand firm in the midst of current crisis. By the beginning of this month, our President has started to wear our look and this is commended! Sir, your no to second citizenship product is indeed a no with capital n. You will be our Joshua right to the Promised Land, if you keep the banner our march for freedom undiluted/undisrupted. Thank you sir! One thing though is of prime importance: stop Mr. Amum and his cohorts from dancing the tune of the holier than thou Uncle Sam fuddy-duddy. There is time for everything, and at this time, Sudanese need peace and dialogue, not conspiracies and hostilities against Khartoum. Something ought to be done to avoid going back to square one. Washington and the Turabi/JEM have colluded to wreck the CPA using Darfur tragedy as a clever ruse. Benydit, think about this, the very one you once asked: if Washington made her way and power changes hands in Khartoum, what will be the fate of the CPA under a new political orientation?

Mr. President, don't lose focus, the Southern public opinion is with you; never bank on theories that touted the idea of renegotiating the CPA to accommodate Darfur and other interests of power hungry politicians. Please sir, as the sun comes up from

the West to the East at its time, the standards and dictates of the CPA, will deliver new Sudan in another name. The ever insistence by a few to create new Sudan over the bones of our fallen 2 millions lives, using contours that are foreign based is injurious and an insult to our heroes, from 1955 in Torit under our great martyr Fr. Saturino right to the time of De Mabior and his colleagues (Kerubino, William, Oduho, Nyachigak, Arok, Kulang, Manyiel, Majier etc). I know who you are, right from (my) Moon Light Formation in Itang to you overseeing training in Bongo, then to Tiger Battalion as a commander. When Garang was killed, we turned our hope on you. You suited the seat and in fact you started on a right footing. You have been (are) tough and true and this has earned you a place among many freedom fighters. Your non-tribal scripts and the ride on judicious mastery have then distinguished you among others at the top. May be that was then. But sir, your own eyes have seen the depth of our commitment against coming together with Arabs. Stop those black sheep among us who are in the school of Mading Deng Majok. Stand with the NCP even if the going seemed to be impossible anymore. President Al Bashir will not fail! Take it from this small and unimportant author. History must be avoided from happening again. Listen to the words of wisdom from Uncle Bona Malwal Madut.

To Political Bureau: now, that you have announced rejecting the Machar-Taha deal, what is the next viable step from there, in relation to that important exercise? Your tone sounds is remarkable to that of Dr. Al Turabi and the Sadiq Al Mahdi, did you agree behind our back to do away with the NCP and the CPA altogether and if yes, then come clean on the way forward in written. It seems as if you have hijacked the process leading to peace in Sudan in response to Hillary call to unite Sudan. Kindly rise to the challenge and reconsider your stand that is widely going to widen the rift between the two of you. Even if no one denies that the NCP are wrong given the physical environmental challenges the South will find itself in to conduct the exercise, your prejudices against the NCP have taken over the process and this is not friendly in the long run.

The party big wigs whose political popularity rates go higher once they shout the loudest against the NCP are spoiled for the big fall out. These men characteristically don't feel the pain of going public with a lie. Last night a huge figure went public that a fugitive must be arrested first before people go for election. What a gamble! If one connects together the unsaid/dots it is possible to run away with the feeling that the SPLM is ahead with a project to withdraw from the election. I don't think a right-minded person can call for Al Bashir arrest when the same man called Bashir has opened up his 'wallet' and 'chair' to make room for this apologist to drive a huge car and other accompanies. Call him by any name, but Omar de Clerk must be left alone to complete peace in Southern Sudan and to return displaced persons from camps in Darfur (next year inshallah).

The Bureau therefore must be reminded of few things as they go on to please their western backers, the USA, France and Britain. They got to be mindful about the aspiration of the people of Southern Sudan first and foremost. Once must start from

the constituency it represents. No matter the West attractive new Sudan through Kiir installment in Khartoum by dropping Al Bashir, our leaders should not be in a hurry to jump to bed with Northerners when their hands are still wet with our blood. Our people have suffered a great deal and moments like these ones (under CPA tutelage) are rarely easy to come by. After all, who knows whether the crash (changing regime) would be easy to achieve anything similar to the CPA arrangement. Boycott of the election should not be given attention at all, if the SPLM intention is driving slowly there. The party represents a stake of people who never had opportunities in life and this is their time under His Excellency the President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir. Looking around compare to where we came from, we should thank that god-man of Nazareth for his love for everyone.

If the fear of President Kiir losing out in the upcoming once he contests against Al Bashir, then we aren't serious. This issue needs not to be allowed to temper with an important step called election leading to Referendum. We strongly urged the SPLM top brass to think again. Projecting a junior, furthermore, to contest an election with Al Bashir in this particular meeting won't help matters. Our home political temperatures on these matters are matters to concern anyone if this project sees the light. I am so encouraged however about the belatedly good working relationship between benydit (Gen. Kiir) and kuar madit (Dr. Machar); this is indeed beautiful and gives both the credit. The two needs each other for the sake of smooth transition later from Kiir to Machar. Even there is a need for them to work together with Madame Rebecca Garang, she is huge and has a lot the two can benefit instead of isolating her while the chiefs from Northern Bahr El Ghazal have taken firmly her position. Others include Mr. Abel Alier, Gen. Joseph Lagu and Dr. Gama Hassan, Dr. Zachariah Boll Deng among other members of the then High Executive Council.

Having said few remarks above, am optimistic that the likes of Mr. Nhial Deng, Mr. Pagan Amum, John Luk Joak, Dr. Samson Kwaje, Michael Makuei, Dr. Ann Itoo, Dr. Joyce Kwaje and others, who participated in the Naivasha Peace talks from day one, will not burry their heads when crop of new leaders who never had opportunity to test how difficult its to make peace than war. Its true being disenfranchised is painful, but still there is need to finish the job in the face of difficulties. So long as the ballot boxes and the exercise will be done in the South, there is no big deal to worry too much. We will arrive at 66% by ballot box or through other painful means (Gen. Oth's boxes). Other areas of post independence financial compensation and arrangements are also not big issues. Our beloved Vice President hasn't blinked and flinched in his marathon talks with Vice President Ustaz Osman Mohamed Al Taha. Don't betray him; he knows what he is doing, please! If he agrees who are you to say no? He cares for this land so much and has done great to what we know now as GOSS. Everything there therefore doesn't require pulling away; it will give the NCP hardliners to finish off the agreement in total. Nothing even will stop if the party pulls out, the election will go ahead as planned.

Before you go, your indulgence, the process has started somewhat very promising, especially within our ten states. The President has encouraged people to come out and his call has been heeded. Some states of course are still struggling to get their registration practices done on time, but others are ahead with high turn out. Question of our brothers and sisters in our sister states of East Africa is nonetheless a case worth attention. We have enough young students and even families who want to be part of the historical exercise but they are being denied their rights to participate. The selective policy by the National Election Commission (NEC) on the behest of the NCP to use few countries in Europe and America to represent Diaspora votes is something that must be rejected, and need rectification immediately. You never know, this will spill over to Referendum voting in the same manner. I applaud the action of our patriotic youths/students, who staged that demonstration in Nairobi-Kenya on Thursday, in protest against the unjust treatment by the NEC. His Excellency the Ambassador of the Sudan to Kenya, a Southerner (Mr. Majok Guandong), was biased and should be advised to be extra careful next time. We can go and on to recount issues that are pertinent, situations in which we can hold the NCP party responsible, nevertheless, it's prudent to weigh consequences of our actions as to the ultimate objective. Our leaders are urged to fight for accommodation under the current CPA structure tan run to Washington never coming heavens!

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KIIR MOVE ON SOUTHERN CAUSE IS LAUDABLE!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 8, 2009

The President of Southern Sudan Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit move on our future in Kator-Juba on the 31/10/2009 heralds the way forward as far as Southern Sudan cause is concerned. There is no better time than this one for our leader to lead the way. Often time we (leaders) stop short of coming to the open with the subject and this is not being fair to our ourselves and others. What makes the Information Minister to contradict the Southern public and the president on this matter? Being black and white at the same time is too bad and is called hypocrisy. We aren't hypocrites; we have our objectives firmly engraved in our hearts- quest for freedom. It's a huge thing. The earth and heaven are witnesses of our intention. Big issues such as this one (Southern cause) don't require double-face agents; if it's burning anyone fingers, it burns, there is no any reason to attempt to run away from the obvious. Whether the President words were naked or not, the fact remains: the unity of the Sudan under the desired or prevailing circumstances is unattainable.

The President has hit the right button at its time (for emphasis purposes) and my hat goes down in his respect. In fact, everyone not just our leader is duty bound to do the

same, there is no need to wait until next year to start campaigning. No one knows what issues the election next year might bring. There is an uncertainty in the air. Time is up to drum up a huge campaign about the Referendum exercise-called it civic education, even before the Referendum Bill is out. Our big man, the Vice President on his part is doing everything in his power to avert crisis at hand and believe he will deliver! The message on referendum exercise must be hammered home in two fold: one is curse be unto anyone who will vote for unity and the other is to fix people that eventualities are facts of life, and if they do, we must be prepared for Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI). Whether unity is attractive or not, that isn't our business, the march is unstoppable.

Let's detour a while before we return to our argument. Mading Deng Majok and the company are on the scuttle scheme and our people must be on the look out throughout the coming few months. Dr. Mading, one emotive piece of your statement remains premonition and against what our people in Abyei think:

"I have been a strong supporter of unity, but on the basis of full equality and a shared sense of belonging to the nation, with pride and dignity as citizens. I have also supported the right of Self-Determination for the South, not because I wanted the South to secede, but in order to motivate the national leadership, specifically in the North, to create appropriate conditions that would make unity appeal to South..."

Your caveat conclusion parts moreover were just malignant fractions and a terse altogether. Here you are:

"Can anything be done at this late hour to make unity attractive to Southern voters in the Self-Determination Referendum?", and "what can be done to anticipate the worse case scenarios in the event of the South voting for independence...?"

Well, the learned estranged brother could be right given his democratic right to express his opinion in any best way possible, but is that the currency in Abyei land now? I doubt whether the people of Abyei share the same sentiments like that of Dr. Francis Mading Deng. These are his own convictions and no one would be inclined to intimidate him yes, yet its in the record that this man doesn't know anything about the South or even Abyei or has contributed anything to both in his lifetime. Mading Deng should have been the last person to challenge the CPA tenets given the gains the people of Abyei received through it. Mading Deng, gets this right, and not only just to you but your company: if you dare step foot into the South, you would be dead! The South belongs to Southerners and aliens are asked to shut their hells up. Wasn't the old man (Dengdit Biong) betrayal anything enough to shame you? Who says the South needs roads, bridges and what have you to make it part of the Sudan? Pockets of unionists in our midst are hereby warned sternly to stop entertaining unity cramp. We mean our words!

Back to our argument. What is it that forces our tall minister for information to get so thin before Dr. Mandour Al Mahdi? Who is he in the first place to talk loudly against our President on this matter? But brothers Arabs, when will you leave us alone? The case before you (the Southern future) have been settled, and we urge you to hold your breath while we vote- until a miracle happen at the ballot box on your favor. Dr. Mandour contempt is a sheer hoary; we have been there for several decades and therefore excusable for his stripe against the Southern public. That is to say, so long as this salvo comes from our sworn adversary, and not from our own brothers, there is no much fuss about it. May be his rants are precipitating, meant to provoke the Southern opinion. The South is ahead on those, if I might brag. We need peaceful disengagement with our brothers Arab; we would love it like that.

One thing though must be made clear, we are at a political infuses mood/atmosphere and therefore proper to politicize everything. Our President ought to talk and even go full blast using the same script all over again; he must not fear anyone, but God. He should not be silenced. People can't go it alone without leaders behind them. Someone must guide them. Time for political chicanery are long gone, we need to get down into materials. As you (Gen. Kiir) do it, you got to be artistic and imaginative like Dr. John Garang de Mabior (smart), but steadfast and sincere as to truth. Politicians are to be creative and focused because of interests they represent.

On a related token moreover, the SPLM in its current position of being in the position will hurt us much. The pressure they think would change things might actually complicate them further. At the moment we know what to do and threats that are externally engineered are recipe for disaster as to our cause. There is an urged need from many Southerners that the SPLM must now drop its hardline position on the election issues; we don't have huge stage there (elections)- its on the short run. Referendum dispute is on details or fine-tuning only. Is there any big issue to take the two camps to war? I don't think so. As talk now, the NCP has taken a stand and unless by chance anything happen, there is likelihood of breakdown of the entire peace agreement spirit and subsequently the end of the CPA. These issues aren't difficult to overcome.

The 66% quota proposed through Machar-Taha Accord on Referendum outcome will not be manipulated, as suggested by others. Fears of interference there are technically baseless. Issues related to elections must be separated from Referendum's. Fighting them both at the same time again isn't intelligent. Please people, don't take things that way and expect people to support you, climb down and start talking. Don't stand on the way to Referendum SPLM; give a break to your countenances and small chalice when crucial matters are stake. Show responsibility, you have a role to play, no just the NCP. Imagine the US Envoy left with you negative in his cards, why do you insist threats after threats, did that change anything after the passing of the 30s deadline? Dialogue and compromise have brought us this far. We have come a long way, almost to the finishing line.

President Al Bashir, President Kiir, Ustaz Osman Mohamed Taha and Dr. Riek Machar reign on your estranged officials and let the CPA live. People are tired of your lieutenants' lack of political etiquette. When men entered into an arrangement/agreement they must see it come to pass. Distractions shall always be there, but single mindedness and leadership are key to success. The two sides need each other for the sake of the peace in the country. Finish the good job you have started, don't bank on anyone to break the dead lock, you can do it. Clear the air, work cooperatively and join efforts for the smooth democratic transition leading to Referendum few months later. Fighting in the middle of nowhere is wrong.

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SOUTH SUDAN: NEVER LOSE HOPE ON AL-BASHIR!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 9, 2009

Since independence of the Sudan in January 1, 1956, the Sudan as a country has been engaged in crisis of political identification and an Islamic or Arabic classification vs. others. From Independence Prime Minister, Ishmael Al Azhari to self proclaimed Messiah of the Sudan, Imam Sadiq Abdul Rahaman Al Mahdi in 1989, the Sudan as a nation of nations failed to Sudanize its core identity (s), instead it has been juggled among different worlds ideologies, be it the West, the East or the Middle East (Arabic world). We had several major changes in our national constitution and we shall still see the same thing again and again as the trend of shifting is inherited from one ruling party to the other (read Juba All Parties Conference details). That search isn't bad though if there wasn't the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the South and the North. But to the credit, the National Congress Party (NCP) never searched Sudanese identity elsewhere; the party from the word go in June 1989 has its picture on what to do and how to do it; series of homegrown solutions to Sudanese crisis. CPA one among these series.

They have used whatever that is Sudanese to meet Sudanese identity or needs and here comes the slogan, "we dress from what we manufactured and eat from what we cultivated". That slogan is full of meaning and is nationalistic, than imported ones! It's not just about eating or dressing that the leaders who coined this dictum want to expose, but they were targeting the kind of self-actualization Sudan that shall have its own capacity to address things, without necessary sourcing it from anyone outside the country. That is a beautiful departure from the past and a good start for Sudanese themselves. Do we have one in Juba now? Waiting and always hanging out from the outside outsourcing has killed many African countries as their decisions and self

identity is guarded from the outside. There is danger when a country accepts others to fix troubles on their behalf.

Unless we forget, our people must not take things for granted. We owe His Excellency the President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, and by extension his ruling party, the National Congress Party (NCP); this despite human and capital damage his regime brought to the people of Southern Sudan. President Al Bashir unlike his predecessors is a man of his words, pockets of inconveniences notwithstanding. Looking carefully at how he has handled himself in the middle of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) related crisis or implementation low moments- a stage every one knew would be a tumultuous one- one can't help but to give credit where it's due. He has an impressive collection of what he is doing and this is very important in the process of implementing the CPA among other national burning issues.

The simple fact that he has resisted his own power houses to share power with 'infidels' and his pledge to attend Southern pyrrhic celebrations should the South goes independence in 2011 aren't small things to downplay because we are made to believe that everything negative, always comes from Arabs. May be that isn't the case with this Arab. Is that being quisling and sickness of inferiority, when we raise the bar in favour of Al Bashir and Arabs? Absolutely, not! Look, he treats our President His Excellency Gen. Salva Kiir with respect and dignity. The same is true with the agreement (CPA) itself; he esteemed it with a sense of responsibility and commitment even when we throw stones on him and his party, the NCP. He doesn't talk back against his partners (say publicly at least), something we failed to do as peace partners.

The NCP is a party to beat and should have been given accolade by non other than the Southern Sudanese themselves. President Al Bashir and the Vice President Ustaz Ali Osman Taha are the De Clerks of the Sudan. These men and many other leaders of that party such as Dr. Gudbi Al Mahdi, Dr. Ibrahim Abdul Ghader and Dr. Didiery Mohamed Al Ahmed were true architects of what we all know now as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); we would not forget them if the reality of that agreement in the clause of Self-Determination becomes true. The likes of Dr. Mustafa Ishmael, late Dr. Mujzoob Al Khalifa and Dr. Ghazi Salah El Din have resisted any concession to Southern Sudan in the form of Self Determination had it not the wise leadership of President Al Bashir and his friends. It took him courage and commitment to subdue those voices, in order to allow free choice for the people of Southern Sudan and Three Areas. But someone says if it wasn't war on terror, that was wage somewhere, escalation of violence in the West and East of the Sudan, the SPLA sustained military campaign and internal political rivalry within the NCP, the agreement wouldn't have been realized. I agree. Yet if it wasn't a willing seller nothing concrete we could be talking about it now (relative peace we all enjoy).

If someone could do you that favor, something so special like freedom, what else do you expect him to do to you? Why are our people so callous and ungrateful these days to deny that great offer from the hands of responsible leaders (Al Bashir and Al Taha)? Who else could have done it better from our previous leaders in the country? President Al Bashir unsurprisingly, is still under stern pressure from enemies of Southern Sudan to abrogate the CPA; he struck to his guns. In addition, there have been frustrations and sabotages from some incongruous and scrupulous SPLM and the NCP leaders, but President Al Bashir isn't Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri who bowed to pressure from his allies, friends or enemies. He had struck a deal and my conscience tells me that he will see it to the end; that is a kind of a leader you can't allow the international community to toss him around! Comrade Jacob Zuma of South African had played in to this game and the poor man disappointed! He had wanted us to confirm fears raised then by Bishop Desmond Tutu, about his leadership character.

We can go South, West, East or the North but Southern Sudan won't get a true friend and ally like President Al Bashir and his party, the National Congress Party. The current leadership in Juba headed by the SPLM ought therefore to go slow on the NCP and its leader. I thought Envoy Scott Grattion had whispered something about the same issue- need for cordial relationship between the two partners. The SPLM shouldn't prostitute itself just to win the favour of the West. The West involvement in any initial stages like ours can't be any guarantee. Their terms are in consistence and are bad!

The NCP is our partner; why is that onslaught and never ending attacks from the SPLM itself go against this party? Why is that easy to blame every problem on this party when we actually never showed ourselves at our own backyards? Take for example the unfortunate incident yesterday where our President was reported to have been shot dead by unknown assailant; we took this party responsible for the sad rumor, but perhaps the informer could be among us who spread it. The SPLM must dramatize it, such things are not uncommon. What benefit would it bring to the people of Southern Sudan if we lose the NCP partnership/ Which other party in the North is ready to shoe into the NCP's on our interests? Do we have anything in common beside our skin color with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)? They have prayed (and even acted) to ensure that the CPA collapses.

How is the Popular Congress Party (PCP) of Dr. Abdullah Al Turabi different from JEM? What of UMMA [arty, what is new and special that will surpass the NCP Self Determination for the people of Southern Sudan and the people of Abyei? I don't think we shall get any better arrangement under any political party or sect, besides the NCP.

Do not tell me 'but the NCP has never implemented the CPA fully'; what implementation are we talking here when we have almost the entire paper

implemented. If we believe that to date the two partners have achieved 90% aspects of that agreement, then why don't we equally believe in its margin of error on the 10% that is unimplemented? We have passed all the necessary modules and annexes or modalities that are so pertinent in that agreement (CPA). We are at critical last stages and in my thinking they aren't difficult to manage.

There is a feeling, which shows that we have been treating the NCP with disdain or with disrespect. We rush and quickly pick up at an elementary to make us feel good about being nationalist. That mindset with its predisposition makes us too simplistic in the eyes of others including ourselves. May be we have been expecting much and only becoming too much on our partner on issues it has no control over. I don't know whether it's the right time to start being impatience to lose hope in them, rather its expected of us to work closely with the entire North represented by the NCP per the CPA.

On the NCP side however, they must not stretch things too far. They got to climb down from 70% to 50% on referendum legible percentage needed to declare a win. The NCP few hardliners must understand that there are no (will be no) any mathematical or statistical errors on what percentage to make the South go. 10% will carry the day, over a dead or a living body of a Southerner. Even if you fix the number to be 99.9%, the South will make it. Don't waste your time and energy on this please! Spare the country and stand with the President, he's genuine. Secondly, the party should repeal 1997 draconic security laws for elections purposes. A level ground for political players is critical for elections to be credible. Harassment of political and human right activists are issues on these laws that require urgent attention.

My dear people, let's have patience, it pays. Frequent bashing President and his party won't help us, not in any bit! Whatever issues we think are on the table, our beloved Vice President (the president in waiting in fact) and our President Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit are working round the clock. The CPA shall not be trashed like the Addis Ababa Agreement in their watch. We must not fall in to a trap laid by outsiders who are always on lip service, those who preach water and sip wine. Internal option is always the best. The people of South Sudan have tasted the bitterness of life and its high time to trust someone who is ready to relief us. The personality called Omar Hassan Al Bashir even in our books, we shall remember if his past is anything to go by. Let's not conspire to spill his blood, for no reason at this point in time. The time for wishing him dead is long gone; allow others to do it. His deal is good, too good! We ought to forgive and forget. NCP Oyee! SPLM Oyee! CPA Oyee! John Junub, Mary Boyi, Emma Lasu give them another number (song) or numbers on the CPA, they are forgetting.

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MACHARPHOBIA AND MACHARMANIA ARE UNNECESSARY

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

I have observed with pain the level in which we are taking our nation as we debate on the SPLM Presidential candidature impasse. As a nation and people of this beautiful land called Southern Sudan, we must be careful unless we drift away on matters that are squarely manageable. There is a temptation in the making that we might actually throw away what we already have, through our misguided wrangling, leaving our opponents in Khartoum to regroup. I thought we were debating national issues devoid of our mothers and sisters, an issue that concern one particular individual at the top. The matter has taken a wrong turn had it not that the leadership in Juba- for their credit- have stayed focused in the storm, and are concentrating on big issues of national importance, such as the referendum, security and elections laws. The Vice President is busy on CPA matters with the NCP demagogues, while our President is on consultative push through engagement with other political parties. H. E. Gen. Gier Chuang of the Interior is doing his best along side Jonglei State Authorities to quell tribal unrest around that state.

Let's quickly get into what is this little letter. I have three messages to two extremists on both side of our current debate on the SPLM Presidential quandary, one of which goes to the Macharmania group and two to Macharphobia group, as well as a word to the party (the SPLM) and a request. To the first group, there is a need to slow down; you aren't doing any good to Dr. Machar Presidential bid, even if we all seemed to have strong reasons to cut pieces of our bodies for him. Dr. Machar Presidential drive needs no extremism, he has supporters across our communities, and the same way Gen. Kiir has supporters among Nuer community. Efforts from extremists will not give him an edge over Gen. Kiir, but collective efforts will do. In simple term, the group needs to cease from taking position on the basis of Nuer vs. Dinka. That is not the case. Even among the Dinka community the man can beat Kiir hand down. These are one people separately by history. I might be wrong but it looks like a good percentage from each side come from the other. Their ways of doing things are the same, and see no difference in them. But essentially a leader can be from anywhere, tribe as a background does make someone a leader. In the SPLM to be precise, there are no tribes but SPLM/As; this has been the habit even if we still don't deny some pockets of tribal gongs and tongs then and there.

Macharphobians on the other hand must not spoil the good intention of pushing out a failed leader called Salva Kiir Mayardit; he must be replaced by a caring and a visionary one. Don't just caught up in fear when you hear Dr. Machar name, its just too bad for you, there is no basis for doing this. Not at all! For the good of Southern Sudan and the generation to come, the man at the moment is this 'dhol' called Dr.

Riek Machar Teny Dhorgun. He is a quintessence of Singapore Yew Khem Yew, the man who pulled out that country less than forty years ago, from nowhere to somewhere in the world economic and prosperous map. Please let's try him despite his past records. In fact it wasn't him but elements at that time, within his group that took advantage of a well to do political course to cause mayhem and destruction to our people.

Someone spoil my day few nights ago, and If I were the God of Ezekiel I would have killed him and breath life back to his bones. By wishing death to this special gifted man, what was in the mind of this fellow Southerner to write something like that? We don't want to lose a single person in that hierarchy of the SPLM, Garang and other scores of our leaders are enough the price. Please! please! Stop talking like that again! May Almighty God be with each of our leader anywhere he will be! Amen! Perhaps this Kawaja called James Thumber was right when he said: " don't look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness". Its high time to fixed our eyes on big thing, we can't write our past right, but we can do better today for tomorrow sake.

We are stuck in the middle of nowhere and something must be done. A caliber of Dr. Machar is badly needed in our fertile and virgin land of ours. He has no intention of sidelining anyone, just to assure those who are grip with phobia. Everyone would be treated equally; he is disciplined and if he goes for something he goes for it with all his might. Why fear him? If you are preoccupied on what to do with Mr. Kiir, even me, am also concern about him and respect him given his steadfast contributions to our struggle, but I believe Machar Presidency won't dump him; he will play his part as a revolutionary founder of our liberation movement. The country is bigger than an individual; we have heard this anywhere, right? Nothing communal just to repeat myself, unless someone would want to drag us there. Its purely patriotic thing we can do as members of our beloved land. Each of our tribe is beautiful with shortcomings notwithstanding. We have paid the brunt of the struggle equally and deserved honor.

The second message is in the form of a question (s): seriously speaking, what do you have in mind when you say Gen. Kiir must be left alone? Left alone to do what that he didn't do while in office for the past four years? Do not tell stories here and scapegoat game. Do you want us to count his blunders since he came to power? It's just that people are economical with facts! It defeats me therefore to believe this reason in that stark dent; because we don't have time for idlers and pretenders. We aren't going back to elementary of running back to our communities when face with facts, we are almost masters of our own destiny, everything is on our disposal, who stopped us from delivering services.

Some of us are comfortable with the current situation, but surely they are flirting with ignorance; they got to aim high and this is important for national building. So when we talk of Kiir failures we don't create it out of nothing, the slap dash by GOSS

isn't what people expect. Yes they have something in their drawers, just in papers, but again its insufficient. We want program of action on socio-economic development and services, we want democracy in its true color, we want accountability, transparency and good governance in place today, we want peace across our counties and payams, we want equality and justice and the rule of the law, inter alia That is why change is needed, in case someone would ask why change.

Then now to the SPLM. They got to show leadership and responsibility in the presidential candidature issue. Keeping quiet because its hot potato won't help but brews the unexpected. In the first place, the matter shouldn't be allowed to tear the party part, when we know what to do. The party ought to fear none; they must face the Chairman to clear the air. Time isn't on our side moreover. The apathy of being always dismissive must not be allowed in this particular case. It will be a disaster. Our society will split once again and this will have a catastrophic impact on our future in 2011. Memories of SPLM DC are still fresh, Dr. Akol has perfectly sliced away the counties of Panyikaang, Fashoda, Malakal and Manyo, even if we still being flattered of support there. These people were chased away and this again has to be avoided. Dr. Lam has no personal problem with anyone, even ideologically; his heart is still with the Southern Sudan cause. He was maliciously sidelined for no apparent reasons at all. Even now am still of the opinion that this faction of the SPLM should be returned back. It's good we do so.

To wrap it after that long reading, there is no better way than for the big man to sacrifice for the good of our people; he has few options on his side, to be exact. On both ends nothing will work in his favor. Keeping the Southern Presidency on the expense of the Sudanese Presidency will deprive him of the Chairmanship, but how will he keep it (Southern Presidency) without being the Chairman of the party? If he goes to Khartoum seat, the South shall have its own Presidential contest with his name out of the boxes. Some of colleagues have argued on the same line before. So, what do we do? Well, since the extremists on both side of our society have hijacked the noble objective of peaceful removal of Kiir, and have embarked on sowing machetes seeds instead, the unpopular option is for the SPLM to drop the presidential quest al together, by supporting the NCP party Presidential candidate (not any Northerner opposition group). That is, preservation of the status quo or current arrangement. However Gen. Kiir must be placed on an interim capacity until Jan. 2011 during Referendum, to allow fresh election for a new national leader for a new nation. What are your thoughts on this?

Request: we need a day of prayer for our nation! Are you there Bishop Lukudu, Bishop Deng, Moderator Makuach, Abu sala? God bless us!

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DANGERS OF SPLM DEBATE ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATURE

ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (The SPLM) has ran into trouble as to who should go to contest against President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir of the National Congress Party (NCP) in the slated April next year general elections. The troubles as we all read from earlier this year has so much to do with theories and conspiracies other than an election per se. But the SPLM in its open and underground meetings and consultations failed to agree on the way forward- who should go as a party torchbearer. No wonder the party has struggled in vain to accommodate different options to bail itself out of the crisis, until it shifted to the media and here we are being left with public guesses, one of which Mr. Malik Aggar of the Blue State has featured and claimed to be a compromise candidate. I don't know however how could that be done with ease.

Before we argued further on the consequences of this plan, let it be known categorically here that the scheme under which Mr. Kiir is reported to have declined to nominate himself or refuse to relinquish his Chairmanship role to his deputy, is a typical plot by certain section of society or certain community to play a hocus-pocus game against certain individual they think isn't 'proper' to take over the mantra of leadership for the Southern Sudan, when don't work out in Khartoum contest. In another word, these people have hatched this project to block the rising candidature of the current Vice President in both seats. Chairman Kiir purported stand has a lot to be desired and simply too loaded. But again, what do you think would be in the mind of Dr. Machar supporters when this man is treated like that again, do you remember Nyakuron last year? On Malik project, why would anyone settle for a junior and literally amateur, leaving the capable behind? What also do you read has been going on behind the scene in all that package of theories?

But also wasn't the SPLM party fighting for that objective for the past 20 or so year- the new Sudan vision? By the way, what will the people of the Sudan say about us, especially the party and its Chair? Why would anyone run away from constitutional challenges, at its peak leaving the public in disarray? Please spare the people of Southern Sudan and the Sudan such rubbish. His visit to Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Ingessina Hills capture the mood of the electorates, that they are yearning for change, why abundant them in the middle of the road? Isn't this not Mr. Kiir who had confessed that he has been dealing (fighting) with the separatists in the South to realize the New Sudan of equality, unity and progress? Back home, it has even becomes an issues right now everywhere that the man people have pegged their hope in him has abdicated his duties just to settle score with his competitor.

We don't need another split at an eleven-hour. We madly killed other for nothing and it should be a bitter lesson not to repeat. The SPLM Chairman must not let himself to be deceived that everything will be normal if he goes against the grain to short changed Dr. Machar today or tomorrow. The business will not be the same and the enemy in Khartoum will capitalize on each of us. There is nothing special in the Southern Presidency that couldn't be realized if we remain strategically focused. If the Chairman shies from losing, then he isn't a politician but an opportunist; he must not assume to ride on others back or achievement. Who says politics is a smooth path; you mess it up, you pay for it.

A clever ruse to protect the SPLM Chairman at this stage is dangerous. If Gen. Kiir lacks confidence how dare are we to keep him in the Southern Presidency? If fact it was a mistake to give him that position in Kamotho, the Chairmanship shouldn't have been given to him in the first place. He has proven beyond any reasonable doubts that we had hoped against any hope for him and nothing will change even if we allowed him ten more years. That anomaly should be corrected and the time for it is here. A great opportunity!

Someone has argued here, as others do elsewhere, that since its his democratic right to refuse, he should be left alone. Until this become official, I strongly feel that the SPLM party must sit down now and iron it out; they got to follow party laws letter by letter. Amendment or accommodation with clouded theory hanging over this matter at the moment won't help, but complicate things. The mistake of May last year must be avoided. It was a bad experience when few figures were responsible to call the shot As the election approaches, the party ought to be conscious of how will their plan look like in the end.

Gen. Kiir isn't popular anymore due to disillusionments that have gripped our people ranging from smallest thing to the biggest. We are at a lost! Malpractices and bad governance have become his middle names. He has run out of steam to move our nation to work, and fight external and internal challenges more effectively. We have been saying those lines over and over again, yeah? 'Darwish' won't like this piece, but the reality calls for sobriety before its too late. He's too much a burden. Throw out then Gen. Kiir project quickly, if we want to have unified party next year and during Referendum time; allow Gen. Kiir to retire and if he is serious he should try it against Al Bashir or leave the situation the way its now. We will see what will happen when the enemy flag goes down in our land in 9 months time.

As for Malik as a person, besides his dingy and freaky character, there is no any point to disturb the current structures of the party. The attempt to overstep hard working individuals when they are in their prime stages of leadership can't be received with a flower. Troubles can't just be created at day break because someone has been driven by a whim that they are always leaders to rule and if not them, then to hell or 'balash'. We had enough of bitter problems from tribal generating problems and no

one should drag us there. After all pacifying them (Nuba and Funj people) is too late thing too little.

In summation, the case of what to do with Mr. Kiir- should the rumor of him refusing to nominate himself as SPLM Presidential candidate be proven- must not be allowed to interfere with the structures and institutions. This is a national seat not a community monopoly to intimidate others or engineer acts of stopping others from ascending to power. If Gen. Kiir refuses why didn't he officially nominated his deputy to take over, why a Northerner? But in the first place, why keep the matter secret at this time but engage in clandestine media propaganda? In the upcoming party Convention therefore, the party is urged to put this divisive matter to rest once and for all. God may you bless us in this Holy Month of Ramadhan!

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WRITING ISN'T ABOUT FAME OR MONEY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

Writing like any other profession carries responsibility and a code of conduct to follow; but generally its a bumpy discipline that is constantly unpredictable and you can understand it why its always an up and down. This is partly due to its foundation based on hunches and hypothesis. So, what am saying? For the past few years, I have had weird and unruly moments like any other writer on this career. But few days ago a pugnacious chap called me after he bloodied his nose on one of my articles, somewhere I don't know. He never introduced himself or his topic of contention but asked me whether it's me or someone else. When he got my name, he quickly quizzed what tribe am I and when I mumbled he soared with is tirade using somewhat fluent English, sandwiched between his nose and ultra male tone. The man never gave me space or time, as he bombarded my ears with every negative adjective you could think of in the book. Interestingly, I felt amused and never hang it up, until his phone goes a hitched probably due to his air time or satisfied after spending nearly 10 minutes calling me names of animals punctuated by his 'channel f' (dialect) with some frequent words that sound like 'amok', 'guat', 'nyagat' 'monyjur' and 'jong'. You can figure what tribe is he from, don't you?

Though I didn't follow up clearly his point of argument, as I would have best done it/imagine, one thing was deduced and clearly could be his case, that I had interfered with 'their' status quo and had to stop it. I later however learned that he actually lost his job on the assumption that probably one of my articles had contributed to his lost of job. Sincerely am used to such moments and nothing against him as a person. He may have looked at some of our articles we often write here and ran with

a conclusion that we are anti government of the people of the South Sudan. I sympathize with him.

But some of these brethren in fact are of the mentality that we are targeting their people or tribe and the leader they think is doing his best. But one thing they forget and that they should know is that writers at our stage aren't for it to soil others reputation if they deserved. There is nothing moreover that the President should based his actions on websites ideas. Who are we that the big man should solely take our advice face value, does he has time really to read what is being posted here? He has a lot to do and there are others doing the advisory work for him. If any of our messages coincide with the event or decision then that is just by chance and the writers aren't to blame.

Writers don't report either, that is the work of the reporters, we opionate and opinion aren't infallible or gospel in themselves; we pursue the 'why' animal, while reporters are after 'what' and 'how'. We go beneath the stated and that is a big difference. In the process of grappling up with the underlines, we might commit errors and that is the fallacy of writing. The reader could take it or reject it and nothing will change from the opinion, as people aren't the same. I for one don't write to get recognize or do it for political recognition; there is nothing like becoming politician from writing. These are different world. Who are we then? We are what we do. We publish evidences and the truth isn't necessarily the point why we write. We are mirrors, always on the front line to state why this happening happened and try our best to disclose hazy matters of national concern. We appeal to the emotions and we have a small role to play in the society. We simply influence or reinforce decisions. We care less about any reward in return.

Sometime a mocker accused us of being jealous because we didn't get space in the government. That we are an arm of the National Congress Party (NCP). A catch small phrase often use to whip sympathy and cast others are anti patriots. That is a million off the mark! The president can't appoint everyone in the government, it doesn't work like that. If we are discontented with his work as head of our government we will say it and if he miraculously changes, well and good. We lived within our little means and the government can't take everybody on board. I don't know further Dr. Mustafa Ishmael, Gutbi Al Mahdi, Ali Ahmed Yasiin, Dr. Mohamed Mandour, Dr. Azhari Al Tigani, and Dr. Ali Nafia among other stalwarts of the NCP. None knows the color of their teeth apart from what the media fixed it before us. The North generally will have to prove to the South their seriousness before we forget the past. These days they are talking nicely and we should be forgiving them if they allow our people to go for plebiscite unobstructed; for now no! They are our enemies!!! Two million lives are enough to hate these people.

But why should anyone use that lame scapegoat and a victim card against his own people? When the SPLM-DC calls for change, reorganization and democratization of the SPLM we hurriedly brand them as traitors, the same propaganda we had used

against everyone virtually who disagreed with the system. Can we learn to be accommodative and flexible and only at odd (defensive) if the criticism is unjustified? Every voice that is contrary to system must not be brushed as nothing. Our work as writers is to magnify those voices once we see their positive impact on the society and that is exactly our job. Let's not masked the failed leadership in Juba for the sake of it or ran to our tribe instead we should be constructive in our debate. Yes the few positive things we see around can't add up to the expectations. This is an inescapable fact.

We need a viable governance strategy that work (that can be seen working). A person to nurture this idea is another; the very one who will take us into a journey with a firm grip on what he wants to do now and in the next few years to come. Someone who will blend our rich diversity and resources and make something out for the next generation. We don't care who that person would be or where he will come from, but only if he has the required credentials to take us through. Our father Dr. John Garang had laid a concrete foundation and we must be careful not to waste it away; we need a right architect who could build on it with tangible durable steps. These are issues on the table at the moment, and if that qualify us to be labeled traitors, fine, we aren't pliable to get cowed and nothing will go between us and our keyboards on these areas, never!

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HABABEK ASHARA YA BASHIR

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Dear Mr. President, it takes no easy job to anyone to manage crisis in such a fashion (unprecedented) as you do in our land. Your wise leadership has indeed delivered the country from the jaw of possible chaos and unthinkable. The North and the South are smiling to each other again, something the enemies of peace and the Sudan had wished it didn't happen. The clearance of Referendum Bill is yet another sign of you being man of conviction. It has been a relief and we give you our utmost commendation for the job well done! Courage is what leadership calls for, and at this moment there is no turning back. It is a gift for this holy season (Christmas) and the Year 2010. Surely, can anyone doubt our resolve that we can customize our own solutions to our own problems? Do we really need an outsider into our own problems like what the US stooge from Argentine is trying to make us believe?

Sudan is a nation with huge history, what is it that we can't do that will attract a 'tufele' to jump in, crashing the gate, and think he could fix our affairs. This country isn't a failed one; we have His Excellency the President in charged, the First Vice President and the man behind the wheel His Excellency Dr. Riek Machar Teny-

Dhorgun. The triumvirate can do more on many other future potential issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). But before that night of Referendum Bill agreement between you and your Deputy, issues were real; the momentum must now be maintained and sustained. No turning back; if the CPA had wronged anyone, then its course must not appease him/her either. Sir, you have proven to prophets of doom that Sudanese can and are able to settle their own internal differences. We are great nation, only if we stick to what defines us. I love your smile that night and that of the First Vice President His Excellency Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit. Our country must move and go on to do more to shame drummers of destruction on our internal crisis.

Mr. President, an independent minded person (single mindedness person) can make a big difference. In September 1969, a junior officer in Libya tested then Libyan murky politics by staging a coup. His script of politics from day one never changes and it has since paid off a million dividends to the Libyan people. If President Maummar Al Ghadafi leaves power today, he would go home with his head high. Dr. John Garang was one rare that match, who would have dared the world, had it not the cold hands of death (he was maliciously killed anyway). Sir, you have done so much for this country than the combined efforts of others before you, right from Ishmael Al Azhari in 1956. On matters of development, the North we knew many years ago has been transformed extraordinary to something else. To be specific, we are talking here of tangible things such as infrastructure and facilities for services. With economic policies in place, Sudan emerged from war with its economic digits on the sky. Peace that has eluded many- others before you had actually muffed it deliberately- was realized in your Excellency time. I know it was an uphill task to build a coalition of like-minded people, and manage diverse religious opinions of Islamic circles within your Excellency party. But you have made it. That is where a horse and donkey leadership separates. Sudanese are proud of you sir!

Having said thus above, sir, its high time to acknowledge that we wanna go! This is not any secret anymore, unless pretenders go it otherwise. Reign on your lieutenants to stop entertaining obsolete schemes of rocking the boat in the middle of the river. Things are just different now. Let them not stand between the ballot box/time and us in 2011; that is people's right and it has to go that way. Nations come together on convenience and do the other opposite by the same token. It was a gentlemen agreement in 2005 (peculiar one instead) and real men ought to respect it, whether its actual price hurts. The North and the South will have nothing to lose however once the result goes East African (EAC). It is a choice, just that simple and dry. This is a red herring line; your men must keep off, until a miracle happens on their favor in January 2011. Allow those who fidget often with facts about possibilities of unity go ahead and do it elsewhere in the name of another region, not in the Republic of Imatong (South Sudan) under His Excellency Comrade Salva Kiir Mayardit. Am saying it plain and direct, because you are true to us; Al Mahdi and Co. aren't.

Mr. President, the agreement you have reached with the President of our government is a pointer for others. Dialogue is the way to go. Demonstrations/Protests by throwing stones can't bring the desired results at our current political environment. Enemies of this country would love the anarchy to reign for their selfish personal gains. Our beloved Vice President who diffused Trojan Horse called an 'intifadha' on Thursday last week knew that there is always life at the end of the tunnel (talking/dialogue). Militants were planning to stage another demonstration- something President Kiir denounces- on the behest of Imam Sadiq Al Mahdi, Dr. Abdullah Al Turabi and Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibrahim. I doubt whether they (leaders in the protest) would have come out- release from detention the second time- with no lice hanging over their belts. Sir, allow the Presidency good team to finish off little other issues, namely South-North Border Demarcation, resettlement of Darfur refugees (with compensation) and expedient justice in Darfur on perpetrators of crimes there. Put life back into Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in term of content; you got to make enough ground for your Advisor, Mr. Arco Al Minnawi to work. Mr. Arco is a gentleman! Oh, have I become an advisor to the President? Long live CPA. Izza Le Sudan! Happy Christmas and Prosperous Election Year!

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FIVE MORE YEARS FOR MR. KIIR? NO!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 1, 2009

It has been said aloud by close personalities, called them sycophants, that Gen. Kiir must go for five more years as President of Southern Sudan, from the upcoming election in April next year. That means Gen. Kiir must be supported in the Southern Presidency seat, since he has shown no interest (at least from the public) to contest against the National Congress Party (NCP) Chairman, Field Marshal President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir for the Sudan Presidency. No one knows who will contest for that seat from the SPLM, though the pointer goes to Imam Al Mahdi from the Umma Party, per Juba All Parties Conference this year. This later move has attracted more queries that answer, as to what that means constitutionally for the party and that of the Sudan. People aren't talking much about it, because to supporters of Mr. Kiir, their law doesn't give any condition for him to do so. To them, there is not issue so long as their man remains in the Southern Presidency, because there is no 'proper' man to occupy the State House here and do the 'good job' of governance except those destined to do it for others.

We have individuals (beneficiaries in fact) who are busy selling Mr. Kiir reelection bid. They are there to kill unless the situation remains the way it is. Some of them are right here reading and have already froth and frown against anyone who question the

status quo under Mr. Kiir. Gen. Kiir wasted no time either, he has since taken advantage of the stand off between peace partners (the SPLM vs. NCP) to project his presidency notice, that he's the best to bring down the Sudanese flag whether at 2011 or before it. The Juba demonstration on Monday has highlighted things stark when the events- a public anger about dilly-dallies by hardliners with the NCP- was hijacked by campaign messages. Shenanigans (supporters) thereafter stepped up by claiming that Mr. Kiir being a founder of the liberation struggle and had 'stayed put' in at thin moments during the liberation should be left alone to go for more years next year. To them, the President has done more than enough to bring almost everyone on board and therefore proper to complete the mission indefinitely. One crude campaigner charged that so long as his tribe and the army 100% behind him, Mr. Kiir will prevail. My take, hmmm!

Dear brethren, no one would deny some achievements under Gen. Salva Kiir, he has done his best to bring together a group led by Gen. Paulino Matip, Abdul Baggi Ayii, Chief Ismail Konyi, Alfred Ladu Gore just to mentioned but a few. He has further established the system now known as GOSS from the Naivasha crash and had done his best to stay on course as to cardinal details in the CPA. He has taken care of our young nation and is credited for having provided safe return for millions of Southerners across the world, back home. He has managed to incorporate as many people across our society as possible. Our men in uniform are being attended to, a big pat to His Excellency the President. We have a functioning system, something not thought to happen at once, and above all, with challenges here and there, we are almost to the finishing line. His earlier appointments to top posts have been somewhere fair, allowing many representatives as possible. The list could be long. No one could deny him everything there. We give him utmost commendation for taking us thus far, and pray for his good health as the South dissects his past.

My list however about his otherwise under-achievements is much longer than what we all know. Frankly speaking, these are elementariness; a system such as ours would surely achieve them. If you look carefully at each item, there is nothing innovative thing from anywhere. Besides, the South doesn't need those, no room for substandard at its critical stage of take off. Serious mistakes were committed moreover by his regime, before his watch. I will mention a few below. At this election time, stocking of what the man has done and what not must get the scrutiny it deserves. Originality therefore is an issue. No one is against him or his tribe, but the style is the problem. Mr. Kiir isn't himself and won't be himself. Others wheel him for their personal or individual benefit, other than that of the people of Southern Sudan. Whatever we called achievements aforesaid after all, are the making of his advisors and the next man in the hierarchy. They do the job and the big man takes the credit.

Do we really need such a leader who will rely on others on sensitive matters of foundation lay? I don't think so! I don't care whether his middle name is the SPLM/A, what matter and which is bigger than him is the future of this beautiful

land called Southern Sudan, the very land that has snuffed away millions lives. A person with big heart and a visionary will fit here; a leader who is exposed to what goes on around him and the world. The South needs a person who will feel the pain of others, down to earth on what the ordinary Southerner says on the street. The outdated fashion of being clueless and intimidative has no place at the modern era of transparency, participatory and openness style of leadership. Southerners are keen to know how come that 80% of the 50% quota (oil money) goes straight to the back pockets of few individuals and the government staff. A serious leader could fix this immediately. Foreigners are smiling all the way to their banks because our finance analysts see nothing wrong with pores financial system in place, where private activities manned by foreigners strived.

Now that the SPLM Primaries are nearly over, with 1000 candidates for the party, with screening on the 5th January 2010, isn't this not the right time for the party to go further and do its primary about the Presidency for the South? May be this is time to stop Mr. Kiir from taking us another five more years of bad governance under his poor, inept and dictatorial leadership; a system that has impoverished our people far worst by creating classes of those who have enough to educate their children at Harvard, Pretoria and Oxford Universities, and those with their children attending classes under trees, with underpaid and untrained teachers. I thought our President could bow out and pave the way for a matured, qualified and competent leader far better than him, to try it. A rumor nevertheless has matured that Mr. Kiir wants to replace him by Gen. James Wani for the post of the Vice Presidency by next year. Something that must be resisted and if it means splitting the party, so be it! Mr. Wani could be educated but have no followers from among his own Bari Community; his seat currently is under stern challenge by Bari insiders (do you get this?). But why would that happen under the sun, oh heaven? Oh God give us Dr. Machar now! Thwart the scheme of trouble-makers (born to rule group).

Here are some of areas why Mr. Kiir must go- not to be given another five years as President of Southern Sudan. His government has no Program of Action- literally no political direction. What we have is sheer program that is overstated with no clear-cut practical applications. The SPLM Political Framework of the 1994 in Chukudum and that after Naivasha is nipped in the bud by political incapacitating system run under emergency and imaginary undertakings. Do you recall the 200-day program in 2007? Do you know why it didn't work? To his regime, the CPA and Program of action is one and the same thing. The CPA document as it stands isn't a political framework; neither is it dogmatic, but an ephemeral document that defines boundaries of the external political framework while the internal governance remains solely anything for political leadership to define.

Second, we have a government with over \$4 billion taken away by key individuals and no single case has ever been finalized. What does this tell you about Kiir as the head of that government? If his regime could run away with that money within that short period, what will stop him and his team from running dry our coffers in the

next five years? When the House pushes the Executive for action, the public gets loud lip service that only ends there, ostensibly often engineer to lull the public. Why is it that the Anti-Corruption Commission still toothless to date? This is because our leaders are good at shouting and imitating universal slogans, but lack contextual touches of the same- no political will anywhere at the top. Mulana Michael Makuei and Dr. Pauline Riak are officials with tough jobs indeed; they take the blame for reasons beyond their reach. The embezzlers come out fighting back (they are highly placed/connected) and the duo surely won't be their positions in the next government, if what has been said is true.

Third, one of Kiir governors has entered a contract with foreign dubious company along the River Nile, the same governor who made another contract of the same nature with an Arab company. Imagine it is that Cardinal Company where the then Finance Minister, Mr. Arthur Akuein was hooked that has approached the government of that state and reached an agreement for fishing activities. Has any research been done before hand, why entered contract when the Nile runs through five states? Is the South ready for such agreement under Mr. Kiir and if yes, how could that be done with no knowledge of the House in Juba. I learn the governor is in the field drumming up his reelection for five more years and pray he is beaten along with his blind boss. His state is a den full of death prone thugs where human live is nothing compares to cows the majority of people own. Roads are at appalling states around the town, while is busy doing different things all together.

Forth, the poor leadership has led the system to be infiltrated by Northern Opposition Parties that are opposed to the CPA. This is dangerous for the survival of our people leave alone the political survival of that party. Why would a right-minded person abandon its partnership to associate with political turncoats whose past is tainted with every trouble that befell Sudan? Alliance to topple the NCP at the zero hour is the work of foreign conspirators to destabilize Sudan, and the South in particular. During Referendum Bill row, the skin for Northern Opposition was explicitly clear to everyone. His Excellency speech on Monday in Juba as usual was devoid of substance; tired and boring that only well for the army. It never referenced anything including the alliance between the SPLM and Northerners. Six is the Gen. Kiir absence from Khartoum and his subsequent rejection of his constitutional and party duties to contest election as chair of the party. Seven so to conclude is the bizarre latest appointments, a move that see his closest people taking over key army and police positions. The intention is...

It was reported that Mr. Kiir could go until the Referendum time (2011) and then retires; that compromise though understandable is overtaken by what appear to have Mr. Kiir firmly in the State House forever. Events tell us something closer to this plan. But where does it mean to our people about him going beyond that period? His supporters must be mindful about the feeling of others. No one hates the personality of Mr. Kiir; he needs to retire peacefully and allow us a chance. The task ahead of Dr. Machar is huge, fortunately he is prepare for it, as God will help him eradicate vices

that plagued Gen. Kiir for the past five years. His time is ripe for the challenge. Juba for instance, a face of our nation will quickly pick up once Guandit takes over- say one year afterward. Corruption and tribalism would be history because our next president isn't corrupt or tribalized. He is reachable and shall be closer to the people. Southern Sudan will shine by fine touch of our beloved leader, Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhorgun. President Kiir, please sir, go home! Your place will be there (respected) as one of the founders. God bless you this year!

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GOSS MUST WALK THE TALK ON ITS ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 31, 2009

Corruption as it has known is evil. Countries around the world are curving out laws and regulations geared to put it down or reduce it. It has become another front altogether all over the world (no country is free from it, unless someone pretenses), and our government is commended for standing up and try to face lift the Anti-corruption Unit. We all know the move by our government lately as the a proclamation of some laws ranging from procedures to persecution, including hefty pay or increment of the Commission staff up to over 150%. We seemed to have greeted that move with appreciation, as others would have concluded that the onus should now lie with the Commission to deliver.

Well, I just pray that something happen, but per my best judgment and as to this argument, we must be cautious before singing 'alleluia' about what has been done right. Perhaps we should take a 'wait and see' attitude, because history has taught us bitterly about what our government promises. I thought we are exactly where we are last year, when similar laws/changes were officially mooted; how are we sure this time around that it won't take us the same period into next year to see thieves locked up behind bars? Do you know that financial criminals or say suspects for our case love the art of political ambiguity, diversionary and confusion tactics? Lying, dissembling and moving goal posts are time-honoured defence for criminals. English poet, Joseph Addison couldn't put it succinctly "when vice prevails and impious men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station". The SPLM is a popular movement, it has men and women who are real and trust that one day, they will rise up and make amend to our home made crisis. Just a prayer!

Even if we might see small fish apprehended, the big ones will still swim away with chunks of public money to Europe and neigh boring countries were their children and families reside permanently. The culture of looting is only possible because of a mafia-like pact among our elite who lives by a maxim that: scratch my back and I

will scratch yours. This is an essence of a lawless society where criminals are driven out from jail using gunpoint. A state where civilians are allowed to slaughter themselves and no action is taken. No single accountability case has been concluded under President Kiir rule and one should be very afraid and wary when such news was touted.

Once the pressure mounts, the President fires and hires and it ends up there; the suspects get away with large amount of money and the public watches helplessly. Our image has been tainted, investors unnerved while we continue to down play the damage this evil practice is costing our nascent beginning. There are individuals who are determine to fail President Kiir and by now everyone should have known them. Yet, we have every reason to say the bug stops with him, the President. I have some series of questions to His Excellency the President on the same; but before then, I have an opposite view about the person in charge of the Anti-corruption Unit (as some of my colleagues have actually voiced it out somewhere).

I have a unique different opinion against the highly esteemed lady who's entrusted with such sensitive job. Not because she is incapable or spineless, no! But her stellar as disciplinarian is caught between an insipid (boring) systems that is literally ingenuous and her matronly faze about male flexing acreage in a country she is identified with by adaption. She's one of the Southern Sudanese women you can't mistaken for spoiling or corruption, but the situation she has found herself in is larger than her status. Too complicated, particularly that there is no political will at the top. She has since chosen to play it safe and one would expect her to continue that way. Bu unless the current strategy is looked into once more, so to find how to make her work easier the, the chances are not in sight for any progress against corruption. I would expect our dear President to try stone pushers in the like of Prof. Bari Wanji, Dr. Richard K. Mulla or Dr. William Bior. Dr. Pauline Riak deserves a full ministerial position and she can do fine in education, and let the Professor gives way and enjoy his villas.

Here we go with some queries. Your Excellency, who let Mr. Arthur Akuein off the hook? How did he come out from the prison, and what did you do to those jail breakers? What of some scams at procurement, taxation and immigration units that plague the system year in and year out, a scenario in which foreign dealers colluded with few elements within there and hike prices for their benefits? In another word, has it crosses your mind why is it that each of the official is growing businesses from one sector to the other? What of UNHCR repatriation vehicles purchases scandal, has anyone been arrested and if not why? Deng Macham Anguei was repeatedly mentioned, may be he's innocent.

Do I need to go further from here? May be not, but who really owns one of the mobile phone company, a company that pays peanut share to the government and the rest goes to individuals? Do we have time to question why the SPLM Office Construction was halted for months, the very office that was seen as a symbol of

integrity? What did the Bank Of Southern Sudan (BOSS) Governor tell you is happening in the private sector? Am seeing the good old man writing books while banks that have characterized our entrepreneurship are dying before his watch. What name do we attached to Gen. Stephen Madut Baak Heath row cash fiasco? Was an investigation carried out and if yes, on what planet? Mr. President, am open and this is leadership of the people not a private affair. What section in our constitution that authorises your office manager to dip into public coffers and ditch out cash in millions to so-called students in Uganda? Why is it Uganda by the way and not in any other country where Southerners stay? Oh, let me stop here.

Mr. President, I thought what you are referring to as new laws were actually there. Dr. Machar the Vice President, did his part to pump 7 million dollars in one quarter to the commission, how did you thwart his efforts then and if you beat a retreat now, how sure is the public that you won't abandon the Commissioner when your support and direction would be seriously needed? If anyone would believe you before you leave office, there is a need to take this fight against graft very seriously. Take action against those mention and let the law does it work. Southern Sudan can't be held captive by a few, elements within, who care less about the welfare of the majority Southerners. We need your personal involvement. You need a Persecutor General; the young boy who is there won't catch a chicken. Check out whether the Auditor General, the Attorney general and the Anti-corruption Commission are working in tandem. Look, Khartoum within the last three years under Dr. Abdul Halim Mutaffi, has established 250 government sponsored projects and ours is zero since your government came to power, how do you feel Mr. President when our Main Juba Hospital still under a foreign support and no single government sponsor school has been built for the past four years?

I have watched this government fighting back when criticize but I can't find any kind words to describe my disappointment. This is our government and we must not shy away from giving it raw dismissal. We loved our President and want him to change. But my little instinct tells me that the option is for Mr. President to give a bow, put off his 'gloves' and go home; people can't stand such a heartless regime where lives becomes priceless. While we still mourn and tears still fresh for our dear ones in Jonglei last month (Akobo & Twic East), criminals again struck in Warrap and Western Equatoria, don't you care? I fault you sir!

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KIIR- REBECCA DIPLOMATIC OMISSION MARRED THE MARTYR DAY

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 8, 2009

His Excellency the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit and the wife of our founding father (Dr. John Garang de Mabior), Madame Rebecca Nandeng de Mabior had gone public with their differences during the commemoration day for Garang's Day, now effectively (rightfully so) renamed. The incident stunt the public, whose source was started by one and the other, join in non-verbally.

And for that day, it has been a day that is meant to make us restock (where we came from), but also a reminder as to where we are heading to, as far as the liberation of Southern Sudan is concerned. We live or die because of this cause and indeed our brothers and sisters that are ahead of us (dead), have a reason now to smile as they lay in peace. Their sacrifices have not been in vain, as the banner of our liberation struggle is firmly under the hands of His Excellencies, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar Dhorgun. What a duty! The publics owe appreciation to the SPLM leadership for the job well done.

However, the good intended occasion was nearly spoiled when leading party leaders (Kiir and Nyandeng) turned it into a box of defiance to their very predispositions on who's who. Madame Rebecca Nyandeng started it and Gen. Kiir picks it up without a word. This is how it started and won't bother you on what was said by Madam Rebecca (for these are our own affairs). She had moved so important issues besetting our government, starting from governance issues, development, peace, unity among many, a blowing after another and when she was done, she paid a price. The posture the President took immediately with Madame Rebecca after his speech (remember he never responded to de Mabiors charges) says or summarizes the President negative reaction to the Lady.

How does it take you to note that the two were on their very best to humiliate each other in public. Look, they never glimpsed at each other eye or hands they were shaking; they stood as if the referee in bout was to flag them for action. The chasm moreover between the two leaders was so big as if one of them is leprosy possessed;; their bodies were tightly crisped to their bones (tense). The second in action (greeting) was too long so to be shortened, I would presume. As the President flounced to his waiting limousine car, his legs were too heavy to take him quickly there. My feet!

It was a theatre landed down from somewhere, the century of yesterday. I didn't know who was holding a gun over their heads in the first place, so to greet each other

in public. Whether the President or Madame Nyandeng was wrong or right isn't material, but definitely the diplomatic spine was broken to pieces at Garang Memorial Site that very important day and hour. Worst, in one of our friendly neighbouring countries, it was beamed live and the newspapers picked it up just raw. What a 'bout'! To smile of course wasn't a deal, but action behind it was. From no school class, public figures are strictly require to fake, even if they are bottling up with some hot issues inside them, where did this escape the two on that day.

The episode though reminds me of a villager (my village) who was in his adult life resisted smile publicly or privately, until villagers agreed to use milk (sour one) to bet his smile. But one among them said to others that the thing isn't between the two lips but in the heart and our sour milk won't do this to us. Let's leave him alone, he concluded and they agreed. The point? May be the two have something in there (heart) we might not know that we had tried to trap using our 'milk' (clapping and expectation). We ought therefore to leave them alone.

But, Madame Rebecca surely has cracked and should have given our leader a space he needs as the head of our government. Everyone has his/her time, this is Kiir's time and tomorrow would be another, and someone must solicit the same treatment. She is known to be a huge personality with an enduring disposition and therefore abnormal to imagine the kind of reaction others would expect from her. You see (as I said earlier above) saying anything wasn't an issue but how he said them matters. Some have accused her of being insincere after she lost her executive ministry then to Hon. David Deng Athorbei; others yet think, she's so burned up with the past and present events that she wants to use the opportunity at hand to smack at the face of the President to gain whatever leverage since the elections are just months a way. I don't have comment.

But the truth lies somewhere and this is worrying because the two need each other. Madame Rebecca knows well that the unity of the SPLM/A is a necessity; it overrides every perceived bitter difference. Without it, the cause we cherish so much, that has snuffed away millions of lives would be gone. The journey is nearly over and no one expects any leader (s) in charged to subservient (sabotage) it at this dying days of our final lap to freedom. Problems are bound to be there sure, so long as things are done by humans hands and minds, but what is it that's big enough than Southern Sudan? None!

So, what are these underlying issues that have played themselves out on that very important Day (Martyr Day) from the perspective of Madame Rebecca. Well, there are a few and one is the Bharghalization of the President's ears. It looks as if Madame Rebecca somehow has been elbowed, and others have stolen the President heart on her expense. This sounds trivial, isn't it? But this is a probability worth our interest. Perhaps President time has been an issue; these days he doesn't bother to pay her a visit or pick her advice. Gen. Oyai purge from the army, I guess, might be the straw that broke the camel back. Gen. Oyai is believed to have done his best in

the army and his departure without tangible reasons behind it raises many questions than answers. But also these days, the two have chose to confine their relationship on the basis of Presidency vs Advisory, period. May be our President should open up and give Madame Rebecca- the wife of the man who changed our face- the attention she needs.

Second, is what stuff the next election might bring? President Kiir popularity has plummeted and signs aren't clear for his re-election next year. Under the prevailing circumstances, unless, his intention is blessed by those of Rebecca Dr, Riek Machar, Mr. Nhial Deng, Mr. Pagan Amum, he's deemed to retire before Referendum (Oops). There is no surprise that Madame Nyandeng is determine to ensure that the legacy of her husband is maintain and to her, the President didn't do the 'doing' to that effect, saved for the talking while reading speeches. Chances are at the mature that she might warm up to Dr. Riek Machar Teny who's rising like star-unstoppable. I look forward to that way anyway!!!

Little things from the President to Madame Rebecca could help them thaw their political relationship and Dr. Machar being intellectually assiduous and social agile, would surely provide that missing gap, if he takes over. The President though has done his part only that he's innocent to distrust his conscience when it comes to who is after his seat from Rebecca backyard of Bor. Madame Rebecca is her own woman, and her people are politically very organized than any other groups in the Southern Sudan; currently they are 95% behind Gen. Kiir. The President has a daunting challenge though to keep that loyalty beyond next year. Rebecca isn't a competitor (at least given events) but a kingmaker.

Third is her attempt to sincerely put to notice the head of our government for the failures of steering forward the liberation dividends to the Southern public. She struck a chord with everyone on this. People want a change and Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin had attempted to knock that door. Unfortunately the President advisors moved fast to dump it at the carpet, dismissing him as Khartoum mole. The party democratization credentials are risk and many more people would go away so soon. On top, Gen. Kiir sits over a corrupt-ridden government, to which talking is the order but action is reserved at Home and Away, Sahara, Juba Raha, Bros, Hamza, Beijing, Bridge hotels, etc., where key leaders habitually drink away our sweats over Ugandan bitter beers.

Rebecca genuinely reminding the government to wake up and starts walking their talks. She wants those at Anti-Corruption list persecuted, whomever they might belong. She wants the party to unite and if it means Gen, Kiir to go home, he goes. If it means Dr. Akol reinstated in the cabinet, so let it be. Gen. Kiir on his side isn't ready yet to call it a day or bow to such pressures, despite an outcry. This is sad. But clearly what does it say to a leader when over 1000 cases of major financial crimes are lying idly at the Corruption Unit. Political will is direly needed.

The breadth and short of the story is this: the two ought to work together and respect each other, for the good of their image and the party they lead; differences that are of political nature don't impeach of ethical values of being courteous and mindful of each other personalities. In another word, though each of them had a point, their public display of dry anger makes them too little. It was just an embarrassment, so primitive and an infra dig that raises too many questions.

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SOUTHERN SUDANESE MUST GET TO WORK

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 98, 2009

After years of unrest and instability, Southern Sudan is now enjoying peace (relative one though) across its territory, a sign that informed us that the 10 years of negotiation with the Government of the Sudan weren't in vain, they have indeed produce something for the benefit of the ordinary suffering Southern Sudanese. At least there is a breath of life once more in our lovely land. As you move or go around, there is every right to celebrate the achievement made thus far through the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in Naivasha Kenya by two bitter nemesis' in the Sudan (the South and the North). We have every reason to thank God and clap or shout Alleluia to the Almighty as well as our heroes in the SPLM/A.

As we celebrate the 4 Anniversary of that magic (something we never knew it would come), there is a need to give our hearty ovation and salute to our great hero of our time late Dr. John Garang de Mabior and his team for job well done. We will be proud of this man for many times to come, not forgetting our fallen heroes/heroines among them the first martyrs who were killed in Torit in 1955 and Bor & Ayod in 1983.

The struggle nevertheless isn't over, the pace we are in through the CPA remain one step to the target in 2011, and hence a huge challenge to every true patriot to stand up and struggle in his/her small way to the very end. Our Government (GOSS) under his Excellency the President Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit deserves our utmost thanks for keeping up the torch of freedom. Despite push and shove here and there, we have an agreement and a leadership in that government we can anchor; a leadership that manages our affairs. They have kept our people united and never surrender their bargaining part as far as Southern Sudan interest with the North is concern. We pray for them for wisdom and guidance! We are within few laps, but tough ones however.

The road ahead of them and us is full of uncertainties and thorns; they got to put their acts together quickly, by adjusting their past mistakes and move on to make our people feel part of an over all project of liberation struggle. There have been terrible mistakes committed by our government and it's high time that they avoid them within the next few years of the interim period. Everything we have been saying here before remains the same and nothing was created for malignancy; the tendency to make mistake is human we know, but it's upon us to amend our ways of doing things for our survival and the survival of our generations after us. The foundation of our house must be laid out permanently the same way the American foundation was laid out several hundred years ago. Our Interim Constitution isn't final, there are problems unfinished business there, but it's a bases; it requires constant and conscious mentoring.

The onerous is with the present leadership; they have the opportunity and means to make things work now and for tomorrow. They have to listen to critics and other voices other than just brush aside every positive criticism because the author could be from another group or tribe. Whatever people say in writing or whispering in our ears if tap carefully by a humble mind, they can produce ideas for the benefit of the ordinary Southern Sudanese. A government must be creative or quicker learners from others. To get things done, the government must invest in the people.

We have talents and only to be used and therefore it's incumbent that our government get aggressive to our people when it comes to enforcing some laws. People tend to forget and hence the need to keep them 'whip'. Southern Sudanese nowadays are busy bodies only good talkers/dressers and gossipers, no more hard workers. Southerners were hard working and kindhearted people you will never find them anywhere in the world. Our true values are slowly disappearing and wonder whether it was relief mentality that has killed it during the war or failure on our side to connect our values from where we left them before the war.

These days Southerners are avoiding hard work; and are getting rude or out of touch with their roots. In education for instance, they are in politics, economics and law classes, rarely will you get three out of ten as engineers, doctors, mechanics, carpenters, brick makers, electrical or water technicians, craft artists, agricultural experts, tailoring, IT specialists, surveyors, geologists, environmentalists, etc. As we know, these are some of the disciplines that foster quick development, but somehow our young ones are unwilling to take them and the question is why? This is because our people these days are afraid to soil their hands or go through hard gain activities, forgetting that these are areas that create stable economy and push a country ahead much quicker. They don't know even that these are places where money is taken by 'shovel'. Self-employment is the key!

Socially, there are some habits we must do away with if we mean business to catch up with other developed countries. We often run to other developed countries or semi developed, but they too had similar experiences and a start. They worked and

work hard and are still working. With their values, they do away with some habits that are unproductive to growth and stick to what build up. Look, there is this simple but probably primitive one in our cities these days: the habit of sitting facing the streets near homes and then fix our eyes on every moving object, whether a human being, motor bike or a car. People relish and it becomes a habit after 3:00 pm everyday. Its worse when they begin to throw some few nasty words on innocent pedestrian minding his/her business on the public street. What are these people doing there really, gazing at walking people or driving cars on the streets? Others are just addicted of visiting some certain spots several times a day or sometime sit there for hours, doing nothing but gossiping and talking.

Governor Kuol Manyang of Jonglei States was heard to have outlawed domino or playing cards during working hours or outside the clubs. If it's true, then that man must be true to our cause. There is even a need to spend that time doing something else than just sitting and talking. There are books to read, field to clear, fish to net, cleaning to do, exercise for your health, investment to plan, school to study, activities to follow etc. Arabs works and drink, but we on the other hand, don't work and only waste time in sitting and drinking. Our Hon. Minister Commerce and Supply (GoSS), Hon. Lino Makana made matters worse by inviting a brewing company right in the heart of our capital Juba and no one stopped him. To him and others, it's an employment creation project and has disagreed. Hon. Minister should have come up with a company that saves lives not this very one that takes it away. A garbage company could be better; he knows his colleague on Health has snoring on his job.

But time in development is a dollar and am puzzle why the government is sitting with its hands folded watching our society degenerating to bunch of idlers; who do they think will come and urge these people for purposes of rebuilding our land. Money could be there but its needs human mind to benefit everyone. Botswana and Singapore for examples are two countries in the world that started late, but never wait for anyone to develop them; they made sacrifices themselves using their local talents and wisdom plus local resources (money).

Sir Seretse Khama in particular (1966-1980-Botswana) and Wee Kim Wee (1985-1993-Singapore) revolutionized their countries within a very short period of time to their present modern status. Their predecessors only pick up from them. So, duration in power isn't an issue in any leadership, but good governance and proper utilization of that time is. We need badly therefore at the moment a proper foundation through conscious craft policies within universal ideals of progress. Someone needs to read SPLM Policy Frame; it's rich, good and should have been our bases for our foundation.

Brethren, we have a life to live and a country to build and it's upon us to get going. If we stumble on our way, let's stand up and go. GoSS leadership has stumbled no doubt; it's our duty to cheer them up again at this critical moment. Our focus must be born out of experiences as a nation out of war. We also know that when a low

producing leader clung to power, actually on his stomach not doing anything, not knowing what to do with power, you begin to think on ways to kick that leader out. In case, we are seriously hand bound by Khartoum case and hence easy to tolerate any monster until things becomes clearer. Arguably, the people he claims to government are always taking stock of what you a leader does even on those dark political corners. We seeing one tribe everywhere and this must change. We are seeing mismanagement of public funds and that again has to stop.

The removal of Gen. Jock Riak from tanks and that of Brigadier Malwal Majok from security and their replacement from people close to the State House incumbent must not be repeated. There is no time to talk about promotion of Brigadier Boll Chan Nyiel for Brigade V and Gen. Achuil Manola of Police. That madness (tribalism/nepotism) must not be taken to the army or security organs. Merit and only meritocracy can make a different in our society. Even if these men were qualified, the connotation should bother the advisor. I have laid it bare to stop another tribalist (leader) tomorrow from spoiling our togetherness in rewarding his/her own people in the name of power. We are one people who have shared difficult past and facing another future; why 'akulabarau' by the way in the glare of the public? I failed to figure out that courage!

We are seeing inexperienced leaders playing around with the future of Southern Sudan and that again has to be looked into seriously. The usefulness of our leaders was yesterday (during the war); the time we are in is for politicking. The likes of Hon. Dr. Luka Tombe Manoja, Hon. Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, Hon. Dr. Michael Whal Duany, Hon. John Luk Jock, Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro, Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial and Hon. Elijah Malok Aleeng are the likes of Dr. Nafia Ali Nafia, Dr. Ghazi Salah El Din, Gudbi Al Mahdi, Dr. Kamal Abdul Latif and Salah Abdullah Al Gosh. SPLM current negotiators on behalf of Southern Sudan can't match those Arabs in their present form. Their (Arab leaders) tongues never strayed in public whatever; their emotions and what not are under strict check all the time, unlike our young leaders who joke around with words. Political words are double swords, they can harm anyone or a nation if misuse. At the moment within SPLM top brass, it's hard to differentiate between talking politics and others, and being an opposition or partner.

For people to work furthermore, the leaders in question must show by example. President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea and his Rwandese counterparts are people anyone could benefit from their humble but stable national plans for their countries as well as their personal engagement to national issues. Their chairs and homes they live on could tell it all. How intolerant are they when something touches the public. We are at a threshing hold of our freedom; let's work and assist others to work. The government can't create every job for everyone, but if we begin by producing our own food, fixing our own houses, removing garbage near our homes, sitting on our own shops, or water our own kitchen gardens, then we will have a Botswana type of land in the next few years, others will envy.

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SPLM: DON'T BETRAY YOUR LEADER

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 28, 2009

It has been observed with disbelief that some senior party members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have publicly gone against the Chairman of that party on the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) cruel move against the head of Sudan government. Chairman Salva has been open about his rejection of the ICC move against President Al Bashir. With perhaps differences with President Al Bashir, he sees no burning reason to remove him at this particular point in time- in the middle of the Peace Accord signed in Naivasha- Kenya. .

The gentleman (Gen. Kiir) again and again asked for restrain, but the euphoria for justice took some of his senior elements so strongly against sound judgment. While its uncharacteristic of many leaders to withstand such routine rude behaviours, the SPLM Chairman opted to overlook those odd voices within his system. He further knows the characters that are pushing for change in the Sudan; people behind the ICC's reckless move. The Chairman knows how tough it's to start talking again. After all, President Al Bashir's party has opened up opportunities that were otherwise thought impossible for a Christian or 'pagans'. We have a Southerner just a breath away from power, while other hosts are in different key ministries in governments. The South has its "Kura An'gereeb" (Government of Southern Sudan), if to borrow Dr. Garang words. What is more or greater Dr. Al Turabi, Dr. Khalil, Mr. Al Noor shall offer Southern Sudan? Allow me to talke about Southern Sudan here. That is a million pound question, yeah?

Let's remind ourselves of what the SPLM Chairman had attempted to do for Darfuris. He tried fruitlessly to bring everyone face to face for talks, whether within the rebels movements or with other political forces; but only shock and only shock anytime. His voice in the Presidency for peaceful means was loud. He formed a task force for Darfur, so to bridge differences between the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the Darfur rebels, unfortunately he got frustrated in the middle when the two principals leaders there (Al Noor and Al Khalil) refused to engage him in conversation let alone visiting his base in Juba.

Today, we are seeing the same leader not giving up by stating the obvious that the arrest warrant of President of the Sudan shall complicate things for everyone, first in Darfur and then to the whole country. Don't ask him 'how?'. But how dare is anyone to rattle a leader who controls fire? There is point for adult to live in apathy. SPLM Chairman has his eyes on the Self-Determination and Popular Consultation for the people of Southern Sudan and Two Areas of Nuba Mountains/Southern Kordofan

and Ingessena Hills/Blue Nile respectively. This is huge responsibility he's guarding against interference.

But for Pro ICC within his party they curved out an argument that life will go on with or without President Al Bashir. To them, the CPA is cast on stones, whether signatories of that agreement are alive, dead or arrested. They whispered the same to the powerful nations in the West and were baited. They have attempted to twist the mind of the Chairman on what they called the 'international community wrath'. There is nothing these days like that. These men have nagged the Chairman to stay out of Khartoum and even stop being in the Presidency. They say, since the fate of this "criminal" (Al Bashir) is sealed in Washington and London, there is no need to waste time defending him. It's just a matter of time and he will be nubbed they conclude. One of them on that dark Wednesday has called this author and exuberantly shouted, "The nook is tighten on your man". I hung up; not in protest but on colossal errors in his judgment and statement.

But who are they? What is their drives in the first place? What do they want done overnight in the Sudan given this country complex situation? By sacrificing Al Bashir would that be enough healing for the nation? I don't think so. Who do they represent in the larger picture of the Sudan or Southern Sudan? What's the difference these men shall make if President Al Bashir is gone? They have been serving as ministers or heads of important units within the government and the party, what did they offer our people then that they will do it different this time around?

But alas, some of them are reported moving or should be in the States for an 'official' party visit; I don't know what agenda in the implementation of the CPA is so pressing than the ICC's intruding case at hand. I thought these men have learned a lesson or two about the need to go slow when its getting much clearer that the arrest of Al Bashir isn't for Sudan interest and the region. He isn't push over guy. Question: what agenda then are these men taking to the new US administration? I don't know, but the word in the streets goes like this: these men are going back to the drawing board or start afresh from where they left it off last year when they agreed to urge Mr. Ocampo to arraign President Al Bashir. So to realized a 'program for life' known as New Sudan. Oh no! May the food these men will eat there hang in their throats; may the spirit of our departed leader keeps the cause of South Sudan afloat in the middle of an imposing crisis.

The concern here however, isn't about whether they are right or wrong, but about what does this mean to this party in relations to popular current among our people. When grave matters such as the ICC are left to juniors to speculate, then there must be something awry going on somewhere. It seems as if they thought President Kiir doesn't know what's is up, when he urges for refrain. Chairman Salva will deliver Southern Sudan to the Promised Land, I can assert with authority! They have repeatedly put words in his mouth and this is unfair and unbecoming. This is so because some people within that group are continuing to peddle lies that the

Chairman had agreed with others in the party for President Al Bashir prosecution but only afraid to say it publicly. What a farce! His position has never changed behind the close doors or outside. He wanted peace first before accountability.

The justice these people are passionate about isn't one. We have reason that line, haven't we? Africans, it time to rise up and be you. The good lawyer after all has personalized the matter and had disqualified himself. No right-minded person would go by Mr. Ocampo's Google Earth so-called evidences. Serious as he claimed, can't add up any facts on the ground given the way he has handled this particular case. Morality is an important ingredient of justice moreover. If the 300,000 killed in Darfur is a case what of more lives that might be lost if peace agreements collapsed suddenly today; how many lives shall perish before another agreement is reached?

Even a single live count. In Darfur, there is deaths and instability true but there is exaggeration and inflation of issues, another truth! There is need to look at compound matters in that region with an impartial 'eyes' and then tackle them on a case-by-case basis.

Chairman must be firm therefore and get tough this time about. His party needs to stand together with the NCP for the sake of the CPA. He has to look critically within his system and if the need be to weed it, so let him do so. He has to crack the whip for the sake of harmony within his party. Hon. Dr. Lam Akol should be given the Secretary General of that party if the SPLM party means business. A well, full of wealth. Hon. Tellar Deng and Aleu Ayieny are amissed. In Darfur, he should look at ways to address the humanitarian situations of the displaced persons in the camps. Keeping them there isn't even wise idea. Efforts must get double to return people into their original homes. Darfur Rebels capitalize politically on the state of affairs of people in those camps. Ooop! Relief isn't the best either.

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ANOTHER HAGUE WEDNESDAY FOR THE SUDAN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JULY 20, 2009

The Sudanese from both the North and the South have now again fixed their ears and eyes to The Hague over Abyei ruling this Wednesday (July 22, 2009). The Dutch capital has made a name for the Sudanese for good or bad reasons; it was the same city when an Argentinian lawyer who is mentally doubtful defied all manner of logic's to singlehandedly bundled a case against the Sudanese President on charges of crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Although the law, like love, is blind, Louis M. Ocampo law wasn't. He knew exactly what he was doing, purely on a behest close to his character. His organization furthermore is a proxy of another author, even if that country insists to be not signatory to Rome Statute. Oops! That is a line (statement) someone doesn't like, yeah? But surely for anyone to run away with a case through our today's pictures must not be left without a quiz. Today's pictures lie; some are even from disasters of war in the Southern Sudan. Someone should have taken his time on a matter so sensitive like this one (cost more lives than save them). Learners leave no room for guessing, they investigate things thoroughly. That is where the problems lie. Besides peace is previous and expensive, achieve it isn't like destroying it. To force it either doesn't make it last! If that goaded you, sorry, there are no apologies here.

Here we go with our today's important topic. This coming Wednesday ruling about Abyei is a huge and probably the toughest decision to swallow. The land is a hotly contested place, as both sides (the South and the North) stake serious claims to it. The North has the geographical (call it legal) right, while the South has the historical (call it ownership) right; where does the ruling going to go from here really? That is a big question, isn't? But this is a moment after 105 years of dispute over that land, that a solution is finally going to be sought. Though there is anxiety and adrenalin among our people for the unexpected, everything must have an end and we should be contented (prepared) for worst or for good.

Someone on Wednesday will either wail or overjoy. Let there be no blame game. The South need not to blame GOSS or the SPLM, if the ruling goes against us; but surely the North will blame the West if the opposite becomes true on their side. But the ordinary man/woman in Abyei will have a psychological peace of mind. Yet, I would imagine the kind of feelings among our people if the likes of Brig. Edward Achueny Dau, Hon. Edward Lino Woor, Gen. Pieng Deng Majok, Gen. Kuol Deim Kuol, Hon. Zechariah Boll Deng, Hon. Deng Aloor Kuol, Mulana Deng Arop Kuol, Hon. Luka Biong Deng, Hon. Arop Mayak, Brig Kuol Deng Aboot, Ms Nyankol Mathiang etch kiss the South goodbye forever. I don't think however this worse scenario could actually come to mind or be expected on Wednesday; I have the faith.

But I have a piece of advice to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) lawyers. Biblical Solomon had a story (case) similar to this one at hand; you got to draw a lesson or two from it. When a pretender (a woman) who had killed her child patched a claim on a living child of another woman, King Solomon asked for a knife to hack it (child) even. The pretender agreed and the real owner of the baby didn't; instead she pleaded that the baby be given alive to the other woman than cut it into two pieces. King Solomon didn't cut the child, as we all know the story, but gave it away to the real owner who never agreed for the use of a knife to settle the case.

I hear Misseriya saying that the 'child' be cut into two pieces, one for them and the other for the Dinka Ngok. That is, the North part of Abyei town would be theirs and its Southern for the Dinka Ngok (South Sudan). The North of that town (as we all

know) is large and rich than the Southern part of it and there lies the intention. The former is the homes for most of our today's leaders including the Foreign Minister and Gen. Pieng Deng, among others. No! Don't divide that land, deliver my land to me in whole, Misseriya are imposers! No South without Abyei!

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SPLM KADUGLI PLEDGES, WHAT A TURNING POINT

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JULY 12, 2009

The Chairman and Commander In Chief of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit visit to Kadugli last week has been described by many as historic, i agree with them. The NCP on their side through its Information Secretary heaped praise to the First Vice President and the Government of South Sudan President on one of the line he made there (unity and the support for Al Bashir next year in the election)

The visit is historic in the sense that the SPLM/A chief has since retreated to Juba as his permanent seat or residence base leaving his position of his Vice Presidency to Dr. Ali Nafia Ali. He had never set foot anywhere else in the North, something others speculate to be his protest against the NCP stringent to allow him to visit Darfur earlier in 2008. None knows exactly the authenticity of that claim, but that is then; he has now started to be in the North.

The Chairman in Kadugli delivered key pledges, uncharacteristic of the man we know to be calculative when on politics but proactive on security. His first pledge is a possibility of an alliance with the NCP in the upcoming general elections. He said it from his heart and no doubt he means it. That means our leader has already thrown a towel on the presidency quest, as a candidate against the NCP President. The NCP allied newspapers were made to display it big even in their editorial, commending the SPLM generally and its leader.

But as expected, there are implications to this shift from the SPLM side. The Political Opposition Groups in both the North and the South have already termed it opportunistic and unfortunate. To them, the SPLM has just confirmed its intention to preserve the continuity. For starters, the Sudanese political opposition has been balanced by the existence of the SPLM; without the SPLM they (the opposition parties) don't have teeth capable enough to do the change without the support of the SPLM. We all know further that the SPLM has been playing dual games, one leg today here in the opposition and another one in the government.

Second implication is the hullabaloo about the new Sudan vision; pro unionists within the party, SPLM (in decimal percentage of course) who are uncomfortable with the Chairman declaration are up in arm. These men in fact have been everywhere near the corridors of world power- in an attempt to remove the government in power with the assumption that they won't be affected. By announcing to withdrawal from the race for presidency (Gen. Kiir), these men have already concluded that Al Bashir is given a life span for five more years, a breathing license when he shouldn't be given, because he is a 'killer'.

Mubarak Al Fadhil, one of the Umman party splinter group chairman was touted to be in alliance with the SPLM unionists. No one knows whether an alliance about seats in the House or about change at the state house in Khartoum. Mr. Kiir was to be asked to give way to Mubarak Al Fadhul for the Presidency race. But that that aborted project I presume has been put into disarray by Mr. Kiir intention now to keep the Presidency contest as his card.

Third implication is the fear within the SPLM backyard where Gen. Kiir is largely seen as having done too little so to be allowed to continue holding his position for five more years. Gen. Kiir misgivings are woefully synonymous with failures. This is sad for people who are seriously looking for a better future. You will not know that the government has done nothing until indicators show it. We will not get tire to say it a million times, why? Because the people of Southern Sudan deserve more.

South Sudan is a great land that is moving forward, a country that needs big ideas from a thinker and inventive character. As a person, our President is socially and historically a man to be respected. He handles himself above tribal classes, he is fair and I sincerely pray for his health and safety as he retires. Yet, we can't live in the denial, he has copied exactly the personality of one of his advisors (name withheld), a sly short man with a monarchical pretensions, a man with a self inflated ego, who seeks himself mystical flat form that doesn't exist, we know him, don't we? This has left a big leadership deficit that will take time for President Kiir to leave behind. This election could have helped us out, to identify who among equals to try it, when we show the door to the parasites and one 'thupeeli'. He needs the like of Deng Deng to organize our big man for the smooth lay out of our foundation.

I don't know how to be myopic or simply be a patronizing loyalist. I believe that we can still do with others who are future oriented, and serious persuaders, not until you become figurative in negativity all the time, or say and never follow something up in his own speeches. Singapore, didn't fall from heaven, someone laid it foundation so strong and others build on it. Botswana in Africa is another and again Rwanda next door.

Shall we go back to the second pledge made in Kadugli, or are you carried away? May be or may be not, but here is Kadugli SPLM pledge: the big man pledge to protect the aspirations of the people of Nuba Mountain and Ingessina Hills. He made

it clear that he wants to see a political promise in the CPA about the need for exercise for the people Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile States. Their rights of Popular Consultation. I don't know how he will do it, but this is sweet news indeed!

We all know what did the people of Nuba and Ingessina Hills (Funj) do in the liberation struggle. How they have lost lives and properties in the course of their defence dignity and land. We today froth talking about Darfur and Darfur on the deaths that have occurred there, but few people care or remember the magnitude of damage cause to human lives and properties in the Nuba Mountain. They paid dearly in the hands of Mujaheddin.

Commander Yusif Kwoa of the then Politico-Military High Command would have turn in grave to curse Gen. Kiir for their betrayal. Mr. Kiir foot soldiers have since ventured into political prostitution by jumping to bed with Islamist called Khalil Ibrahim Ahmed (my respect though goes to Commander Ahmed Mohamed Al Noor and Suleiman Jamus), leaving behind Commander Abdul Aziz Adam El Hilu, Commander Ismael Jalab, Commander Daniel Kodi and others to fight it alone.

That pledge to revive and even fight for the rights of these people of Nuba and Funj is overdue. It must therefore not be an act of talking or just hot air (public relation thing). It has to be followed with a strategy, focus and purpose. As I write, am shedding tears of deep touch because of what I know these people have done with me in the forest of Western Equatoria and other places. On personal account and tribune, I must say this: Ahmed Faki Gwo, a colleague in the army was sniped dead by an armed government agent in the evening in the war zone, when I was cooking grass. I rushed to find him raising his left armed, a clinched fist, shouting 'SPLA Oyee' as he breaths his last. May Faki soul rest in eternal peace!!! Many more of his likes perished here and morally unfair to rush to Darfur leaving these people to fend for themselves.

Now that our leaders, especially those who never had a chance to be in the war zone, but opted to evade it for studies, have ganged up to abuse the privilege given to them by our leader to advice him. They have pushed their agenda that has confined the SPLM Chairman to Southern affairs. The people of Nuba Mountain must not be just abandon when they us the same way we had then needed them.

Third pledge by the SPLM Chairman is his assurances about the democratization pluralisation country (South Sudan) as well as respect for human rights. He has all along however been talking the same language but may be he is serious this time around. The President Kiir perhaps is on a turn around cantor and should be given benefits of doubts. He should here begin to respect the opinion of others who are contrary to his; Garang had similar negative voices and we know how he managed to get over them. Gen. Kiir himself has written and spoken against his many times and was fired or lost his job. I love that man in grave!

Hence our leader a week ago in Kator right in the House of God spewed unnecessary disparage against the SPLM-DC Chairman, Hon. Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin. We had then been misled earlier by his speech in Parliament and Mr. Pagan Amum reinforced it while abroad, for a need to talk to one another- possibilities of reuniting the two SPLMs. That simple act in the Catholic Church by our leader floored other sincere initiatives to unite the SPLM.

To make matter worse, the security agents in Malakal town and other adjacent areas are doing their 'jobs' and this is uncalled for. The SPLM should reconcile nevertheless, that is the only option. Why not leave him and his team to contest an election and if they are serious people will bring them back to parliament without anyone interfering with their freedom of choice. Our Interim law protects everyone choices and we got to abide by the book.

Mr. Chairman, we aren't giving up on you; because we know you and you know the cause of the people of Southern Sudan, a cause that is almost your entire age. It's bigger than you and me, and not even 1% equivalent Presidency seat in Khartoum. CPA has an answer to that problem and hence critical to safe guard it so jealously. President Al Bashir is a major contributor and you have to wax your partnership together to the end, no matter the pressure and set backs. Future is in Khartoum not in London or Washington.

Remember the saying that 'a bird in the hand worth ten other birds in the bush'; the CPA is your today's 'bird', pay damn attention to countenances and plots and keep your head to the target in 18 months time. Going around looking for another alliance at an eleven hour beside the NCP is suicidal. Therefore make extra efforts to put your own words in Kadugli into action. Start by closing your ranks with the NCP and return to Khartoum. Be open about your pledge or intention to support Al Bashir in the contest for Presidency, after all you were destined to lose it.

Never bank on the so-called international community; we don't want disappointment like others who sought help from the so-called super power promised, but they end up in oblivion! The very power that beats its chest in vain, even when they are on the wrong side of things. When a Somali child asks for peace, food and water, he was given bullets instead, what do you think is this world made up of with? I think President Barrack Obama should be watched closely and epitomized. This is a time for engagement, mutual respect and dialogue is here.

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AU MUST DISCIPLINE BOTSWANA ON ITS ICC'S CONTROVERSIAL THREATS

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JULY 7, 2009

13th Summit of the African heads of States and Governments in Sirte, Libya last week has done African pride, by slumping the US sponsored scheme aimed at destabilizing an African state; but one errand country named as Botswana defied and continue to pour contempt on a magnificent and well do decision to tell off the West on the African affairs.

Sir Phandu Skelemani, the Botswana's Foreign Affairs minister has not just played cheap acquiesce ugly role for the West but willingly attempt to trample on the African dignity and resolve to be its master of its affairs.

Who says the Africans know no justice or that it's a land prone to impunity more than any other continent in the world? Who again made African continent a dumping ground for junk and tired lawyers, or a place where selective justice is to be applied leaving the rest of other criminals free to bomb, maimed and invade other countries at will?

Botswana, do you know what, you are a shame and disgrace to the African continent and people! This is why: Look, the AU leaders didn't just fix a bail blanket to protect the President of the Sudan as a person, or just for the sake of it, their eyes are beyond the ICC's and that is important! But also they had earlier tried to ask the Security Country to suspend the threat against the Sudanese President for some time, at least a year to allow peace a chance, but what happened, the US and Britain for reasons best to everyone, frustrated everyone on that noble idea. What do you think should have been done in response to the Western obstinacy?

AU like many others who are true friends of the Sudanese wants peace first to get a grip on the land and others later. The AU leaders are after saving of more lives, because it's not just about Al Bashir removal or arrest but the aftermath of that action. I don't where did this idea scape Botswana? Singing justice, justice is normal, but sanity of human lives that might be lost in the course of pursuing justice is more heavenly than just retributive. None will come back from Darfur, the future matters.

The country moreover still reel from its war fevers and anything could put every positive efforts done anywhere to jeopardy. The society is complex and hence a need to delay that justice, no matter the length. That is to say, the ground for it right now isn't there, because of polarisation of the Sudanese society.

In few words, the Sudanese political transition after President Al Bashir would be tumultuous and is dotted with uncertainty, because the NCP, the ruling party wouldn't allow any other leader besides Al Bashir to take over without a blood, and therefore right for the AU leaders do refuse to cooperate with the ICC western arm. It was historic decision for the sake of the Sudanese people; because of imminent anarchy that about to generate itself after forceful removal of the President of the Sudan.

I must stop there because Botswana has been made deaf by its wealth and won't listen. I would imagine that this was a country that was a symbol of hope to the rest of the Africa when Sir Seretse Khama, the founding father of that nation pulled its from its poor background to its current economic might; and today that image is eroded by Khama junior who had since turn his interest to his maternity uncles leaving his people scratching their in disbelief of what isn't African culture. Please Mr. President, you know little about this country called Sudan and prudent that you take your time and shut your mouth.

Botswana, how much will it pay you to go alone many times among other African countries? AU leaders are hereby strongly advice to stop if not to flush it out from its membership; imagine this is not its first time to act contrary to the voice of the majority of the Africans. Zimbabwe nurses a wound created by the West, but the black sheep of Africa, Botswana call on Comrade Robert Gabriel Mugabe to step down.

Its time for the AU to discipline Botswana to serve as a lesson to other African leaders who are spoiling the unity of the African people. What is in the ICC's to be celebrated? Do the Botswana and Koffi Annan know anything about Darfur or the South and the East? Are they aware of the mood on the ground about what the US is trying to do against the Sudanese elected leader? But even so, or say killing had taken place in Darfur, is the West genuine in their drive to protect lives, why not support the remaining displaced persons there right now, when Africans leaders had asked them for logistical support.

But it's an insult to the Sudanese in particular to arrest its leader, a very person who symbolises sovereignty of the country. Sudanese will judge him next year, and even if need be arrest him, not from the cooked body of the Super power. We might not like Al Bashir, due to his past record on the South Sudan, but still he is our President to whom with we want to see the CPA live.

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SOUTHERN POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY IS NO BRAINER

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 23, 2009

We have been engaged for the past few days doing literally damage to ourselves than good especially over the formation of another SPLM party under Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin; the very topic that has refused to go away on ground not necessary constructive. Some of us went a notch higher to throw every bit of gauntlet to support or condemn the move without taking their time on the substance of his defection. In the process we were left with dints of irrationality that haunt our conscience as we reflect back to our reaction.

What am talking about here really? This is what we want to say: some of us have curiously narrowed the whole case at hand to the personality of Dr. Akol on the expense of his message or matters he has raised. In another word, we had spent enough time chiding the 'package' leaving the message to slips below/under our belts.

I thought Dr. Akol had talked about the need to overhaul the system called the SPLM from its proclaimed tenets, and this is in terms of its direction towards peace, democracy, governance and freedom of expression and opinion among others.. His timing and the move however might not be popular to many but the man has raised critical issues that might help the SPLM in the long run or make it stand the test of time. I doubt whether shouting and personal assassination tirade could do away with those pertinent issues he has raised and of which we have been monotonously talking about them often here.

So what is the point? Am tempted to highlight some mists, or mistakes we have been making as we attempt to absorb the second SPLM split under Dr. Lam Akol, and the efforts or what have not, to find ways out of that hassle. But, I shall do it briefly with no much comment to add.

Here is the first one: some of us have suggested that Dr. Akol SPLM breakaway is a touted arm of the NCP and therefore a fronted mole aimed at frustrating the SPLM 'fight' for its rights against the NCP. These people purported 'evidences' that include the base of the party and sponsorship.

Granted, no one knows what had gone under the bridge or say between the Dr. Akol new party and the NCP in the case of support and backing but that isn't a deal so long it isn't interfering with the quest for freedom by the people of Southern Sudan and other marginalised regions. He knows how many times Khartoum have tried to undermine the people of Southern Sudan through its own sons and that never

worked, what will make it work today when we have entrenched in the South more than any other time before.

Second is that some people have accused Dr. Lam Akol of insincerity and power hungry man. That he has been denied the ministerial appointment in the last reshuffle after he had lost his first job in Khartoum. This is partly true, and had expected the President then to appoint him anywhere specially the ministry of Regional Cooperation that has done nothing to our people under Dr. Marial Benjamin Bill. This is serious, the President knows the followings this man has besides his talents, but chose to toss him and continue to ignore him for reasons dated to the land of Jikany in the 1991. Who never rebelled against the SPLM by the way? What did he do that others didn't do that makes him a refuse within the structures of the party and the government.

Pause a minute, am on brief for Dr. Akol here or agent of the group pocket stuffed by the NCP? No way, am no 467 of the Tumsah Battalion and will be the last to leave the party when my breath is gone! What will I tell those who die ahead of me when I join them if I shuttle between my stomach and my heads? Shame on me if...

Let's return to where we were (the story). The third myth is this: some of us have subjectively written Dr. Akol off by arguing that the man has put a pen into his political obituary and will go alone or that he will have no impact at all. This is a fallacy because the indicators so far show that Dr. Lam Akol command a sizeable support from his tribesmen. And other adjacent areas, even if some of them aren't coming out openly but opted to suppress their support momentarily. Time will betray them anyway!

Forth is the blanket dismissal or loud silence about some issues in Dr. Akol case. Take for example the vice named as corruption, is that the creation of the SPLM man (Dr. Akol)? I thought we could push our government to the wall about this matter so to change tact against its current futile fight. Before we dismiss perhaps we should have investigate and the writer isn't picking from the web sites to peddle idle insinuation but the Anti-Corruption Unit is right here among us and could testify. Even banks could act as witnesses since we channel our money through them to our families in neighboring countries, Europe and Khartoum. May be this isn't a small thing because we won't go anywhere with evil among us. Bishop Lukudu where did you go, prays hard!

Fifth and the final is a claim that Dr. Lam Akol has exaggerated charges about the NCP-SPLM relationship. People who condemned him on this path of reasoning want that partnership severe because they thought the NCP is the problem in the implementation of the CPA, even forgetting that we have gone a long way out. They are urging the SPLM to look for another group within Northern Political forces and Juba a week ago has seen the 'treachery' with its own 'eyes'. What a gamble! I don't think its right to buy this freaky strategy. The NCP is our partner and something

must change from us to keep that partnership flourish than die for the smooth running to the finish line.

At a nutshell, just to repeat ourselves, we got to make peace and unity among ourselves as a priority. We got to talk to each other and listen to one another. We need to examine our attitudes against the NCP. The President last week stole my respect when he delivered his splendid speech in Parliament. His handling of Dr. Lam Akol argument with sobriety and calmness has gone well with many. He needs therefore to extend it by talking to Dr. Lam and his group. The SPLM must seize the opportunity to do something about issues that are necessary for our existence. Dr. Lam on his side must rethink his position and start to talk to President Kiir or the Vice President.

The party ought to inject fresh blood in its systems of governance particularly democratization of its structures. If a loser loses, he loses; what a point to keep him/her there. To repeat myself, the NCP-SPLM relationship presently is bad and had to be rejuvenated. One of my learned brother last week passionately talks about it here. This is important and if it means that the SPLM abandon its ambition to unseat Al Bashir by allowing him to contest that presidency with non-signatories of the agreement so let it be! Census row therefore must be oppressed, it must not be allowed to stand in the way, when we are just months away from our overall pictures. Long live the SPLM/A, long live the unity of our people under Kiir-Machar leadership.

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SPLM MUST RECONCILE ITSELF

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 9, 2009

Let's say on the onset here that the move by brother Dr. Lam AkoL Ajawin to form his own breakaway SPLM party is an extreme and untimely given our fragile society that is embedded in tribal galore. However let it be assured that the split is going to turn out to be a blessing in another name or form. Let the politicians fight it out, it healthy for our own good and believe it's going be all right! Dr. Akol knows how difficult it was to have several voices against Khartoum and trust that he remains true to free his people through the course that has been charted out in the CPA.

Before we hypothesise further, let's us look at the following questions; is history at play again at our watch and if yes what do we make out of it as individuals with thoughts and reasoning? Second, is Dr. Akol who to you as far Southern politics is concerned? In another word, what do think this man is, a villi ant, a fool, a victim of his conscience, a bewitched or a hero? Third question: is Mr. Deng Aloor

right/wrong in his choices of words when he piece together what had happened within his party? The same path was followed by some members in Home and Away yesterday here in Juba over a cup of drinks; I thought Dr. Akol was unequivocal on specific matters, issues that has something to do with you and me, not personal in form and character. Forth, what if Dr. Akol was ahead of others in their drive to wrest the SPLM from Gen. Kiir?

How about the party apathy towards their party internal crisis? None of the senior members of that party seems to care; exactly that is what they did in 1990 but turn out ugly in 1991. Many are quick to demonised Dr. Akol giving him raw dismissal as they could make assuming that the issues he has raised will go away with that whimsical indifference and dismissive tone. Shush! They got to rethink again! A crisis is a crisis particularly politics, and a solution therefore must be sought and sought urgently. The six question is this: is the SPLM Chairman anywhere in control and if yes, then why did he get to the bottom of the problem two months ago when the matter was muted?

So, we are at the centre of crisis, how do we come out of it? Well, its important that our people take no side especially the Chollo community; Dr. Akol differences with his colleagues must end up there within his group or party and our people in Malakal area and elsewhere must stay away. Let's wait for the SPLM Chairman and his team to react. There are gentlemen and ladies there who are real and believe we shall all navigate to 2011.

But the forum under the so-called Executive Body of the party or Bureau is part of the problem; they won't bring out the desired reconciliation among the historical party of our people. The SPLM is our 'baba' and 'mama' and should be guarded from disintegrating into periphery. Looking at our heroes in uniform today from across our communities, you really feel good and no mad man shall dream of throwing fire among them to finish each other unnecessarily.

There is an urged need then to slow down our belligerent approach and try to made sense of our 'home made' crisis. Home and Away forum isn't enough, it should be enlarged. That means that the extension for invitation that cut across including the grass root levels should be taken into consideration. If it means reconvening the entire body of the National Convention so be it! The routine of issuing not-so-caring statements that are often an art of one or two individuals must not allowed in this case within the party.

Nothing is cheap and argues that we must try to do everything to avoid the second split that will make our enemies in Khartoum to laugh shits out of themselves; we can and we should! The issues has something to do with critically examine our past and see where do we want to go as a party in as far as matters of governance (accountability, justice, equality, transparency, rule of the law etc), democracy and peace are concerned. Peace means the CPA and by it we mean our relationship with

our partners the National Congress Party (NCP). This relationship is critical whether we like it or not. Few members of the SPLM party have become literally a stumbling block to this relationship and something ought to be made.

The national election is around the corner and the party is slow to move and organise itself as to who should go where and on what flat form. Currently we have one man show system where the Chairman has an absolute say everywhere, whether in Parliament, Judiciary, the army and his own government. The constitution basks him those powers, but in the current state of affairs, he's overboard. No checks and has since grown dictatorial and autocratic. Do we have a case here to go on Dr. Akol and start blaming him, when it's his own right to refuse to lie low? I don't think so!

I must also say that the current Vice President isn't satisfied because there is already a team that design matters and then pass them to the Vice Chairman for validation or rubber stamp and this is another matter where it is necessary for the system to cracks so to get heal. People who spoil our good leader with their faulty ideology of "akulbarau" by excluding others are also part of this crisis. This habit was not known before to Dinka community, if you would allow me to go general.

But Dr. Machar shouldn't think of abandoning the people of Southern Sudan in their hour of need; he has to to spoil everything from within and ensures that his boss changes or goes home next year. Dr. Machar needs to spearhead the reconciliation drive, not Mr. Amum; he might botch it! At least if there could be an arrangement to keep the two SPLM parties in a political cooperation or something to an alliance, once its becomes unattainable to have Dr. Akol return to the party.

But clearly the time is running out for everyone. A wind of change has knocked and something concrete must be done and done extraordinarily. This will reduce major fallouts at an eleven hour when we would be in dire need of unity among ourselves. We have serious matters at hand and it's prudent that we make use of each other's talents such as that of Dr. Akol. Don't give a damn to hardliners whose purpose of politicking is to show off and nothing more. It's critical therefore to look at Dr. Lam Akol move as an opportunity to put our house in order before the next year general election.

A single element in a system counts as the Good Book says; "the divided house" never stands. May be we should stop raking up issues that will only serve devil and Khartoum when we splintered into groups, then clans and sections. A challenge is on your shoulders SPLM leaders to show leadership. Khartoum invisible hands will be visible if you chose to behave maturely and responsibly.

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JEM'S POST INDEPENDENCE SOUTH CONFEDERATION IS A POLITICAL NONSENSE

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 1, 2009

JEM official in the person of Adullahi Osman El Tom has written a piece of work (article entitled "Towards Confederation between Independent South and North Sudan") last week in which he projected a confederation arrangement after Independence of the Southern Sudan, as an option that could keep the two Sudan states in the path to peace and progress. My contention goes with some of his genuine assertions right to paragraph three- in his misleading thoughts and advice-, however the foundational structure of his argument can't go unchallenged!

Mr. El Tom scoffed with a whiff of sarcasm against the people of Southern Sudan, so strong that it jumped the pages, especially in paragraph six and seven. His thoughts were stimulating and exasperating as inspiring as it was disappointing. It was a potent mix: part consolation part clear triangulation and part a brilliant jibes cloned with ruthless and relentless that almost disguises the shrouded content. His ignorance or what not, makes me lose my intellectual nerves in contention, after the learned gentleman touched a wrong button, by willfully suggested and I quote "separation of the Southern Sudan is bound to be bitterly, painful, emotive and resentful." and that its better have "popular support for the project confederation...; be a pre-condition validation through a referendum or a similar undertaking".

What was going on in his mind exactly in those clauses? Sincerely, do we need to have Plan B if the outcome pointed to separation of the South from the North; if at all there isn't a sinister plan underneath? What would be that be for anyway? I don't think its time to lecture anyone about the benefits of being together or being apart. The ball is with the Sudanese people, especially now Southerners. But, when will the North stop conspiring against the people of Southern Sudan, Oh heaven?

What on the other hands are the "formidable challenges" Mr. Adullahi thought couldn't be surmounted after independence of Southern Sudan? Are the border security issues, Northern markets interest in the South and animal in the southern forest formidable reasons to warrant a confederation for the two emerging two countries? Or in which way should the confederation be a viable solution to coexistence of the two quasi-jurisdiction two states? The current arrangement furthermore tends to resemble it, what shall be an added value of that confederation when the South separate from the North?

Mr. Al Tom, my eyes are red with anger because of your conscious attempt to scratch the past wounds when you conspicuously said, the South would be dependent on the North economically and on human capital need if they go alone. I don't believe the

'food, agricultural, oil pipelines, light industrial productions, access to a port' according to your wordings, could justify the abuse you have inflicted to our people in those passages; a familiar to Arabs derogative remarks by the Arabs the enemies of our people. How dare are you man to mock and smack the intelligence of Southerners! Sir be known to you that separation of Southern Sudan isn't a try and error matter, or a joke- sad as it might sound- we will part ways with you!!!.

But wait a minute: what is surprising today about Southerners interest to secede from the Northerners? This is an open intention known all over the world and therefore hypocritical to feign a surprise at the percentage figure of those going for succession. Mr. Pagan Amum you thought would vote for unity is a Southerner who has sacrificed everything for the freedom of his people, nothing is/will be attractive to make him abandon the cause of his people and move his home from Dingirshupu (Malakal) to Bahari in Khartoum affluent superb. But surely, there is a gleaning lesson am learning from you and I know who you are! For now to that time, you got to represent facts the way the look like; time for those 'strategies' had ong elapsed. In essence, one thought you could give a break to your old tricks and give room for democratic rights of others. If the South becomes poor and insecure is that your business? What moral authority do you really have as the people of Darfur about Southern given your dirty history against the people of South Sudan?

Oh no, there must something we don't know the JEM official knows about the future of the Sudan; something akin to what Mr. Amum the SPLM Secretary General alluded in his 'alliance' commodity and that of Dr. Turabi formation of new government. If that is so, then am afraid, you need to go back to your Western schemers; we are marching towards next year general elections and that of the referendum for an independent homeland, the year after. No amount of diversionary and shallow ruse will stop this march! Your team has wasted previous time doing the undoing. Sudanese are going forward and the two partners in the agreement (CPA) are also limping together until the end of the Interim Arrangement.

In short, go to Doha and preach your confederation animal there to Northerners in your round table talks, may be it could work between the two of you. As for the South Sudan, I beg you to leave these people alone, enough with charades and charlatens; we had enough of these from you the collective North!

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NO EXCUSE TO BOYCOTT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

MAY 15, 2009

There has been an ominous voice in the air that suggests that some members of the SPLM party are cracking a plan behind the scene to ensure that the slated upcoming general election in February next year is boycotted. They are hatching a protest in what they called the NCP manipulation of the 5Th Census results that projected Southern Sudan to be 8 million people.

Where did I get this? Mr. Pagan Amum the SPLM Secretary General came public couple of days ago and announced that the results didn't reflect the true picture of the Southern Sudan population and that the Presidency wasn't in agreement. He further questioned the presidency decision to pass it and claimed that the President of the Government of the Southern Sudan H. E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit wasn't satisfied.

Query and deduction, just not to waste your time: Mr. Amum isn't a member of the Presidency, who has talked to him about the dissatisfaction within the Presidency when President Kiir never came out open, say to the media? The answer could be that perhaps President Kiir himself has voluntarily confided in him; if that is so, then there is a problem and the problem is this: why didn't the SPLM leader come out clearly to everybody, especially to the presidency members and reject the results outright? Who made him silence there and makes him rejects the results here? But what does this say about the collective responsibility obligation we all know?

You see, this isn't the first time for this party to chicken out of responsibility; we had enough of similar blunders that are only meant to portray the NCP on the negative. We are constantly made to perceive that the NCP is always on the wrong and we always right, even when it's not the case. Someone wants us to sing after him "its the NCP who did it" everyday, and this pattern of habit must be put to test if not to stop. President Isaias Aferwoki of Eritrea on his visit to earlier Juba last humbly advised Southern leaders to content with what they can afford and stop point fingering to their partners in the government. That holds true. There are issues that are open to negotiation and gravy ones that are not subject to compromise; Negotiations have been proved to be effective, but boycott. Points of disagreement shall always be there, no matter what, but it's upon us to wedge them or narrow.

What we have been saying in many words as came above is this: the Southern leadership or the SPLM for that matter must make use of this partnership with the NCP to the full, and not spoil it. We have an objective to accomplish and a sense of duty call in our time to carry it out to the end. There is no way we should get everything 100% all the time when the circumstances do not make it possible. Our

peace partners, the NCP are unique characters in their approaches and this should be exploited maximumly. President Kiir is mindful about it, to his best credit but his company aren't, especially the self righteous and self-proclaimed saviours of the country in that party top echelon.

But what do people really think is happening within the SPLM party that makes them plot an about turn (boycott of an election? Well, some say the party intention is to weaken the NCP in every way possible even if that is through mere smearing, so as to gain a political leverage against them- something familiar to any political party. Others yet tend to think that the outcome of that election is already known; the NCP is winning and therefore unnecessary to contest the election altogether. Internally furthermore the party has a leadership problem as to who to contest for Khartoum seat and who to remain the South. By boycott they would underscore an option to avoid troubles out of this crisis. Generally the party has warmed itself on the ruling and don't want to let it go. They might be wrong or wrong, there is no comment.

Refusing to go to election however isn't the right thing to do. The Census Results can not warrant us to boycott the upcoming election, if we could that reason in its face value; we can't afford losing out in the democratic rewards, we should be the heads not the tails in this important exercise; it will be irresponsibility, abdication and a mistake on our side. Someone else should go opposite not us.

Initially, the wealth and the power that become so sweet now aren't our ultimate goals, aren't they? We never make use of them after all but disappointment. But in reality, the NCP didn't do anything wrong in the Census and Housing counts, designers of the CPA are. May be we didn't do our work well too. The count wasn't carried out conclusively and satisfactorily besides those unavoidable circumstances at that time. There is nothing the NCP would do to change things at the moment, we better close this matter and move on to election. The NCP has started doing their strategies to win that election and the SPLM should do something to catch them up by supporting the initiative of the National Election Commission (NEC), on its drive to register people and parties, acquisition of voting materials, cards and recruitment of staff members among others.

Look at this: the underground move by SPLM party to boycott the upcoming election isn't out of the blue, its Chairman seems uninterested or at least hasn't shown it publicly. May be he is! If that could be the reason then what is the point of harassing the environment when the leader isn't prepare or about to go for it? We can't afford to quarrel in the middle of nowhere on petty matters now; it will be too much for everybody! The focus for 2011 again stands out as an unfinished business, saved for those who came out to say they are for the unity (Mr. Amum is in record on this and lead the group). Curse be unto them in our land!

The SPLM should tell other Sudanese not Southerners (Southerners see no immediate benefit there) why they are the best. Let's hear the SPLM Chairman from

his own mouth what he wants to do with that job and how he wants to do things for the Sudan. Southerners shall do the same to the man they know best in his action not just in too much words and empty talks. Formal speeches don't bring out characters, interaction in public rallies do. In another word, Gen. Kiir has to start talking, he has been speaking. By the former we shall know his attitudes, characters and behaviours- politicians aren't economical with themselves and am being fooled by this man- they are called 'good liars' and indeed it fits them. Whereas by speaking alone make him mechanical, cosmetic and artificial to many-its repulsive and undesirable.

Having gone that long, we must finish by asking the following questions? If the SPLM presses ahead and boycotted the general elections, will that change anything/what in Khartoum? How about the South, are we prepare to have the same face of Finance Minister by next year this time about to oversees our money? What of the unpopular governors in the states of Eastern Equatoria and Western Upper Nile, what will the public say about the party they all ascribed in to it? How about the legitimacy question to members of houses, do the people really view our members with respect at the moment- we know how these men/women were selected for the houses, don't we? But also, how long shall the South be held hostage by SPLM unionists and 'friends' Darfur rebels? Wasn't it not the Darfuris SAF commanding officer in Malakal in July 2007 who shed tears while handing over the barrack keys to the SPLA General, Gen. Marial Chinuor?

Oh! Our Big Day, the 16 May is here; as we remember that heroic act in that day, unless we forget, let's give accreditation to a Southerner behind it and that man in non other than Major Kerubino Kuanyin Boll; that is his moment of glory, worth our attributes! Ma Al Salama

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THE SPLM MUST RESOLVE ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATURES QUESTION

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 2, 2009

I say candidatures not a candidature because we are talking here of the SPLM Sudanese Presidency candidature and that of the Government of the Southern Sudan. The topic is so because there is a huge climate of suspicion hanging over our heads as to which way the SPLM is taking this matter. The party is secretive about it and hence mind boggling why keep this important topic secret, and allow the public to opinion ate everywhere. Whether its a hot potato or not, the party should sit down and amicably resolve it head on. Remember we are interested in the Southern Sudan

Presidency debate, not Khartoum's unless that is what traitors and pretenders want us to believe.

The climate I have mentioned above was partly caused by some section close to the President of the Government of Southern Sudan who feels that its better there is no election and preserve the status qua than to share the current powers of the SPLM Chairman, especially to someone who is an 'outsider' and a spoiler whose past trails blood, deaths, betrayal and displacement of Southern Sudanese. That they would rather support the NCP candidature instead. The same groups are also nursing an alternative idea- if things come to shove- to have this particular individual lose in a proxy internal election that would pitch him with the current Speaker of Southern Legislative Assembly Mr. James Wani.

They further propose that Gen. Kiir should retain his Southern Presidency on the expense of his national presidential contest against the National Congress Party (NCP) man, Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir That is, Mr. Kiir's party might name another candidate probably Mr. Mansoor, Nhial or Amum for that National top seat. No one knows how this is going to happen without disturbances in the SPLM structures, and if it happened what will happen to rhetoric we have been hearing from these party. There are others yet who think its better loses party leadership than losing the executive in the South to Dr. Machar. We are being opened about everything and you got to bear!

No extremes here, everything is within the reach of politics. Each of these proposals has drawbacks and a cost of course and hence a concern from this writer. We will not however argue about them here; you can figure them out on your own. That means, we shall only confined the discussion on the importance of making a decision that is highly anticipated (decide on time who to contest Southern Presidency and who for Khartoum seat). We have heard of this topic for sometime now when Mr. Alier flagged the nation to election mood two months ago, therefore not surprising to talk about it; its an idea whose time is right. No one makes up any story here, we live in them and are events daily among us Southern Sudanese. That is a long introduction, isn't it? May be.

Let's get going: Gen. Kiir name obviously can't be on both ballot boxes, can he? He will have to choose between the Khartoum and Juba Presidential seats. The circumstances under which the current arrangement (vesting of myriads powers under one individual) were made have long been preceded by the death of the CPA author (Garang). Late Garang was a real challenger, undisputed moreover, who was going for nothing short of the national top seat (Sudanese Presidency). That situation has tragically changed, because Kiir isn't Garang to do the magic (win that election) against Al Bashir. Keeping his name on both boxes isn't again a better option; there is nothing like omni-president, not anywhere!

But wonder, why should that idea be piloted in the first place, as if the SPLM is Kiir and the reverse is true. The SPLM latest insistence to parochial individualised an institution in the face of objective realities must not go unchallenged. Just curious, why Kiir's name on both ballot boxes! Unless its Salva Kiir or anyone from his tribe, the election must not be allowed take place. A tall member of his group put a face arguing like that and has failed to understand his reasoning.

That is unacceptable; no Southerner likes it including those ahead of us in grave-people who fought our freedom. Look, we live in a new age, where boundaries (tribal included) are getting thinner each passing day. What matters most is who delivers, regardless of his/her ethnicity.

It's time then to separate an institution from patronising (individualism), and look at our leaders as individuals independent of the party or system. Who best suits the challenges of leadership, must not be obstructed because of some ugly cards behind our chests. The SPLM identifies itself with Gen. Kiir we know and that is understandable but the truth is that each member of that party deserves a chance like Gen. Kiir and has the same passion and obligation to carry on the baton of liberation the same way Fr. Saturino Lohure did it in the 1960s.

The SPLM party first and foremost must be concern about the unity of its ranks and files. There has to be a giant to fill up those shoes left by late Garang; a figure so big, transparent, and vibrant to move us gently out of the wood. Gen. To be honest, Kiir never filled those shoes and will never fill despite pockets of successes under his administration in the South today. We had expected more, not mediocrity! The party has many qualified figures we could entrusted our affairs and here not proper for some confused members (real beneficiaries of our messes) of that party going around to confused our people further by unrealistic theories against who is fit and who isn't. History will judge this people harshly if the opportunity before us is lost.

Each situation comes and must go with its approach: Undoubtedly, His Excellency the President has done alot to bring our people together, working round the clock to keep us safe and secure. With some problems still ununresolved no one expect him to do miracles over night given our complex issues at hand. Gen. Kiir should be celebrated. He must allow himself to be helped. Mr. Kiir therefore should challenge Al Bashir and allow his deputy to take care of the house (Southern Sudan) behind him. The SPLM Chief should name his deputy without rigours processes that are often tribalistic; the party ought to nominate and anoint both of them immediately, there is no time to waste. Ten months isn't long. The former shall remain as the Chairman of the party whether he will lose or win there. If he loses, he may still keep his current seat of the First Vice Presidency in Khartoum with his eyes on the Southern affairs.

Dr. Machar on the other hand will assume his duties as President of the Southern Sudan Government and Commander In Chief of the Southern Army (the SPLA).

Dr. Machar will get to business and bet that he will take the monster called nepotism by its horns. The best place to start it is from our ministries and governmental institutions in the Government of the South Sudan. Truly, Dr. Machar will detribalized the agriculture ministry where 85% are Baris; Security, Finance and Education where 80% are Dinkas and Southern Custom Unit where 75% there comes from his tribe; not to mentioned over 50% in the army. You could imagine the kind of troubles waiting our nation with that kind of tribal structures. We don't have time to talk about some commissions that clan households altogether.

This is a time and moment we must not lose it as a nation. The SPLM must swallow its pride and make the necessary if not highly expected decision to put this matter to rest. Mr. Kiir surely is a proud man and he needs a 'donkey' like Machar to help him. I don't think a right-minded person would ever continue to dwell in the past; Dr. Machar has 'grown' and this is his chance, it has just come; and the SPLM should pave his way! The fate is smiling on him on many directions. Dr. Machar is a committed leader; our destiny would be safe in his hands! Attempts to stop him on malicious or tribal grounds at this critical time can't work.

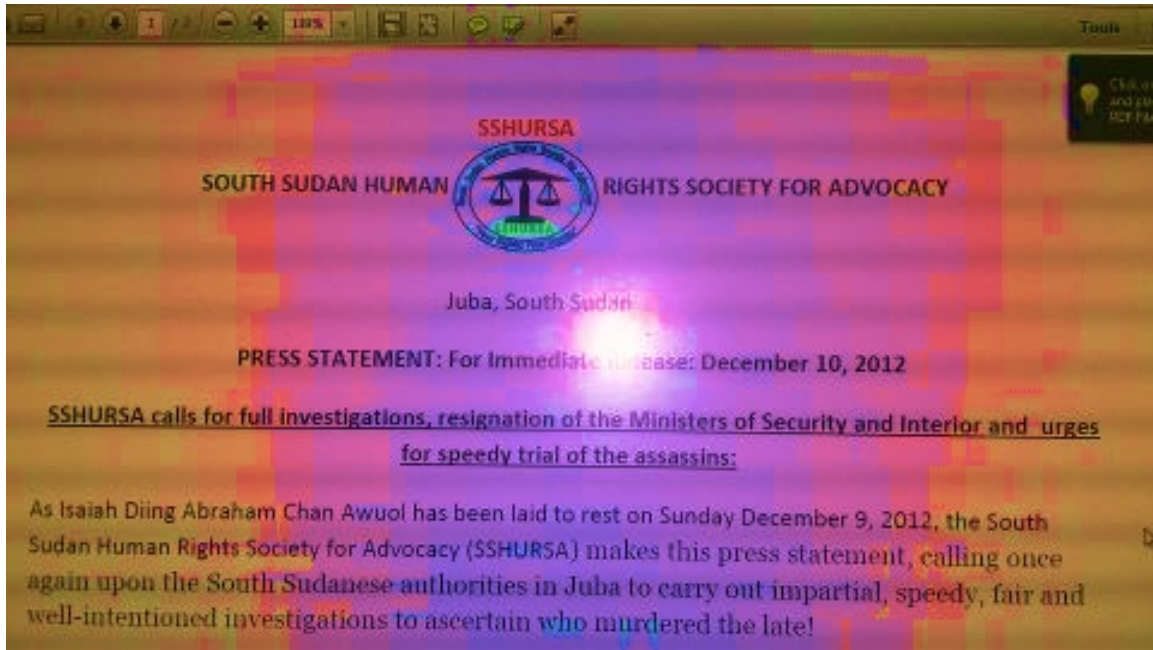
Gen. Kiir and his supporters were made to believe that he (Kiir) must not be 'disturbed' until the Interim Period is over; that assumption is fast fading away given the circumstances, namely the need to keep pace with the constitution and that of managerial gaps in the Government of Southern Sudan. Indicators point to the man next in hierarchy, the same way Gen. Kiir was nominated in Kamotho (New Site nearly four years ago).

The African icon Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela of South Africa has demonstrated to many that the blood isn't thicker anymore at this era. He did it by standing behind a Zulu Presidential and party candidate (Zuma) against his own Xhosa's (Mbeki) in the South Africa leadership tussle. Mr. Kiir, its you today to try this ever smiling man from Leer County and your legacy and that of your tribe would be both remembered fondly, given their sacrifices since independence of the Sudan in 1956. Show the way and your supporters will follow and cease from conspiracies that only help no Southerner in the long run.

To His Excellency the Vice Presidency, its your turn to make a difference needed and let it be that big. Start from within your party: unite it. Take good care of SPLM 'boys', Mr. Nhial, Mr. Amum, Gen. Oyai, Gen. Mamur, Gen. Oath, Gen. Bior, and Gen. Pieng. Gen. Boll Koang, Gen. Cirilo, Gen. Aloor, Gen. Wilson, Gen. Malong, Gen. Wani and Gen. Gier. Second, invest in our infrastructures, our people, and our stomachs and in God and everything shall go well with you. Show how it's to serve than to be served- serving and accountable government. Then democratize systems, even from their cores. Southerners, isn't time to be heard and do away with see nothing, do nothing administration that has impoverished our beautiful land, the very place our late dear leader Dr. John Garang perfectly erected its foundations under a tree in Naivasha-Kenya.

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*****2010*****



IS CREDIBILITY OF THIS ELECTION AN ISSUE?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 13, 2010

One of the historical landmarks of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi five years ago has come and it's curtail is coming down quickly by Thursday. This election has been pushed behind four times and its fifth push has been yesterday, for Thursday. Sudanese from all walks of lives can't remember what critical issues to vote for and who is best suit to handle them head on. Some voters aren't sure what it takes as a voter to change things for better or worse. Candidates had enough moments with voters, but that never remove the essence of this election. I think people went to polls on Sunday about two key issues: for majority of Northerners, this election is about President Al Bashir vs International Criminal Court (ICC); and for Southern Sudanese its all about a step leading to referendum in January 2011. Everything else is secondary and insignificant. Many Sudanese have stake therefore in this election.

Here we are at the historic election, that most voters (99.9% in fact) in the Southern Sudan experience for the first time, what do we make of three days that have come and gone? Are you satisfied with the process and if not who to blame in this hurly-burly at the first polling day? Though we still have more days to go in this election, with logistical problems still hanging over our heads, so far, it has been peaceful and free. This has been an encouragement in itself. The world is watching Sudan so closely, and Sudanese have the duty to prove to outsiders and friends that we are already there despite challenges in this important exercise. It has been a great occasion and a bright dawn for a country that knew no real freedom of choice. We are proud of Sudanese friends and peace lovers for making this event a reality!

How about this: a strong British Broadcasting Corporation (The BBC) team led by its anchors Uduak Amimo, Josephine Hezeleyand Caroline Karobia have pitched camps in Juba, covering every bit of the election from its 25 states, what do you make of this gesture from the world renowned broadcaster? Superb, yeah? Observers from every corner of the world are moreover here, including former Ghananian President John Kaffuor of the African Union (AU). This is indeed incredible. In fact this is what happen anywhere in the world these days, and hence the importance of democracy to the modern man/woman. People are allowed to elect their representatives freely and fairly; shortcuts to power are no longer fashionable. I will leave this space (argument) like that and turn to the content of our argument by highlighting issues many people think are issues in this election. That is, there is a need to look back at what we think had happened in relation to the credibility of this election?

Let's start by saying the obvious: this election was bound to fall short of the international standard given the age in which this country spent in wars and political unrest. Five years aren't enough time to meet expectations about democracy, transparency and fairness. This should be in the back of our minds. Irregularities at whatever form, as we encountered in the first day and yesterday, especially in the case of Western Equatoria State, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Central Sudan (White Nile State), Abyei Area, Eastern Equatoria State, Northern Darfur and the Southern Kordofan States, can't amount to total failures by authorities to conduct fair election. The problem to my best judgment isn't about irregularities or rigging, rather somewhat poor NEC organization and logistical nightmare. NEC Organization basically means ballot boxes should have been in their polling stations on time, the original list of registered votes have been tampered with, either maliciously or through technical/computer errors and no proper explanations given; civic education wasn't largely done to many voters. Returning officers or say election officers performance was wanting, voters scamper around looking for their missing names, missing voting materials and other simple complaints from voters (double voting, for example). Yet, this can't dent the entire election exercise.

Now we have an election marred by disorganization and not necessarily irregularities, is it fair for observers to run around with conclusions and baptize this election as

fraud, unfair and a rigged election? I don't think we can do just that given the complexity of this election as well as the history of this election. In the North we have eight (8) ballot boxes to vote and the South Sudan there are twelve (12) ballot boxes to cast ballots; is that not a complication for a first time voter? I believe it is one, but the problem lies somewhere and National Electoral Commission (NEC) had a bigger portion of blame.

So, how do you make of this election? Is it fair, free and credible if the three days experiences are anything to go by? Credibility of this election, I propose, isn't a deal even if we don't deny that the fact there have been problems here and there (as my proficient and colleague Dr. James Okuk Solomon had correctly put it home yesterday). What is important to this author is democracy; this animal has won fairly! We have had people expressing their will without fear and intimidation, pockets of the same notwithstanding. Voters across the country are very enthusiastic and excited by the exercise and this is good news for the future of this country. This is what counts! After all, most elections (US included) around the world are prone to issues of irregularities. No perfect election anywhere, ours shouldn't be exception. We still however have a daunting test ahead.

The test to be overcome in this election is during the official announcement of winners. This is gonna be a challenge because of the confidence candidates have built in the process of their campaigns. Each contender assumes he/she is the best against his/her opponent. Losers will shout the loudest (cry wolf), and hence there is going to be court cases and probably violence against NEC and ruling parties. Issue of losers congratulating winners shall not arise; due to the bitter and hate campaign our politicians had pushed this election. May be my people should not slave themselves into this thinking. For the sake of peace and transition ahead of us, we should quickly move away from what can disturb our peace and stability. More elections shall still come.

For Southern Sudan, His Excellency the President of Southern Sudan had flagged off an activity by saying that "time for military takes over power are far behind". Thanks Mr. President for that historic reminder! Momentum has already been reached; this is what characterizes this election, and not whether it is fair and credible. Our next election possibly after we are East African will be an improvement from this election, because we shall have learned lessons from this election. This a 'try and error' thing and tomorrow we will indeed do better for others and ourselves. Let's close gaps within the next seven months to ensure we have our voice heard at the referendum.

We can call this election an experimental and hope our politicians shall pick up pieces (learn a lesson or two) from this election for better in our next election, particularly during referendum voting. This is so critical, because at that time Southerners need to have their names dually registered, to be able to vote for that vital box. Let's then close this chapter of this election and move on now to the last lap

in January 2011. I believe the same team is coming back in tact. I pray for peace, good governance and equality for all Southerners from their newly elected (mandated) leaders. May God bless and heal our people/land.

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***AFRICANS SOLUTIONS ARE THE BEST FOR
AFRICANS PROBLEMS***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 22, 2010

We have heard this statement from Pan African founders in the persons of Patrice Emery Lumumba of Congo, Francis Ohanyido of Nigeria, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Haile Selassia of Ethiopia, Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea, Dr. Julius Kambarge Nyerere of Tanzania and the renowned artist Bob Marley from Jamaica/United States. There couldn't be more than just socio-political movement in Pan Africanism surge at that time, something we can't overestimate given our diversity. Yet Africa would have gained more if it had integrated Pan Africanism principles in their daily political life of the Africans. No one at his era outside there has African future in the heart; we are de trop to many. In the earlier 1960s the West was real, but that has fairly changed. Sincerely, we are yet independence, a sad truth we can do something about it before someone finishes us economically and politically.

Africa would have been ahead by now if African leaders struck their neck out against Western interference in the affairs of the continent. President Idris Deby of Chad underscored this point last week when he paid keen attention to his conscience in his visit to his Sudanese counterpart President Omar Hassan Al Bashir in Khartoum. The West was snubbed and miffed, but Africans celebrated the angel of peace in the person of Idris Deby Itno. His feet were invigorated in the African spirit of forgive and forget, a shock to peremptory good guys who want to be seen doing something for Africans, when in fact their agenda is always different. His knew the West outmoded diplomatic failures have hurriedly killed African renaissance and progress. What a man that is (President Deby)!

The Good Book (The Bible) again is explicit about events in time; there is time for everything. Peace has beckoned across our continent, leaders have the moral responsibility to read those signs and move people away from Western orchestrated crisis (wars). The man who claimed (say have been claimed) to be god and was idolize around the world (Barrack Obama) has since gone in to hiding after he burned his fingers in Israelis-Palestinian conflict, Iran Nuclear suspected ambition/impasse, North Korea bold face, Global warming/Greenhouse gas

emission challenge, Afghanistan NATO led operations and Democratic transition problems in Iraq.

President Obama seems to have been overweighed by his domestic issues on the expense of his global initiatives including that of the Africa continent. His predecessor is fondly remembered in Africa for his aid package in the tune of \$4 billions. At best President George Walker Bush had an agenda for Africa, President Obama Hussein has none, saved for his rhetoric that isn't specific. His father home is burning and he never lifted a finger to help his cousins find peace as the Kenyan death year (elections year) draws nearer.

Somali is one dark spot/big pain that needs African solution. The US created it and continuous to fuel it (am blunt, yeah?), like other conflicts in the continent, but Africans have the duty to save lives of innocent Africans in Somali. The West is cruel and if the continent waits for its help, we shall have a long wait indeed! President Deby didn't wait to tell Dr. Khalil Ibrahim of Justice and Equality (JEM) to join Sudan peace train and its democratic transformation. President Al Bashir didn't wait for the West for him to agree with Dr. John Garang. The West desperately was rushing Garang to sign an agreement right in 2003 with so many important areas hanging. Some of them had hurled nasty remarks (insults) against Garang for his slow pace. However, Ms Hilde Johnson of then Norwegian International Development Ministry refused to budge. May God Almighty bless this lady wherever she might be! I named my daughter after this lady.

We live in a dangerous world; a place where interest is everything. Africa is a dumping ground and unless we stand up on our own, the likes of Luis Moreno Ocampo, a US stooge, will have reason to abuse the continent at will. Sudanese from all walks of life are yearning for peace. People crave for peace and any messenger of peace anywhere in the world is our true friend. JEM leadership has realized this fact and the country is moving towards a healing and transition from war to peace and development. Retribution is devilish and is bad! A bygone is a bygone; we can't be allowed by others to dwell in the past; we got to move our country to the next generation towards peace and progress.

Peace in Chad and Sudan is gregariously peace for Africa. President Mau mar Al Kaddafi knew it earlier. Africans must learn from its past mistakes and listen to voices of great founding leaders. Presidents Deby, Al Bashir, we are proud of you! Accommodate Darfur in the Presidency and everywhere. Complete the process of compensation and put back life into that region. African Union (AU) therefore should now move swiftly to entrenched the initiative by two great sons of Africa; they got to do it before the West botch the exercise altogether. The West wants to be in anything, they got to leave the continent to try its problems alone. Money alone can't buy peace for the continent.

UN effort across the continent moreover is of great concern. Its roles have been proven woeful due to its abuses. In the Sudan, especially in the South, there are horrific stories about the force and their activities in general. There are deaths and killings everyday in this part of the world (South) and the so-called peacekeepers never conclusively find an answer to what peace are they keeping, when civilians routinely attack each other. May be after we see the light at 2011, the UN will have to pack and go, our people shall see what to do with their colored children they have been fathering everywhere, the only positive thing I think they are best doing to our people. Africans solutions are the best!

Differently: our security forces must ignore Kiir directives on their neutrality. Our people should stand with the 'devil' we all know than the 'angel' we don't know. Comrade Salva Kiir Mayardit and his running mate Dr. Riek Machar Teny weaknesses are our own (we know when to correct them); we can't stand aside and allow those who sat in the fence when things were tough to usurp people's power. Return SPLM to power!

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MR. AMUM, WATCH OUT!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 11, 2010

The SPLM Secretary General Mr. Pagan Amum Oketch is in crisis from within his own party; something not unexpected given his sharp tongue as well as his rising popularity among young generation of that party. The man is marked (besieged one) by clique with whom he had disagreed on sensitive matters of related to election and power. There are three areas here. He is left now to carry his own cross from people he thought could be there to give him a shoulder. This change of heart from his bosses and erstwhile supporters didn't just come out from nowhere. He was quoted (his interview on the 14/01/2010) of having sided with the camp that publicly and privately calls for Mr. Kiir to surrender his uniform before elections. Ooooh! Events have taken over this case, but suspicious and theories linger on against one strong pillar of the SPLM party.

This is how it began: the SPLA laws are clear about election procedures for an army officer, he cautioned. Kiir team swiftly wasted no time to brush aside the widely publicized position of the Secretary General on Kiir uniform, by crafting retirement thing. Mr. Amum refused to buy that claim, but Dr. Luka and Judge Michael with the company managed at best to portray Mr. Amum as pliable in the face of what they see as stretched hands of the 'enemy' in the succession battle in the South. He seemed then to have gone underground.

The second area Mr. SG is fighting it alone is the current logjam known as the SPLM independent candidate issue, the fresh front whose outcome might make or break the party. The big two are believed to be blowing hot and cold at the same time, something the official party candidates have started to quiz. The entire party is split in the middle on this matter. With the President and his Deputy sending mixed signals to party members at the grass roots about official position of the party.

There are those who say they are blessed by one of the big two while the other camp of the official candidates, are relishing, waiting with their finger crossed for an ultimatum given by the SG-that will expire this Saturday- to those who may refuse to support the official candidate of the party. Confusion has creped in, as the Upper Nile State is slipping away to other political parties behind the created crisis by the Political Bureau. You can imagine how others would prefer sacrificing Mr. Amum in the hot of things so to face their faces.

Third, is the accusation by other political parties of intimidation and harassment by Mr. Amum foot soldiers on the ground? The Chairman of the party met with a few on Monday on the same. It has been known that key politicians from other political parties (particularly Southern political parties) are heard making hue for charges that are disputable. The Lanya and Terekeka incidences we all know from last month are largely isolated if we are not just crying for the sake of looking for escape goat strategy, just to chip in for the SPLM. Once people refuse you, they do it with a purpose.

Dr. Martin Ellie Lomure hence ought to desist from insinuating our people defense forces (the SPLA) in all his future remarks! Dr. Martin, your Miraya FM interview on Sunday in reply to a caller in Wau (Albino) was contemptuous at best for unwarranted argument raised by that caller. Politicians, especially prominent like you, who know how we arrived to this stage in our political journey, should be the last to talk back stuff against our men in uniform or the SPLM party. The SPLM yes has its shortcomings but at the moment, may be we should rally behind it until God opens a way next year. Dr. Martin, sir, you have been brilliant and star in GOSS, don't lose hope working together with the SPLM. Mr. Amum after all isn't a fun of traveling or has time for issues at states levels. He (Amum) might be innocent. Take Mr. President and his Deputy words as they are; the SPLM I guess have no interest of obstructing the activities of the other political parties. The party knows others won't make it.

Mr. Amum, never get weary because of individuals, the case of Southern Sudan is too much a problem that requires perseverance in the heats of perceived and potentials troubles. You softened your stand that had allowed Mulana Abel to kill the entire argument using clever (not legal) argument on the same. However, discipline is fine, but be careful, others might take advantage of your stand and do more harm to the party. Don't fire SPLM independent candidates; the people of Southern Sudan will do it. Strengthen your party in there and do what it takes to win the 10

states gubernatorial seats, all state seats and the Southern Assembly. I believe SPLM will sweep all seat if you do engage with states on your officials' candidates. Independent candidates will lose except one; she is a staunch SPLM member and will still be around. SPLM shall win!

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MR. ARMAN FOR SUDANESE PRESIDENCY?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 28, 2010

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Political Bureau, the highest political body of that party in its long awaited session at its regular political meeting place (Home & Away Hotel in Juba) last week decided to settle for Mr. Yasser Saeed Arman from Al Geziera State as its preferred Presidential candidate. The National Congress Party (NCP) has quickly and officially asked the SPLM to withdraw him as a token of reciprocity given their endorsement of President Kiir for the Southern Presidency, against their widely perceived ally Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin of the DC. In order not to waste your time, whatever we are hearing in that equation is pure politics, but I wholly agree with the NCP move. Mr. Yasser candidature will drag an election of the Sudanese Presidency to the second round since no single candidate shall bag half of the votes. As things stand, Mr. Arman can't be the second best (or runner up), but a spoiler, possibly Mr. Al Mahdi of the Umma party will; and this is going to be dangerous to the CPA. Said Imam Al Mahdi has rebranded himself and might disturb and upset anyone and the process (CPA). Even if we are left with no time, political 'injury' time is always tricky, anything can happen. The NCP through President Al Bashir is our true friend, not Mr. Al Mahdi Abdulrahaman.

Let me bore you with the man Arman (his background) before we hypothesize on the decision itself. Comrade Arman joined the SPLA/M guerilla movement at the end of the 1980s and was commissioned as first lieutenant in the army. From there, he gradually moved together with his batch mates to the rank of Alternate Commander, a pool where going beyond was a reserve for achievers. He is one among few Northerners in the SPLM party who fought his way to the top through hard work and diligence right from the airwave radio room (radio producer). Mr. Arman is one student who believes in the New Sudan vision of secular united Sudan. He is a typical leftist, if not from liberal wing. When majority of Northerners in the party (SPLM) traced their roots and were made to denounce their allegiance to the South in the 1990s, Comrad Arman withered storms and stayed with 'infidels' the Southerners. He is a perfect political organizer and can argue. Mr. Kiir, the SPLM Chairman at the beginning of his leadership as the party chief attempted to prejudice him, until somewhere he came to the realization that Mr. Yasser isn't an ordinary Northerner, but a serious politician on his own right. He has a family ties with

Southern Sudan, a break from what we know from our 'brothers' Arab. He is a nationalist. We shall stop there!

Back to the substance: now that the SPLM has resolved to compete for the Sudanese Presidency together with the NCP using low profile candidature, what does that tell you about the SPLM intention now or for tomorrow? This is what I think will happen: we shall experience a rough going with the NCP if they (NCP) win election. If they lose (something improbable) others will temper with the process leading to Referendum in January 2011. Everyone thought since the NCP is still in the serious business (partnership) with the SPLM, and since Mr. Kiir isn't standing, the SPLM would support Al-Bashir candidature, alas, the hardliners within the SPLM party succeeded to come up with a competitor in the person of Yasser Saeed Arman. You see, the mathematic used by Political Bureau to come up with Mr. Saeed has divided the opinion of our people and the world. Here it is not just about SPLM party that should bother you and me or others, but also about the future of Southern Sudan beyond the SPLM party. Mr. Arman is a sworn unionist and if miraculously he wins this election, I don't think he will allow us to go. He is obstinate, slippery and shrewd man, classical of an Arab.

Questions are swirling the air as to what was behind the nomination of Mr. Arman instead of heavy weights in the likes of Mr. Kiir, Dr. Machar, Mr. Nhial, Mr. Amum and the Speaker (Igga). Well, in the first place the party doesn't take this election exercise worth its salt, because the SPLM lacks confidence to front Mr. Kiir against President Al Bashir. But signs were clear that the SPLM would do better under Kiir. Mr. Kiir political future in this drama squeezed its ugly head in the selection of choices. Mr. Kiir's supporters are telling us that there is no way their man should leave the South because the South will remain unguarded. They are wrong! But, Mr. Arman nomination is both blessing and a curse; a blessing to Southerners and a curse to Southern allies in the North. Good enough, the unity dog through New Sudan project is closely heading to the dusk bin. The Southern voters should not waste their time in the hot moments of our seasons to queue in voting booths waiting to vote for Mr. Arman who is likely going to change nothing. Southerners however can only vote for members of Parliament from parties that are clearly Southern in heart. SPLM first, others second.

Mr. Arman nomination is problematic to the Southern allies for reasons that will shortly follow. But one interesting scenario is the status of the Juba All Parities Conference after the SPLM nomination of Mr. Arman. We are seeing them in disarray. We shall reserve this topic to the next discussion. But surely, things are nastier to the opposition; their unity would have made the NCP run for its money. That was history, things have changed. Imam Al Mahdi and the Communist Ibrahim Nugud supporters are already on the streets of Khartoum, Meddani, Al Obeid, Kassala, Port Sudan etc. drumming up support for themselves and their candidates. These parties have resources and ability to upset the SPLM candidates in those cities. Mr. Arman is currently cash strapped, and the South will not accept its

resources to go for project that are foreign to her. Nimule-Juba road contract is one huge lift or big beginning from the Government of the people of Southern Sudan (GOSS). It requires money and Arman project can't divert attention away from this noble plan that will help millions in the South. Hon. Makana, my humble respect!

Let's take a brief tour to see the impacts ('curses') of SPLM decision to fill up Yasser Saeed Arman as the SPLM party presidential torchbearer. One must start with the least factor, then to the mighty. What will be the implication to the party in the event he (Arman) loses? Mr. Arman losing to Mr. Al Bashir will not be without a controversy and this is it: already he is a mark man (a traitor) as far as the North is concerned. The worse shall be in the likely event of the South breaking away from the North- something unavoidable. Mr. Arman will have no base, because the South that I know will only accept business activities from the North and not politicians. We have suffered greatly in the hands of Arabs and this should be our time to recuperate even psychologically from another Arab strutting in our streets with political shoes. If he chooses to remain in Khartoum or the North, he will be hunted down by extremists. Where will he rest his head? Nowhere! I thought the SPLM leaders were serious to go through his post election situation.

Secondly and as introduced above, Mr. Arman candidature has already sent a wrong signal about SPLM intention to create the New Sudan. The hullabaloo we have been hearing from the SPLM top brass about change, change should now be buried with Mr. Arman nomination. Look, those who would have voted for the party shall think twice about their support to the party. Chances are that the SPLM will do badly under Mr. Arman in the North. Why? Because, Mr. Arman isn't a figure who could wield influence for moderate Muslims in the North. He is a new comer to Sudanese politic moreover. The Northerner constituency is made up of conservatives and religious sectarianism groups, one of which Mr. Arman has no connection at all. The SPLM surely would have done well under Kiir candidature if Kiir had stayed SPLM cause from 2005 from where Garang left it. After Mr. Kiir hole up in Juba and reluctantly and slowly doing too little to appeal nationally, the chance for Mr. Arman to deliver the needed change is nearly zero. The areas the SPLM was expected to do well are up for grab by other political opposition groups. Conspicuously, am even seeing him campaigning alone, with no big wigs of the party around him. Probably the party isn't in a position to give him enough money and other support for his campaign team. The SPLM might have already known that he would lose and it is therefore fair to waste nothing.

Mr. Kiir had opportunities before him, fortunately or unfortunately, he never made use of them. The West tried its best to push the NCP to the wall but Mr. Kiir failed to knock it off power. This could have been the chance to do so. If Mr. Kiir has chicken out, who is Mr. Arman to try it? In fact, Mr. Kiir is sacrificing Mr. Arman, something Mr. Saeed could have seen it coming and dodges it. I thought he was sober to refuse the offer. President Kiir is pushed into a precarious political position, where the power the supporters think could be his forever is slipping away in their

watch. The supporters of President have let down the people of the New Sudan and the President himself.

Mr. Akol Kordit please, go slow! Leave President Kiir alone. The South doesn't need anyone to cause us trouble. We want peace now and there. Campaigning for Mr. Kiir for the next year (unknown year) is premature; people want peaceful transition from CPA era to Independence epoch in 2011. We are expected to swallow our pride, prepare our newborn baby (The People's Republic of Imatong). Time to look for costumes and drums for that big celebrations and alleluia singing. Mr. Arman project therefore can't be detached from Southern political future if Mr. Kordit (a boy who sits in the Political Bureau of The Party) is anything to believe. Mr. Arman, I pity you!

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VOTE FOR AL BASHIR NOT ARMAN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 2, 2010

The President of the Republic, Field Marshall (Retired) Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir visit to Juba and Torit towns on the same Monday sends an un-coded message of desperation for Southerners to vote for him. His rally in Juba National Stadium was full to the capacity, the very rally that was largely avoided by SPLM tops. His message in Juba and in Torit Freedom Square was emphatic: "vote for me". I don't know though whether something has changed in his favor from these rallies, but one thing is clear: the SPLM nomination of Yasser Saeed Arman as party presidential torch bearer in the upcoming April Elections has complicated things for the National Congress Party (NCP) and its president (Mr. Omar Al Bashir).

As far Southern future is concerned, the SPLM party made unnecessary gambles to nominate Mr. Yasser in this election. Everyone expects the SPLM to respect the wishes and aspirations of the people of Southern Sudan by nominating none, for the sake of continuity in the implementation of the CPA, since their partnership with the NCP still stand. Mr. Yasser isn't going to win after all, and indeed no one will win this election outright. There will be aftermath bruises to everyone. This nomination in fact will take the elections to its second round where Mr. Yasser votes (Southern votes) will determine the winner. There is no magic in numbers for anyone at the moment, even if the air is suspect to be in favor of the NCP (especially in the North). Statistics smack facts on our face. Numbers don't lie. President Al Bashir advisors know this fact: unless Yasser automatic votes are spoiled, the future for the NCP coming back to power through democratic means hangs in the balance.

At this junction therefore, Southerners holds the key to this elections. Their votes count. But if I were them, they got to vote wisely because their future isn't in the book (constitution) or in Mr. Yasser as others have made it their songs to advance this kind of politics. For the sake of Referendum ahead of us, President Al Bashir at the moment needs Southern supports (votes), not Mr. Yasser Arman. This is why: if he (Yasser) wins that election miraculously it will put the SPLM party (people of the South) into awkward and in a collusion course with the international community, the very body that have made the unity option their declared choice over separation. Why would the South go separate when they have attained power, people will whisper and wheeze ridicules against the party post shifting policies. I have to stop there, in relations to reasons why Arman choice is dangerous.

Politicians from the SPLM party however have their own interpretation on this matter. To them, the outcome of Referendum won't be affected irrespective of anyone coming up in Khartoum seat, they claim. That is fallacy! The outcome would be affected fundamentally. Yasser manifesto is glazed with beautiful ideas we have been hearing them often but Southerners don't have courage yet to jump to bed with the North on impetuous of a small clique at the Political Bureau. I wanted my people to shun Yasser and vote overwhelmingly for President Al Bashir. Mr. Al Bashir will recognize us first and shall remain our first neighbor. He speaks no bubbles, and once he says it, his hearts never goes the opposite.

Some among us have the habits of looking down on facts on the ground and only interested in what is out there. My friend, that is not the case. Let's rally behind Al Bashir as Southern Sudanese from all corners of our land, to give him the support he needs. Of course for Southern Presidency, we need Kiir/Machar to finish the job they have started together. A minute, what happens if we don't (vote for Al Bashir)? This is what I think will happen: The North shall unite (conspire) against the South to vote out President Al Bashir in the second round. This will have a severe impact on the implementation of the CPA, due to the new arrangement in Khartoum, that will likely to be made, by heavy touches on the constitution. Our 28% votes can't stop any changes in the National Assembly in Khartoum, so does our self-proclaimed friends from outside for possible more machine guns. We will be in crisis. We must be extra careful at this stage unless we eternally lose to win the war of liberation at its zero hour.

That is where our unity comes in. We need unity of our political parties. SPLM factions should unite and give President Al Bashir backing; the very person who brought the South to this standard. Let's take firm steps at this important political junction for the sake of millions that perish for the cause of Southern Sudan. Mr. Arman might be innocent and the question isn't about him as an individual, but about big picture beyond his nomination/support. This isn't time for us to chase after euphoria, but time to calculate our steps and take the route that leads to total liberation of our people. Even if it means burying our differences as political parties this hour, why not do it! President Kiir and his running mate (Dr. Machar Teny)

require true friends of Southern Sudan, for them to complete the journey. We don't need problems of transition; smooth one will come from Mr. Bashir not Yasser Saeed Arman. No right mind Southerner moreover can easily forget Arab wily character.

Oh no! May be I have said many things above. But the reality remains: no CPA future without CPA authors. Constitution or constitutions aren't guarantors of this document, so to speak, but political will. We live in a third world, someone must understand. There are elements within the North elites who made no secret to do away with what they called 'bilateral arrangement' (CPA) between the NCP and the SPLM. If they come to power, what will stop them from changing the constitution to accommodate Darfur and other political forces in the country? Look, neighbors are pushing their agenda through other political forces and this should have worried us much in the South right now. Political Bureau (PB) decision can be thrown out of the window if we refuse to elect its choice in the Arman. Vote for Arman is vote for unity. Yes to Al Bashir!

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IS KIIR RIDING ON MACHAR'S BACK?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 24, 2010

May be, or may be not! But there is more we could say in that regard in relation to the current and possible future political marriage between the two big men. At the moment the mismatch between them isn't a deal so long as the two have the agenda for the people of Southern Sudan in their hearts, and that their togetherness mean a lot to us as people of Southern Sudan. We are please that our leaders are staying together, campaigning shoulder to shoulder; I wish Dr. Lam Akol would have been there, for the triumvirate to rebuild our home land. But Kiir campaign team is taking the conditional compromise just too far; by constantly and deliberately toy with one of the greatest assets in our land after Garang- Guandit Gat Machar. By being running mate doesn't make anyone a ball (shadow). Kiir campaign managers want to portray that one is nobody and therefore should be left to play routine second fiddle at the campaign.

To Kiir team, the game is all but about Kiir as a person. They drew a thin line between the SPLM as a party and the Gen. (retired Kiir). No one knows what issues the party wants to undertake in their manifesto for the next few years. It was yesterday in Western Bahr El Ghazal State that we start to hear messages coming out from our leaders on our future. What Southerners can see for sure right now is Kiir different styles in posters posted literally everywhere, and on every car that belongs to one of the tribes. Our doors at private places aren't spare either. Every state has a team of senior government officers doing the job for the big man, while members

from the party nomination are fighting their political life on their own; what if he wins while his men/women on the ground lose, will that benefit his presidency? Certainly not!

Yet the man who runs the system where we now have six months to go, and allow us to breathe pride for our dignity has no single poster anywhere, saved for one in which the same cow boy closes his eyes in pretension. Generally, Juba is currently an environmentally polluted city by posters from James Wani Igga, Joy Kwaje Eluzai and the big man. I thought it is not about many posters and loud speakers, rather than what do we intend to do within the next seven months before referendum and what political arrangements (transition policies) do we have after referendum.

I don't know what saving (money) is that advertisement gonna come from/has actually been charged, when Finance Ministry had served a notice to institutions that have exhausted their budget and the very ones that stood at 500% over and above their budgeted allocations. But some politicians can't be taken serious. Little things count to us voters. One poster with a Gabiah face under a snazzy tie hanging on the junction of Hai Thoura/Shara Jamaa road at the wall of Bulluk Police Headquarters put drivers/passengers off of what will this man do that he didn't do on his campaign posters? The resources used to buy expensive adhesive during the campaign is mysteriously anything to worry us, voters.

Back to our argument: here we have a one man campaign show- not even a party next courses of actions are mentioned nor the runner mate exposure to the public, what impact do we see in the said situation (campaign)? Well, I have seen poor shows where a soldier runs out of imaginations, creativity and fresh ideas to audiences. The gap should have been filled by none other than the tomorrow beloved leader Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhorgun. This is his field and should have been left alone in there to market his party and his colleague (the president). Whenever he steps up to talk, an already made up protocols only requests him to introduce Mr. Kiir. He ends up being an audience himself, something voters don't approve; people who were eager to listen to Dr. Machar speech.

So, what do we think is the story behind this scheme anyway (undermining Dr. Machar before his people)? Ummm! Sincerely, I don't know, but the deduction points to the power to be for Southern Presidency after referendum. We all know that Mr. Kiir tenure after this election would be seven months span, because the outcome of the referendum will lead us to separate political arrangement, where leaders must seek a different mandate under different political dispensation. Funny, politicians don't cease hoping even when that is a dream. Mr. Kiir time to go is at the corner, not because he was a bad leader, but a leader follows others. This is hard truth we must correct soon after independence. This election to analysts is about tomorrow, and that day is the responsibility of everyone. It puzzles why would Dr. Machar be straitjacketed by small group against the will of the people Southern Sudan?

The truth perhaps lies somewhere and this is our biggest challenge that needs our conscious and collective efforts to quench it. There are few elements within our society who are fond of raking up ominous stories on what had happened or not happened during the liberation struggle. These people in fact are enemies of the Southern Sudanese. They are ever there to preach hate message at a time when we need something else-unity. Our people therefore must rise up and stop these people from spoiling our togetherness. Most of them are in the Diaspora and wonder what do they think they are doing, after all they won't be there to physically help. But in straight talk, who never committed crimes against the people of Southern Sudan, in his acts of omission or commission? In pains to hear and read such stories time and again, when we are at critical moments in our history!

Dr. Machar should be commended for nurturing the newly formed government of the people of Southern Sudan. He managed to be patient, serving his weak boss for five good years. He is a man of faith, so industrious that the South will use immediately after independence. From the depth of my heart I know that this is the man with whom the South shall find rest from petty and chronic politics of stomach and backwardness. He must be allowed so to lay firm foundations for prosperity to our children. Kiir campaign team is hereby asked to give us a break of blackmailing the big man Machar for their personal scores. The South is big and the past can't keep us captive. Mavericks, please! Please! Stop it!

On governance side, it has been repeatedly alleged that Dr. Machar is part of the problem in the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), since he is the second most important man in our land. That is, Kiir failures are also his failure, and my answer is this: how does one expects the chief executive to escape his constitutional successes/failures; it doesn't work like that. Chief Executive is responsible for successes and failures of the institution. In our case, the constitution has vested everything in the hand of the President, unless he delegates. Our Vice President all along uses his experiences to close the managerial deficit by standing in for his boss. Don't blame him now, wait for his turn. If he becomes the final authority in our land tomorrow, are we going to blame James Wani? No! The head will always be the head. I'm seeing a benevolent man being maligned for no reasons at all. Oh Jesus, pave the way for your servant Machar to liberate us from us!

Look, Dr. Machar has been an outstanding Zonal Commander who was truly up for his job, given his selfless and nationalistic approach to issues. Most of those who claim to be managing Kiir campaign were still in schools when Dr. Machar was fully at liberation field, fighting on their behalf; they literally know nothing about who this man is. They actually undermine President Kiir who belatedly discovered what Dr. Machar stature means to his presidency. Why leave him in the periphery at this point? Is there any plan to use him and later dump him in favor of Nhial Deng Nhial?

How about the promise to pass the baton to him soon after independence, was that done to lull the then brewing disquiet about the need to have a competent leader

taking over after the liberation? SPLM being a popular party isn't an individual thing own by a particular person or group; we have all stakes in it, and its future must be protected from mendacious few. Dr. Machar is 10 times superior to Kiir. You can just observe when he briefly introduces Kiir in their current political campaigns. He has been specific and continuous to deliver polemic messages that come from his heart.

Machar however isn't an angel and won't be one, but his Presidency will prove apologists who are prisoners of the past, wrong. They must be stopped and if it means cracking them down here, so let it be! He had apologized more than once about what his men did behind his back in the 1990s, and shouldn't be pushed too much. It adds nothing furthermore if he sings it daily. We must learn to be grateful to God and ourselves when we have such figures in our midst. We still have rough time, and unless we get a character who can stand up for challenges for the new nation, we shall find the liberation of our people meaningless to the majority.

On separate notes, there is a class of people who wants to throw away a baby with the bucket; those who go around preaching that President Kiir has done nothing in his five years in Office and hence should be humiliated (removed), I don't think these people know who is behind Kiir. Mr. Mayardit in fact has played his part well, particularly at the formative stages of our current government (GoSS). He gave it all and deserves respect and appreciation. His quiet and humble approach paid handsomely during the absorption of militias (someone doesn't like this term, yeah?) allied to the NCP at that time. It was an event to his Excellency the president credit for many generations to come. We are united more than any other time before due to his spectacular approach. His regime is corrupt yes, very tribalized another yes and a muffed system that facetiously on the defensive when facts fly before everyone eyes.

Despite every negative perception we might conclude about his government, our hero (Comrade Mayardit) will be remembered as a leader who first hoist the Southern flag and established the government of the people of Southern Sudan from nowhere. All of the above came about because Dr. Machar was closely behind Kiir. Kiir as an individual espoused for his people's cause most of his life, besides being personally a great listener and a principled man. I would love to see him anoint Dr. Machar and retire peacefully and honorably, not through changes from outside his party! Our big brother Kiir has his place among our founding fathers (Emidio Tafeng, Saturino Lohure, Joseph Lagu, Deng Nhial, John Garang, Samuel Gai, Ali Gutwalla, Both Diu, Lazarus Mutek, Kerubino Kuanyin, Abel Alier, William Nyuon, etc). Thank you sir, may God give you peace!

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SPLM HAS MESSED UP WITH VOTERS' RIGHTS

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 25, 2010

The SPLM primary election in which the governorship of that State was awarded uncharacteristically to the incumbent, the loser, Brig. Taban Deng Gai against the will of the people of the State has only added fire to an already burning political differences between the President and his Deputy in the army on one hand, and the President and his Vice President on the other. The High Body of the party bundled its calculation too badly. There have been serious questions raised against those decisions from all walks of political life, one of which goes thus: if the SPLM could not trust all its members from some regions, because of their age in the Party, why is it that the system would expect votes from these regions and not their voices? Brother Gatkuoth Deng in one of the websites, a week ago justifiably lamented the process through which Comrade Joseph Monytil Wijang credentials were thrown out/rejected by his party, the SPLM. Today his discourses and predictions are coming slowly to roast. The Western Upper Nile State (WUNS) people will teach the SPLM a bitter political lesson in April, now that Madame Angelina Jany Thomas has joined the prey.

Let's return to the hypothesis above, especially the rationale behind Political Bureau interest in the man called Taban Deng Gai. To starters, Brig Taban is the man Dr. Garang tagged as the ten men in one. To Garang at that time, he has never found an equal to Taban when it comes to management (resource mobilizer wizard). Whether that was mere rhetoric on Garang side or not, the point then remained: Taban is a creative and innovative person; from nowhere, Comrade Taban can deliver development. No denial. In WUNS, we have seen his magic or touches in schools, roads, governmental structures and so on. Comrade Taban efforts to work closely with everyone; his inclusive policy in appointment, demonstrates his willingness to advance policies of his party.

His somewhat bright path nonetheless has been overshadowed by what critics say gross misconduct and abuse of his office. To them, Comrade Taban economic mismanagement is too much to bear or keep him there. He has sharpened his 'spoon' and uses the 2% State allocation to enrich his cronies. He has perfected the art of political divide and rule using cash and other related 'hand shakes'. To some moreover (unproven though), Mr. Taban is accused of having struck myriad contracts with key government officials related to big fish in Juba for economic deal; deals that are estimated to be in billions of pounds. Mr. Taban generally kept his closeness with Gen. Kiir on the expense of native heavy weights (Dr. Machar and Gen. Matip). The above last charge is sensitive and had contributed much for his down fall (unpopularity).

To this writer, the allegations projected above among others couldn't be wished away easily, but more important thing is the hijack of democratic rights of the people of WUNS; their rights were stolen by a few who arrogated themselves powers in Juba. Democracy has suffered much by that single incident in WUNS. Even the voice and plea from his Excellency the next President Dr. Riek Machar Teny was damn on the ears of those to whom Taban has snared their hearts due to narrowed interests. To them, Comrade Joseph isn't yet an SPLM member or simply unknown figure, something the critics rebuff with a question: if Dr. Joseph isn't known what then qualified Mr. Tor Deng Mawien to take over the leadership of Warrap State from Gen. Bol Madut when the later (Joseph) came earlier to the party than him? Look, the team under Comrade Joseph is a serious teams especially his deputy Comrade Samuel Lony Geny Magok.

This man (Gat Geng) is a senior long serving SPLM member right from Jamus Battalion and had made tangible contributions for the success of his party. Dr. Joseph is a gentleman who is down to earth with what is best for his people. He is simple, very polite, cut across from Bull to Leek and has a fascinating charm of working with all and sundry. Why would Juba go against the will of the majority to impose Brig Taban who has shown malignancy to eliminate his opponents including Her Excellency Angelina Teny. Dr. Joseph has turned around and threw his weigh behind Madame Angelina, where will Taban going to get votes from? A million pound question, yeah?

To my little judgment, the SPLM has its own political problems especially the tuff between the man who refuses to give up power when he doesn't know what to do with it, and the man Southerners all over want to rule them. The Political Bureau on many occasions attempted to play it down but surely there is no way the top political body should play a game about it. The WUNS is seen, as a stiff political strong hole of Dr. Machar and people who are still hoping against any hope, wants to undercut the popularity of Dr. Machar there by taking the war to his backyard.

Kiir team banded their proxy person called Taban in an attempt to score any political mileage against Dr. Machar. Shush! There is nothing like that in this part of the world. Madame Angelina with or without the SPLM ticket is a person to beat! Her announcement to stand from an independent candidature has sent a shivering wave in Juba, something they will rue but do nothing about. The party has committed a big mistake to refuse to listen to Dr. Machar at that night, and this trend will repeat itself next year January when Kiir goes against his own word, when he will officially be asked to step down for Dr. Machar. The march has just begun, to stop Kiir and his team from manipulating people will for change. A system that is rotten at the top must start to change from the State and then to the top.

The SPLM primarily election however was largely fair, but Taban has dented the exercise. It would have been a straight 'A' had Taban and Simon Kun Puoch issues were handled with sobriety. Democracy is painful but beautiful. It was thought the

SPLM should start in a new political sheet by allowing transparent and open competition. If a loser loses, he/she loses. Our solid foundation dictates everyone including our leaders to stand firm when short-term temptations crop in to shroud the process. We are trying to rebuild our land by adopting formidable pillars of progress. Democracy is one these pillars. It mocks logic therefore to have defeated candidates laugh their way back to very seats the voters refused. I don't think this is a best way to start. Mr. Pagan interview on the 15/01/2010 was widely received and none was in a mood of expecting such a decision to come there after all. It was a blow to democracy on the side of the SPLM party!

In all, nothing is lost. I applaud the spirit held by Gen. Daniel Awet Akot and Gen. Mark Nyipuocho Ubang when they were defeated. After the announcement by the Secretary General at Home & Away Hotel, they kept their cool and never rush to seek alliances with the NCP affiliates. That is maturity and my big pat goes to the big two. It's now upon the SPLM top leadership to note the patriotic gut the two gentlemen have. If it pleases the leadership, the two should form part of the next government. May be the SPLM losers (Dr. Joseph case excluded) ought to embrace and accept the decision made by their party even if that is odd. By standing together we can do more, especially to garner the 10 states governors' seats. The State Governorship seats are important seats; they should not be allowed to go to the NCP at whatever cost, given the task of referendum in 2011.

But also, there is likelihood of another arrangement in January 2011 when we formed our own nation. Seven months hence in power isn't long or a big deal to cry wolf. Let's unite together under Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit to the finishing line in January 2011. There we shall bid him (Kiir) bye. He has pledged anyway to pave the way for the man we all loved.

Separately, its time for the House to get dissolve; the Budget debate has taken longer time than expected. The same could be true with the Executive. This is to allow political level ground for all. Mr. President (illegal general), are you there?

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***SPLM POLITICAL BUREAU SHOULD NOT
INTERVENE IN EASTERN EQUATORIA
ELECTORAL CONTEST: EASTERN EQUATORIA
SPLM GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION RESULTS
MUST NOT BE OVERTURNED BY THE POLITICAL
BUREAU***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 13, 2010

SPLM contest for the post of Governorship in the state has been won convincingly by Comrade Louis Lobong Lojore against the incumbent Brig. Aloysius Ejotuk Emor in a contest widely believed to be transparent and fair. Comrade Louis not only beat Comrade Aloysius hand down (21 votes for Louis and 4 votes for Aloysius) but his overwhelming victory sends a strong message to Juba that people voice is a voice of God and if they determine, time or money can't stop their march. The ball is now with the SPLM Bureau to clear Comrade Louis Lololomoe Aribokinyang without any delay or manipulation!

Comrade Louis has what it takes to lead that troubled state; he had secured the support of the majority across the state from Magwi, Pari, Budi, Ikotos, Torit and Kapoeta Counties. Comrade Ejotuk never lived up to the job and people of Eastern Equatoria have spoken more than once against him, let no one in Juba interfere with that process, please! Look, the outgoing governor isn't a unifier but an exploiter whose domineering political style pitch those he considers outsiders in the party against his 'inner' team. The state has its failed strategic plans, something the incoming governor would address immediately as he assumes the office in May. There are still infrastructural problems despite immense resources in the state in the form of gold (Kapoeta), oil (Kapoeta-Lonyangchor), uranium and precious stones in Murangapi, timber and tea (Torit-Apatalanga/Katire), international borders (Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia), fertile agricultural lands of Loger (Chaggari/Ikotos), Makajik (Pari), Nakachot (Chukudum) and water resources through Kedipo. A wise leader in that state could have tapped on any of these among other resources for the benefits of the people of the state and the Southern Sudan.

The outgoing governor moreover had done literally zero to define his roles and that of the legislature. He has been an absolute voice everywhere, something that had paralyzed the function of the arms of government here. Time to correct things is now in the state through this election and Hon. Lobong is ready for the challenge. The 27-member body at the Political Bureau must not buy a lie that Hon. Lobong will not do the job. Mr. Lobong is matured, an intellectual and a gifted man. He has proven it by his awesome track records. What is it that Ejotuk has done to give him an edge against Comrade Louis? In the liberation struggle, Comrade Louis tested Arab fire, unlike Ejotuk who never fired a single bullet in his bush life. Comrade

Louis like many other comrades risked his life while serving the liberation Movement here in Juba along with Gen. Thomas Cirilo Swaka. Our dear late leader Dr. Garang had a principle of going by what you can contribute. He was with an eagle eye of detecting who will do what. Had he lived, Mr. Lobong would have been in that seat long enough by now, to seek reelection for a second term. Unfortunately, a king that doesn't know 'Joseph' took over and wasted no time to splash contempt on anything associated or dear to his predecessor.

But for starters, Comrade Louis for his big credit has done his best at critical moments of the liberation struggle to win back the Greater Kapoeta (Toposa, Buya and Didinga), after many frosty years of hostility between the people there and the SPLA. I don't think this could be easily erased by anyone. He stayed with his people at trying times and worked hard to serve others than himself; those that are not even Toposa by origin. He is a servant leader, always with the interest of others in his heart, against his own. He secured scholarship to more dozen students for higher learning across East Africa and initiates as many developmental projects in the counties of Budi and Kapoeta than any other leader before him. How much more will he do once in the office of the governor of the state, if given an executive opportunity? So more! He is a nationalist above small politics of 'us' and 'they'. Imagine, there are many Dinkas Bor people in his backyard (Kapoeta) that are permanently settling in Kapoeta town, Narus, Nadapal and Kamotho (New Site). He resisted voices by some among his community that suggest the eviction of the so-called IDPs. Of course as we all know, these people are a refuse (rightfully so) due to their conduct and way of living among other communities. They feel superior (looking down to other cultures and practices), unattached and distinct. They do exactly what Arabs were doing by taking daughters of other people but refuse to give their own to others.

After he was served raw deals thrice by his own party (SPLM), one under the 'thin skin' and a big mouthing old man called Elijah Malok, and twice under the current President of the Southern Sudan, Comrade Louis never thought of abandoning the cause of his people for any short term gains. Now he has trounced his opponents democratically, not just once but twice, what justification will the Bureau give to his supporters in the event they overturn the result against his favor? People have already started to celebrate Mr. Lololomoe victory and the Highest Body of the party must not fail the people of this state. Eastern Equatoria is 100% an SPLM zone and this is an encouraging thing. The eyes of the people here are on the SPLM Bureau to complete the process so quickly and satisfactorily. Comrade Ejotuk has been rejected and any attempt to impose him on the state will have dire consequences on the political status of the party. This is the right of the people of this state and leadership in Juba should heal the wound of the past mistake; when losers were left to complete the term reserve for the winners. There was nothing like leaving the Chairperson of the party outside the executive seat when the SPLM Chairperson wasn't separated at the top. Long lives the struggle of the people of Southern Sudan, long live Greater Equatoria, SPLM Oyee! Matha Daan!

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BEST DECISION FROM BEST MEN!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 3, 2010

The decision to pull out Mr. Yasir Saeed Arman in the contest for Presidency from the SPLM ticket is wise and was indeed made in heaven. The decision came as of no surprise to many but caught others including Mr. Arman election team by a big surprise. It was a plumb decision that deserves a huge pat to the SPLM Political Bureau! Who else would doubt that the SPLM is a party to beat and have the interest of her people at heart? The people of Southern Sudan should now rest assured in the safe hands of His Excellency Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit and The big Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny.

Call it a betrayal, atrocious, apostasy, scam and what have you, but am pretty sure that this is required of a leadership, to be extraordinary and preemptive in its vision. In the first place, Arman nomination was damn odd. We still in partnership and Al Bashir isn't that bad. Mr. Arman, our people sniff a rat in the opposition ritzy issues in the election that was roughen in the boycott threats. Sir, we love you, only that you are a lone ranger there! It is not about you but about us after you.

Allow me to put myself in the SPLM shoes for the sake of this particular argument. Let's start from somewhere: what issues are we talking about that the opposition want done to make this election credible? In another word, why is opposition so serious about changes before election? To those in the know, like you, the issues aren't fresh; we know that security and the media laws are two contentious issues the opposition thought the NCP has an advantage. Rigging was another one. The opposition could be right. But am a hearing a tone outside that box, something the SPLM saw it and put it to a halt through this decision on Arman.

The Northern Opposition, to be specific, aren't only asking for postponement of the elections because of the above issues, but the fact that the opposition ventured into issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) raises a concern as to what that mean to the constituency the SPLM represents. So, where did I get this from? It was right from the mouth of the opposition leaders in their press conferences. It sounds familiar with that of the Darfur rebels, Doha and Cairo leaders. Darfur must be part of the election. To this author that was just political buccaneering as far Southern Sudan is concerned; and therefore not acceptable while we have breaths. We have said it a million times that please, don't link the two cases (Darfur and the South), whether in our skins or in our African heritage; we are different nations!

There is another easy side to tell (mere analysis from this decision. The SPLM last minute pull out of Arman has some critical if not important highlights for the Sudanese. The marriage between the SPLM and other Northern Opposition Groupings (Juba All Parties Conference Members) was done in bad faith. The Northern Opposition Groups want to use the SPLM for their personal goals. The SPLM thought the Northern Opposition parties would stick to the book and allow the CPA provisions to go ahead in their natural courses- election to go ahead and the referendum. The other side course is the referendum, and the best option for them is to remove President Al Bashir. If not why do you insist on pushing behind election in April, what month behind it can accommodate logistical difficulties if not November and December.

Second, the SPLM has demonstrated its commitment to listen to its constituency more through practice. That means that the SPLM can't ignore the voice that called for continuation of the partnership with the NCP for the survival of the CPA. President Al Bashir might not be popular in the Sudan or the South and in fact any Northerner or an Arab for that matter can't be trusted by Southerners, yet this man called Al Bashir has redeemed himself through courage to wade through his own opposition onslaught, when he had wanted to sign the CPA. What else do you need from anyone if he gives you freedom?

Third, the SPLM in its initials has made clear that democracy can wait- an election is not its priority- but that position was overtaken by the fact that referendum ought to be supervised by an elected government. I don't know whether that was applied in Eritrean's case. Besides, pushing election behind will only mean postponement of problems. Our political and economic interests demand that we don't push election behind. Forth, the SPLM decision shouldn't be seen as speculative or opportunistic rather a political 'rebate' or sacrifice to protect the implementation of the CPA from opportunists. It is time to move on quickly and put behind this election.

This is why SPLM would always be ahead of others. This is a team that will deliver. Our people should reward SPLM for its sacrifices on our behalf. This election is our time to vote SPLM back to power, with our huge turn out. They have brought us a long way, and we must think of what to do to them about us. They listen and with time we shall be proud of what we together achieve through them. May God continue to guide our leaders!

SPLM should now think about Arman as a person; his voice never changes after that fateful press conference under the Vice President (Dr. Machar). I have observed him and his body language never betrayed him, and hence a man to watch. I would love to see him in the next government and even that of our own independent state. He should in our new independent government Millions of Congratulations to leaders at Political Bureau, may you continue to make such decisions in the future for the sake of our people. Long live SPLM/A, Mr. Mayardit/Machar Oyee. Mr. Amum, why are you mum?

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BAKOSORO'S ELECTION WILL NOT BE WITHOUT A PRICE

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 30, 2010

History was made in Western Equatoria of the Southern Sudan in the just concluded elections. The people of Western Equatoria State chose Col Joseph Bakosoro against the SPLM choice Madame Jemma Nunu Kumba. The contest was too close; a slim margin separated the two. Yambio the capital city of the State was forensic; it was flocked by supporters of the triumphant new governor. People congratulated each other for what they seemed to have achieved, and the man of the moment never disappointed anyone as he exuberantly roll out why he was the best; with a sigh of relief read out over his little face. My congratulations go to all, the winners and the losers for making this event a reality. Mr. Governor elects, my salutations!

Before we celebrate too much however, there is a 'cost' to pay as far as the decision to shun the party in favor of the person is concerned. Being an independent is particularly tricky in our case, where an 'island' (WES) sprang out of an 'ocean' (SPLM). It would take a bit of wisdom to wither conspiracies that are likely going to be unleashed on anybody would be challenging the ruling party. Technically to date, our independent candidates are renegades and sought after by other political groupings. They have made no secret of talking openly against the SPLM party. The SPLM looks resign to that fact and are not in hurry to waste resource and time to woe them back. The Secretary General of the party has hinted something related to the same.

Independent candidates in Houses in other parts of the world enjoy all the privileges like any other members of the ruling party. They are also the blue eyes of other political parties since their voting trend could swing and make a difference. They enjoy being independence since they are answerable to none but to themselves, and on remote cases to the people that brought them to power. That is about members in the house, but for governorship I don't think its easy to play it safe all the time, the same way a member of the house could play his cards there.

Governors per our Interim Constitutions have specific responsibilities of running their states autonomously. This fact negates nothing on major policy practices stem from ruling parties. This is where the problem lies about this special case at hand (Independent governor). Someone has joked that by electing an independent candidate as governor we must not be surprise if he appoints an independent cabinet. I don't know what that would mean to other arms of the government that are likely to be pro SPLM party, if that came to passed.

In simple English, Governor elect Bakosoro has a problem in his hands. If he goes defiance like he did at this election, the possibilities of him losing his seat would be high given SPLM majority in the house- gurbash known as impeachment. But even if the party chooses not to play conspiracy, the areas under party suspicion are slowly 'tortured'. Don't be surprised this is what happens across governments. I'm not saying this should be the case in, but am afraid we might not be unique! We have read parts of cities around the world through which opposition/independent candidates emerged winners. They are destined for raw deals with no clear way of stopping it, whether you shout it or cry it. Don't make a mistake about power of the ruling system. Everything is possible and perfect when done, until someone changes the system; politics is all but interests.

But the lost of Governorship seat by the SPLM has sparked heated debate among Southerner intelligentsia. Some attributed it to poor show by the outgoing governor, Madam Nunu. They say Madam Nunu was presumptuous, sometime harsh, proud, and often gibe on his opponents. Others still feel (trivial argument though) that there is no need to have Kumba dynasty representing them- the husband as a minister and the wife as governor. She was also charged of having dropped civil servants from one particular community there, a charge that was denied.

On an overall, there are those who believed an argument that there is a sentiment created by two incidences in 2006 and 2007. One was tribal and the other was criminal. The former was a feud between Azande and Dinka and the other was the killing of senior police officers. The two weren't nice incidences. Lives were lost and many homes and properties were destroyed in 2006. No one knows how did it end, or what measure was put in place to stop it from recurring. The big Vice President Dr. Riek Machar quelled it anyway. But smoldering of that incident still haunts the SPLM party that is unjustifiably tag as a Dinka party. Madame Jemma was too close to the party and to the leadership given her contribution to the party long enough. I don't know whether these are issues in consideration.

In the process of grabbling/finding an answer (s), there is no way for us to look back, other than focus now on the aftermath or repercussion of whatever that has happened in the WES. The repercussion am talking about in few words is this: how will Governor Bakosoro fair with the SPLM dominated government when he has officially broke rank with it? In another word, how will his relation with his erstwhile comrades look like? Work sometime can't hinge on rule, but relationships.

But the lost of that seat to independent candidate never bothered SPLM party. In the first place they didn't put enough attention owing to its geographical position. It has been a strong hold of the SPLM after all, and that assumption never goes anywhere. Late Samuel Abu John Kabashi comes for that green state. No one would doubt the sacrifices made by the people of Western Equatoria state for the advancement of SPLM military cause there. 99% of WES are die heart SPLM members and nothing really could be suspected to be happening against the party. The incoming governor

was careful to associate himself with the party; he's one of the liberation heroes. SPLM didn't do much there!

Yet politics is dirty as the saying goes. Mr. Bakosoro isn't looking back. Am seeing a pariah governor taking an oath; he is most likely going to be isolated from within his state (SPLM majority supporters) and from his executive headquarters in Juba. This is a sad truth unless the man takes a leap of faith to start talking to the party for a kind of an alliance or political cooperation, since he is unlikely to declare himself back to the party, given Mr. Amum caution reaction to those who would have wish to return. The choice of people's governor was well intended, and it is a right by the voter, but there is another 'small' choice that was overlooked, a choice the people of WES must now rectify or stand the chance of isolation from the rest of other Southern states. May that is my wild conclusion, what do you think?

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SUDAN PEACE PARTNERS, FINISH THE GOOD JOB

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 3, 2010

Sudan has entered a critical stage of its history, a situation where Southern Sudanese are poised to break away through an internationally supervised referendum on January 9, 2011. The process has been difficult but steady. The two partners for their credit did their best to calm storms along the way until to this stage. We only left with few weeks to go, and the eyes of the world are on the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leadership. The two principals to be specific are under tight political scrutiny in everything they do or say.

So far, the two leaders (Al-Bashir and Kiir) kept their cards close to their hearts, at least publicly. Their foot soldiers however are on the 'havoc'; daggering swords against one another, for good or bad reasons. The media is in the lead doing dirty job for either side. Credible leaders have pitched camps there, howling tough positions in an attempt to woo the other for war. The NCP particularly has sharpened the art of bullying and blackmailing for the sole purpose of escaping from the agreement they have signed in the Kenyan city of Naivasha.

The world peace loving forces therefore should double efforts to frustrate the NCP from disrupting the democratic rights for the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei. There will be no excuse on the side of the NCP, and even so of the SPLM to walk away at the zero hour. The march to January must be respected, because it almost sanctimonious to Southerners. When we lined up on November 15 to register, it was

scintillating like never; we thought our leaders would do what a gentleman could do, honor his own words. It was a rare opportunity for an ordinary man like me to decide his destiny other than someone else doing it in Parliament or in the State House. Unfortunately, the antics and its accompany from the NCP made it now abundantly clear that trouble awaits the Sudanese people in January/February 2010.

If Dr. Khalil Ibrahim reopening of bidding for referendum material saga is anything to go by, then much need done to stop this old man from stoking fire in this country again. The spy man (Gen. Salah Al Gosh) earlier maligned our people and his statement has awakened us! Political bickering yeah, are natural for parties curbed out of different orientations. But on the expense of choice for freedom, this is unbecoming and the Sudanese peace partners should give our people a break. People don't want war but peaceful divorce. To fight because of divorce is no thinking right. War ravages and no right-minded leader would want to accept his people to slip into that situation once more.

Presidents Al Bashir and Kiir, you have a sovereignty obligation to reign on your lieutenants to allow Sudanese a chance to vote on the designate date in January. You can just do that through the followings: moot the ill fate idea of inviting Sudanese companies in an already charged and tense political environment. Southerners (including this little author) won't accept an extension even by one day. The invitation of Sudanese companies affects the tight deadline leading to January 2011, because technically, it takes few weeks for production of the materials and another week for distribution. External bidders conversely will do it conveniently and on time. SPLM opts for this position, they got it right.

Secondly, you got to clear the air and make a decision on the status of Abyei. Messiriya future is a done deal; they aren't voting and this position should be negotiated. Why? Because they aren't owners of the land, and the land is in dispute between the North and the South. Someone looking for water and pastures for animals can't put a claim to a land of somebody through the barrel of the gun. Don't take serious any threat from Messiriya Arab. If they are going to look for trouble after your decision, let them do it on their own risk without your blessing. The Abyei issue remains a thorn on the presidential 'flesh', and you must gather courage and say no to the Messiriya. They will suffer if they insist on antagonizing Southerners, as their animal grazing land shall turn into battlefields.

Third, debts impasse can be diffused. No one denies that the Southern Sudan has ever been part of the larger Sudan and anything that affects the entire Sudan ultimately affects the South; but debts from war ashes are tricky to be shared. The aircrafts and bombs have destroyed the South, and the environment has been the casualty, why should this debt be share on earth? The SPLM during the war had also borrowed, and they can't now suggest to the NCP to take portion of the debts. No debt share and the presidency can take easy decision on this matter.

Forth, the citizen issue can be resolved by allowing citizens from both sides a ten-year period without a necessity of a passport between the two emerging countries. Southerners have invested a lot in the North, unlike Northerners in the South. The latter never roofed one storey building in any city of the ten states. But that isn't an issue; we need other on commercial basis. A Northerner as our dear President said it, is free to move and do business anywhere in the South after independence. No citizen rule about him staying in the South and our 'brothers' in the North should do the same to our people there. Children are in schools and colleges, people have somewhat adapted some living there, why not give them enough time, even that of the South to pick up and then after ten year time, they will have reason to come home and permanently settle.

Dear Presidents and the entire leadership of the two parties (the SPLM & NCP), the hope of the Sudan is on you. Don't make fool of yourself and get tempted to stop in the middle of nowhere without finishing the good job. You brought smiles on the face of many Sudanese and time to finish everything is next year in January. Swallow any bitter differences and think about the future of the two nations. The task is heavy, but with will, you can deliver the country out of the crisis. More importantly, spend less time in the media on issues to do with 'us' against 'them'; narrow differences on post arrangement agreements. Let referendum go on as planned!

To wrap up, the Western countries must cease from conspiracies against the Sudanese President. He is a great man and his job isn't finish. Give him space to stabilize the country. Your scheme to humiliate him will not stop him from serving his people. He's a principled and disciplined person who wants to finish what his hands has done. Through the American stooge like Ocampo, our President will continue to complete the CPA journey unperturbed. By the way, what do you want done in this country that he didn't do? Darfur is one piece and there are others here.

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***PLEASE SOUTHERN WOMEN, REGISTER AND
VOTE***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 19, 2010

The political future for the people of Southern Sudan will be determined in less than 52 days. The journey that started centuries ago is about to end in January 2011. The focus now is whether the people of the South can actually win this round of 'war' (voting) in an overwhelming and convincing passion. The task is entirely left to our people (Southerners) to prove to Khartoum in particular that the will of the people of Southern Sudan for freedom is much greater than the suffering and loss attached therein during the cause of the struggle. We had lived in political limbo for ages and

the time for a Southerner to feel human has come. People have started to shed tears of joy during the registration exercise, what does this tell you about the whole caboodle?

The registration process to be precise is one last 'hurdle' the negotiations put on the road for our freedom. This should be exciting! Then there was Census and in April this year we did an election, two most challenges 'hurdles' during the interim period. Now the culmination is the voting earlier next year through a small card known as voting card. The card is attained through registration, and if you don't have one, you are illegible. I acquired one and will take care of it, now close to my heart in my jacket/coat wherever I go, how about you?

On Tuesday the 15/11/2010 therefore, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission started to register the eligible people of the South for the crucial vote on January 9, 2011. Centers are designated in our Counties and Payams. Enough ground works have been made by concerned people. People were expected to come and register, and indeed they turned out as far as men are concerned has just been fantastic. But one big section of our society named, as females/women aren't registering in good numbers, why? 95% of registered candidates are men, especially the age bracket of 40 and above. Across referendum registration centers, you might find in a day 20 women turning up to register in each center, opposed to hundreds of men, what is wrong?

I hear women shouting loudly these days for representation in the government, but when it comes to such times as these, they want to play a second fiddle role, what do you think you are doing mothers/sisters? Look, there are worrying reports coming up against you when it comes to corruption. Reports suggest that women in our government are more corrupt than their male counterparts. 85% of cases of corruption at Anti-Corruption Unit in our government of Southern Sudan are reported to be the making of women, don't you care that registration for the future direction of this land is much more important than your plaited beautiful hairs? When spent time in salons and not find time to queue to register. President Kiir and Guandit Dr. Machar, please, don't make further appointments to women at top positions! After all South Africa had sounded an alarm to other Africans about the need to go slow about appointing women in plumb jobs. They are subtly corrupt!

In Tongpiny in Juba on Tuesday, I saw a little young lady of 19 years standing alone, squeezed among 100 or so men; when I look closely, she seems to be from Madi tribe, where did the Dinka tall girls go, is the kitchen the best place to be? Why confine these Southerners to cooking and house chores at this onetime thing? I become petty yeah, but I know this isn't a joke. If we want to be free, all of us, say leaders, should come out with their wives get registered. Why leave her in the kitchen or in Australia? It is time to talk less and act louder. The voting registration in fact is so cheap and very straightforward. It takes little time for anyone to get clear, one hour at most. Please come out ladies and participate fully.

We shouldn't forget why it is important to register and then vote. There are two technical problems or conditions associated with the referendum exercise. One of the conditions is the 60% registered voters required for the referendum vote to be declared valid. On the surface that looks as a simple rule, but the implication comes in when by design someone goes and registers imaginary Southerners. If he/she manages to register a million, our 1.5 million registered Southerners can't help. Do you see a problem there? On the side of the NCP, everything is possible!!!

The second area of concern as to why our people should turn up in large numbers and register is the 51% threshold for simple majority. This is easy understood, but simple majority can be diluted by 'foreign' voters. Since voting boxes are to be opened in Khartoum and vote counting is done there, the possibility to deny Southerners 51% simple majority is highly likely. But if we turn up in large numbers, men and women alike, that vote will not be tempered with by a saboteur at the headquarters. 51% simple majority moreover is about those who registered, what if that scenario of registering fake Southerners apply in the simple majority? Registering of imaginary names counts as do their direction of vote.

But someone says it is not women alone, even youths aren't registering. That is another concern. Majority of them (youth) are telling people different stories, one of which is that its better one stays away than register and never vote, hmmm!. Some of them again have enough time to register at their 'convenience' time before the registration date closes on the 4 December 2010. I don't know what important activity one can do than to register your own life and death certificate. Young men, where do you want to be in January? Please, let's be responsible before our martyrs!

Back to ladies; Mary Boyi, a promising artist has gone ahead of you to sing into your hearts for that need to register and vote. She records fabulous hits about this animal called referendum and this is not about singing but about the future of your children. You must not only register for the sake of participation, but also make a meaningful participation by saying no to unity. Come out in large numbers, there is no time to waste. Let those who want to wait until the last day (4th of Dec) do so and not you. This should be a message to all. It's not a duty of men to do it alone. It's our collective responsibility to deliver the South to its Promised Land. You should have been ahead of us since there is no blood to spill to get registered.

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***THANKS USA, KEEP THE PRESSURE ON
KHARTOUM***

BY ISALIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 24, 2010

As expected, the Americans place in the world will always be an envious threat to those who want to oppress and keep others down. The terrorist groups to be exact are making no mistake of going against anything American. The hysteria that has gripped the Northern political players, and on top the Islamists, has something to do with Uncle Sam effort to stop any mad team from finishing off defenceless people across the world. Sudan is that one example of how a helpful hand of a big brother could uplift the spirit of the oppressed and humiliated other human beings in any other part of the globe. As things stand, the American government has done so much in the Sudan such that the tide leading to referendum for both in the South and Area of Abyei in January 2011 is almost impossible to be reversed.

The top USA diplomat at the United Nations, Ms Suzan Rice, nonetheless staggered and poorly fumbled and should retract herself. She released just an opinion we all know, but that was too much an opinion from a powerful diplomat like Rice. But the timely intervention by General Scott Gration, the US Envoy for Sudan, Samantha Power for Multilateral Affairs (USA) and Jonnie Carson, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs was mellifluous to our ears. No delay of the two Sudanese referenda in January, they affirmed. I heard Khartoum before the intervention, especially hardliners, praising the United States of America for the first time since they came to power through a coup de tat in June 30, 1989. The numinous group (Islamists) thought the suggested delay by Ms Rice will give them another breathing lifeline to strategize further on ways to scuttle the process leading to independence of Southern Sudan/Abyei. Fortunately the internal and external voices for peaceful disengagement of the two regions (South/Abyei and the North) have remained loud and active.

I have a feeling that the President of the Republic and Ustaz Ali Osman Mohamed Taha (The Second Sudanese Vice President) are under intense siege from hardliners on the need to do away with the CPA self-determination. The idea of uniting the Sudanese regions by force or proxy is one serious card the Islamists are selling to Egypt, Libya and the entire Arab countries in the Middle East. But the United States wasted no time through her smart team headed by a doyen and brilliant lady (Ms Samantha) to allay real fears from the mouth of an influential character like Ms Rice. Khartoum quickly capitalized on it. No one knows what has become of her dusk she has created. She never showed up during the triumvirate interview, and questions trail the argument thereafter.

Now, the USA must sustain the pressure on Khartoum, because our 'brothers' in Khartoum will always find an excuse to disown the work of their hands. It will not be a surprise to have another trouble between the North and the South/Abyei if the process leading to referendum in January is maliciously stalled.

President Al Bashir, however, has proven himself to be a man of peace and of faith. He never wavered during trying times from within his circles during the interim period, but that can change in an instant. Our people want peaceful divorce between the North of the Sudan and the South/Abyei. He understood us well. Unity project has no place in the heart of our people. That is not cynical or bane to wedge a rift between the two emerging nations. The fact is that nothing will stop the march by the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei to freedom in January 2011, whether Khartoum is willing to support it or not. The Americans are hereby commended for reading the minds of our people.

The remark therefore by Ms Suzan Rice about postponement of the Southern/Abyei referendums to sort out border demarcation issues and Messiriya was unnecessary. The two peace partners have pledged to go by January date despite challenges of demarcating the border between the two emerging countries. Discussions are on-going (albeit slow) on few elements of disagreement on the border issue, why push the date back under such realities? On Abyei, the CPA book and The Hague have exhausted differences related on who's who there, and who should vote in the Abyei referendum. It would have been time for Abyei Referendum, not about Messiriya participation in that exercise. They aren't voting and what Dediery Mohamed Ahmed (the NCP man) says doesn't hold water. The USA should make efforts to diffuse quickly the tension in the region of Abyei. The issues there are clear: the demarcation of Abyei areas and the preparation for the Abyei Referendum Commission to conduct a peaceful referendum. The other side wants Messiriya rights to be juxtaposed in an already discussed and finalized matter. What a joke!

The USA needs to stop Khartoum from striking us in Abyei. Our President, Salva Kiir Mayardit is still pleading for peaceful resolution of any outstanding differences between the two regions (the North and the South). The USA has a moral responsibility to rescue the country from another renewed of violence. The South (Azania Republic) is trying to pick up pieces and should be left alone to recuperate from ages of unrest. This doesn't mean that our people can stand by when aggressed like now in Abyei.

Internally though we must support the external efforts, and Nyakuron Conference for unity of our leaders was a starting place for our togetherness. Renegades and murderers must think again and listen to the voice of wisdom from our leader Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Long live USA! Long live Azania people! Long live President Al Bashir! Victory is certain!

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DR. DENG IS ENTITLED TO HIS OPINION BUT...

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 31, 2010

Sudanese Oil Minister Dr. Lual Deng was reported to have preferred unity over separation. The London based Al-Sharg Al -Awsat newspaper that purported the report, reports that the minister justified his choice based on his experiences from the American system. The Minister there (in that interview) confessed to have been a convert of late leader Dr. John Garang, about the unity project. It has become no more any secret therefore-unless the minister clears the air about that matter- Dr. Deng in his capacity as a national leader from the South is a unionists, and people of the South respect his democratic rights. Others like him will come, and this is normal. No one can stone Dr. Deng for going for unity but am afraid the minister has treaded on dangerous ground! We wish him and his group good luck. We shall meet at the polling booths on January 9, 2011.

Yet deep within my heart, I doubt whether Dr. Deng had actually uttered such remarks at such crucial stages of our history; when our people are only left with few months to finish off a great job left behind by two millions dead Southerners. Its unfortunate if it becomes true that Uncle Lual wanted the future of his people with Arabs. My eyes couldn't believe what I read on this website on the same, given energy this man called Lual put to help his colleague Dr. John Garang at a very difficult moment of the movement struggle. Unity we heard Garang talked about was about fundamental changes at the center, a total shift of 360 degree. He knew it would be mirage however. Being a seasonal politician, he never left his people without clear position. We can prove him right; may his soul rest in eternal peace. For the past five years, nothing has changed; we still at the same status like before (before CPA was signed) saved for appointments to positions at the top. Even with that its too earlier to start trusting the North because few changes happened here and there. I don't think the minister remarks and his choice for unity will go well with our people at all levels including the constituency that elected him to parliament.

Dr. Deng should have been careful not to expose himself to media once more given an incidence in December 2007 when he was also quoted out of context, of having openly criticized why SPLM Political Bureau pulls SPLM members from the government. But his open lecture about benefits of unity over separation is probably the most risky statement so far on his side. This has stunt even a street child, because of our experiences of living together with Arabs/North again. The price paid to bring about CPA and the freedom we enjoy today didn't just come out with no sweat and blood. Men died not for the sake of unity, but separation. Unity of the South and the

North to be exact will not become true, when Southerners still have breaths! Southerners reject unity long time ago. I didn't know what makes the minister to talk like that. Our people should wait and hear an official statement from Dr. Deng.

To you Dr. Deng: remember a short while ago (a month ago, as one of the commentators put it yesterday), a story of oil transparency, or say irregularities/uncertainties surrounding the exact proceeds going to the South from oil was nip in the bud and our people around the world made no mistake to blame you for trying to clean up the dirty/mess left by Dr. Awad Al Jazz in that ministry (oil). Who doesn't know the oil revenues figures coming to the government in the South don't agree with exact barrels that are sent to the world markets. Now on this particular case of unity or separation, the honorable minister should have allowed waters to cool down on that matter of transparency in the Oil Ministry; is too much anything to go public at this stage. The SPLM top should know this fact. Look, Southerners at whatever level aren't joking about their future, they know precisely what tomorrow will look like. Dr. Deng you started well and no one can dispute your developmental achievements in your area; people were made to believe in your leadership quality and your change of heart to listen to others than your people has raised more questions than answers about whatever you have been doing in development there. If they hear you talking unity, what do you think they will do on January 9, 2010? You played a bad game to the benefit of someone in Khartoum; kindly return to your people!

My simple advise to our leaders is this: please stay away from utterances of this nature even if this is your legitimate rights; we aren't anymore interested in what others think is the best for us. How about us, don't we have our own minds to figure out what is best for us? Is Dr. Deng the right person to tell us where to go, when Dr. Garang showed us the way? We don't need your caution Mr Deng, we don't anyone generally to lecture anything about our future, please. We are tired of our leaders not being conscious of what people that support them want. We want separation, raw or ripe! I don't believe in glossing an error when it is so; Dr Deng owes his people and the people of South Sudan an apology (if the story is really true). We don't care about his past records; we care about our future more. Even if Kiir or Dr. Machar says it, we will challenge them in their faces. Southerners from all walks of life are shock by the minister statement. Unless the paper has put it on Dr. Deng's mouth, Dr. Deng needs to tell us more about his new found relationship with Arabs. He has inflicted pain to our people. This is too much to bear for a heavy weight like Deng, unity by the way is an insult. Let no another leader talk about it in our land. I also doubt so much whether Dr. Garang was a unionists as claimed by Dr. Deng!!!

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LET REFERENDUM EXERCISE GO AS PLANNED

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 4, 2010

It has become apparent that the hardliners among Naivasha Peace Partners are digging in for a shock to scuttle the long awaited end of Naivasha Peace Agreement. The peace loving forces who had hoped for true peace between the North and the South have started to question whether the two sides were indeed genuine in the first place to sign that peace agreement. In the past few weeks, the two sides have engaged in an all out shouting against one another, because realities are dawning heavily in favor separation of the South from the North. The National Congress Party (NCP) in particular has gone that too far. It is only yesterday in Cairo that the NCP soften its stand- stand of blocking the referendum practice.

That party (the NCP) has engaged in shifted posts from one area of argument to another, hoping to frustrate the people of South Sudan from voting in January. The story changes from border demarcation issue to insecurity in the South. Now Ustaz Ali Osman Mohamed Al Taha, the restrained Vice President of the Sudan and one of the architects of the Naivasha Peace Accord has joined hardliners within the NCP, by invoking the international community wrath against Southern separatists. He used the word 'separatist' more than once deliberately to make a point. This has surprise many, given his consistent stature and energy he had then exerted to achieve Naivasha Peace.

In his belatedly argument, we are made to buy in to the NCP ploy that the unity project has the backing of the United Nations, African Union, Arab League, European Union, SADC and IGAD. Mr. Al Taha however is forgetting quickly that the same bodies were there during the Naivasha Negotiations, and knew the consequences of each scenario (unity or separation). When did these bodies change to favor unity over separation or vice versa? Everyone knows that the international community labored for peace in the Sudan without favoring one side in the Sudan political divides. The world has put enough effort help Sudan out of its troubles by supporting their homegrown solutions. They have no different agenda than to save Sudan from chaos; to them if separation could bring peace, why not go for it, and if its unity, that could also be ok with them. I thought this has been their position all along, even today.

Internally moreover, the Accord (Naivasha South-North Peace) has a majority backing from the Sudanese. Evidence was the enthusiastic rush to enshrine it in the Sudanese constitutions (that of the South and the National one), and here it becomes a legal binding agreement with full support of our people across the country. What make the Vice President and his groups think it's their rights to do away with it or block one side of the document without its due legal courses? What provision in the

constitution that could allow the NCP postpone the referendum for self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei without the SPLM agreeing to it? What do these think they are? Mr. Al Taha and the group, we dare you to do it! The people of Southern Sudan and Abyei can't take any violation of their rights and that of the constitution with their heads lying low, as it happen before in the 1970s and 80s. Mr Vice President, the South will still go, take it from this little writer. That isn't a mere threat sir, our people mean business, either the South goes, or the Sudan is thrown to the dogs. Fortunately though, my people aren't scared of plots coming from Khartoum these days. Why? Because, I still trust President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir of the NCP.

Ustaz (Al Taha), what makes you think that the South shall disintegrate if it goes alone? If that becomes the case (God's forbid) is that your business? From your mouth, I suspect a conspiracy. We care less anyway, because the matter isn't anymore about you changing colors, but about us going for the best in fulfillment of the legal requirements. Unity isn't bad, it's the strength, but it is just too late to strengthen Sudan at it current political foundation. Let's move away from there and start talking about future bilateral relationships between the emerging two Sudanese nations. That is my plea sir (Al Taha). I worry much about the future of the North after the South voted away. That should concern Mr. Al Taha, otherwise the matter of the South choosing its destiny is behind us. The South yes is 'poor' & underdeveloped but Khartoum can't laugh over our affairs, as if the fault lies with the Southern Sudanese. Khartoum should be ashamed to talk like that against the South.

Retrospectively, I have developed a fear that the CPA is under siege due to our own internal problems and of course from the NCP/North. This comes about due to the following factors. Let's start with the later (NCP/North plot). One is the media war, a front the NCP has been perfected by the NCP. The propaganda war is all but about negative remarks insinuating the SPLM party. The air is filled with uncalled remarks aim at making the SPLM to lose cool and get angry to declare a state in the South (UDI). Dr. Gutbi Ahmed I Mahdi started it, followed shortly by an Islamist Dr. Mustafa Osman Ishmael. It has become an open campaign for every top leader from that party (the NCP) and other major Northern Oppositions groups (Umma and DUP). The only individual who has never been quoted publicly against my people is President Al Bashir. Mr. President being true friends to my people is a faithful man. I know he will deliver from his promise to respect the choice of my people.

Second, there is a mature plan by other marginalized people in the North who are in favor of confederation. The idea is simple: either confederation or they are given similar rights for their future (self determination). I have mentioned this elsewhere. There are voices backing that plan. The question is why now, when the Southern referendum is 120 days away? Darfuris, especially JEM is considering self-determination before Southern Referendum; what do you make of this position from Dr. Khalil group. I'm afraid this is a trouble conduit meant to disrupt the march to

January by the people of Southern Sudan, and politicians in the South ought to be extra careful. JEM remember had then asked the postponement of the election...

The other is the need to organize ourselves and exercise proactive policies against the entire North (allow me to say everything here/plead too much). This is the job for think tanks. Organization I'm talking about means intensive Civic Education and registration of voters for Southerners, including that of Abyei Area. Now the Southern Referendum Commission Chairperson sounds upbeat and positive, ready to work with our people, let us help him realize his mission. On the other hand, the proactive policies I'm referring to mean preparing for the worse, incase things come to shove (worse comes to worse). Does that sound like UDI? May be! We must not keep every option open. We must not just wait until things get out of hand, and start panic on what to do. Plan B we have said here (get me right) isn't confederation or similar arrangement under unity package. Our people are capable of defending their decisions and rights within the country and outside it (along the world corridors of power). Khartoum will do everything even after January referendum; let's go ahead of them and leave no stone un-turn. Southern Sudan needs real freedom and dignity today. In that voting, let's prove to chauvinists wrong by voting overwhelming for separation. The Unity box must be returned with nothing but oxygen. If we wait until the last minute to start strategizing we might hit a deadly shock of our lives. Don't leave anyone out of the voting; the issue of any disenfranchised should appear. Let's unite! Our brothers violently opposing SPLM are advice to join their brothers in the South for our collective future.

As far South interest is concerned, the unity among us is critically an important commodity. We are fond of putting our own interests in front of our national ones, leaving our big pictures to slip away. Whenever we quarrel we find it hard to forgive each other and start moving together. We must learn to forget; after all political issues aren't personal. Constructive differences after all aren't bad. We are one people and this should always stays at the back of our minds. Let's respect one another opinion, and never carried lose sight of what we all want. Brothers remain a brother no matter the issues in question. I'm emptying my heart because of pain that comes about due to our disunity. Referendum practice should unite us and make us one people, facing similar future. This is a challenge, but we got to put up for a noble cause of freedom. Long live Southern Sudan.

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NEW TAHA PEACE FUNDS SHOULD BE ABOUT ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 5, 2010

The Sudanese Vice President and one key architect of the Sudanese Peace Agreement known as Naivasha Accord or CPA, Ustaz Ali Osman Mohamed Taha has embarked on a mission dubbed as “development project funds” to make unity attractive to Southern Sudanese in the next Year Referendum. These projects shall be social in nature, in the areas of health, education, water drilling, and road construction among others. Mr. Al Taha arrived Juba who hardly suppresses a chuckle - big smile, accompanied by a large delegation from the NCP and the Government of National Unity. But the visit is barely a day at a hot heal of another visit by the Governor of the Central Bank to the same city-Juba.

The court of Public Opinion on the streets of Southern cities was invariably divided, as to whether the said projects are real or imaginary; whether the time for their implementation is right. Others still go on the extreme urging the Southern Government to reject those unity advances/overtures outright. For the later group, the money is too little too late thing. To them the money isn't social but politicize fund and therefore dangerous. However, the Government of the people of Southern (GOSS) sees no problem with that money so long as the intention and purpose is for Southern development. I agree!

But according to the Vice President (Mr. Taha), the decision to start doing something (funding projects in the South) came about after Western Donors slowed down sending any funding to the ravaged region. The idea is to silence voices and argument that the North and the Central Government in particular has done actually nothing to keep the South going away or separate- going East African Community. This effort is an attempt to ensure the blame is lessen. Southerners shall have no reason to separate since to him development has only been the source of contention. One wonders whether this money shall make any difference to arrest the already grown up tendency for self-rule. Time will tell!

It is easy to weigh up the odds though not to just take everything for granted. History is the best teacher, it's said; and that who's beaten twice shy. This is not the first time for Southerners to hear about promises from the North/Central Government right from 1973 (Addis Ababa Agreement). The leaders in the central (Khartoum) have all along made as many promises as you could imagine for Southerners, later to be turned down. The NCP party has also made series of promises about developmental projects to the people of the South but to date there is none. To many well-wishers, the issue is not necessary to make unity attractive, but to put the South back into something after decades of war. Unfortunately our brothers Arabs never kept their

promises. I wish I have time to go through each promise here including the latest about Rumbek University money, Upper Nile University construction money, Renk-Malakal-Juba-Nimule High Way, Abyei developmental projects etc.

What differences will this promise from Al Taha make, that will make it special from others? I doubt therefore whether the 500 million pounds shall really be released. But even if the money is disburse, then we got to detach it from attractive unity project, and see beyond what that money all about. The money to this author isn't about swaying Southern opinion in favor of unity, but about attractive neighborhood between the emerging nations (the South and the North states). This is how Al Taha money isn't without any string attach, one of which is that the money must be about services along South-North border. What do you make of this condition? Why services at the borders? What size of population are we serving there along the borders? Figure out, why not give that money to ministries concerned in the South other than Khartoum to prioritize and implement these projects, on behalf of GOSS?

Do you know what, the NCP is ahead of us and they know that unity can't be made attractive through projects/contracts. They didn't just sign CPA and even that clause about separation for the sake of winning peace. They aren't fools. With all the theatrics you hear on their side, they know the South case is a forgone case. The decision to let the South go isn't in fact the NCP creation; but a condition that has been created over the years, and that has been supported by internal and external political environments- right to choose. Now, for the sake of peaceful coexistence between the two Sudanese nations, there has to be an arrangement to improve services at the borders for goods and services to find their way to each side. The North focus on this fund hence is economic, simple.

But before the South stands alone, the South shall still depend on the North for almost everything. That is a living fact. National Oil Minister wasn't wrong on 'uneconomic' version. Lamu (Kenyan coveted port) is 20 years a dream. The Northerners know they will reap from Southern developmental dilemmas in its first 10 years of existence. Oil current infrastructures, development and its markets shall still be under the North, under some sort of fiscal agreement. Socially we will still need each other, as millions of Southerners who are trapped in the North and those who are well off in Northern cities shall find it difficult to come back home quickly. Several Northern businesspersons in the South shall still be there siphoning money out to the North, given the South poor status. For time being therefore, you can see the South and the North are to glue to each other for mutual benefits. Mr. Taha knows it and wants to start it from there.

The vastly more useful truth is that, we shouldn't throw away anything and start to inflict ourselves with self-doubts about matters leading to the referendum. To me, the referendum will be conducted on time; registration and the so-called outstanding matters are in the safe hands of our big and beloved Vice President Dr. Riak Machar Teny (known as Mr. Detailed, Mr. Pragmatist, Mr. Fine tuner). The future is indeed

bright under the NCP-SPLM partnership. The leaders of the two camps are committed to work together for the sake of peace and political stability or transition. Whether the South goes or not, the matter isn't in their hands anymore, but Southerners. The fact that President Kiir and his counterparts Field Marshall Omar Al Basher are sticking together and are at the helm of things, especially on referendum exercise, am pretty save politically. Long live NCP-SPLM partnership, long live Ustaz Al Taha.

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SUDAN'S ENVOY HAS TO STOP DENYING

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 17, 2010

The Sudanese Ambassador to the United Nations, H. E. Abdul Mahmood Abdul Haleem wanted countries sympathizing with Southern Sudanese Independence chores cease from supporting the people of that country, and their leaders/government-GOSS. He was irked by a high level delegation from the Southern Government and the SPLM currently lobbying to members of the United Nations Security Council, for an emerging reality in the Sudan, namely the Independent new state called Southern Sudan. Mr. Ambassador targeted the Western governments in particular. To him, the matter is still an internal Sudanese affair. He didn't like specifically the presence of the SPLM Secretary General Mr. Pagan Amum Mr. Amum on his side was honored as an observer, and he uses that opportunity to meet with Ms Suzan Rice, the US influential Ambassador to the United Nations, Egyptian Ambassador there, Chinese Envoy and the Ugandan Ambassador. The message was unequivocal: prepare to recognize us!

That is a natural diplomatic game in any situation leading to the split of a given country. In our case, that front would continue until the curtain is lowered through the outcome in January 2011. Mr. Mahmood wasn't out of his mind anyway; he knew what he was saying to others including Southerners. That is, the issue of separation isn't in the card of his party, but unity. How his party will achieve that unity to others is questionable. The newly appointed Foreign Minister again, another hard liner in the person of Ali Ahmed Karti, went a notch higher about possible tough war when (not if) Southerners decided to vote with their feet to the East African Community. The Minister also echoed President Al Bashir warning about border disputes. He wanted the borders between the two countries demarcated before referendum. But our leader Dr. Machar squared it all. Within forty-eight hours therefore things are beginning to get clearer from the National Congress Party (NCP) heavy weights about possibly realities facing the North and the South. Antibah Newspaper, the mouthpiece of the NCP hasn't been left behind either.

Hence, the rhetoric we have been hearing from the leaders of that party (the NCP) about respect for the choice of the people of Southern Sudan when the South chooses separation over unity should now be put into microscopic lens. The President could mean well yeah, but there is a huge clouds hanging over his public pronouncements. The fact that there are voices still with faces to intimidate anything and anyone put his lofty pronouncements into scrutiny. It's amazing how quickly the North and its hardliners could reach the panic button when we still have six months to go. But the President is sharp and knows that there is no two ways about Southern Independence. This is a political fact and Mr. Ambassador shouting surprises many people, inside and outside the country. He lives in the denial or perhaps this is a typical of an Arab chauvinist who never tired of trying and hoping.

Mr. Ambassador, where did it escape your good attention that the separation calls by Southerners hasn't been s a matter of try and error or a fresh demand. It's just a sheer coincidence that the CPA is one such documents/agreements in which the separation matter was legally magnified. In the CPA true the climax is about referendum; and that referendum is whether the voluntary unity could be made attractive or else the people of Southern Sudan opt for secession. The failure by your government to make unity attractive is also understandable given the South wish to separate willy-nilly. These are open and hard facts we need not play hindsight. The majority of North Sudanese have resigned themselves to that fact. Look Mr. Ambassador, the South would have gone anyway whether unity was made attractive. Even between your lungs, I believe you know better that the unity of the Sudan under any circumstances is a mirage and untenable adventure. Not because it was an impossible mission, but time to do it has been wasted and spoiled by bad governance policies in the center.

When Southern youngsters demonstrate in the Southern capital city Juba on the 9/6/2010, someone called Khalid Al Bashir Al Taheb Mustafa mobilized his Northern youth immediately the next day, to express Northern frustration of keeping the South part of the Sudan. His demo was well attended, emotionally charged and real. No one could mistakenly take Mr. Khalid and his team message very lightly. To him, the earlier the going of the South, the better the future for the North. It is therefore not practical to force unity to the people of the Sudan at this point in time. Besides, Southerners aren't faking their quest for freedom; our people have paid a price for it, and are ready to do more in the event of sabotage and ploys. We are matured Mr. Mahmoud, we can do it without the North. Mr. Ambassador, sir, your political gimmicks and blackmailing are rejected and unacceptable!

His Excellency The Ambassador, your government has this chance to start serious negotiations with the South on what to do after next year referendum outcome. That is the best place to start correcting for peaceful coexistence of the two countries. Everything is just under the bridge; no amount of tricks and threats will change the course of the people of Southern Sudan for independence. The North has enough resources to sustain itself, why bother about the South that is underdeveloped and far

behind compares to you. The South yes shall have problems but we have been living for centuries without any factory and the life never stops. We will not be jealous of the North because of balah and tahanan from across our borders. The South sincerely needs political backing from the NCP, because of your party bright history with the Southern Sudan/SPLM. A wise diplomat could do just that, not to hush a matured sentiment.

It's about time for Southern Sudanese to come together and forge ahead for unity of purpose. Let's begin to overlook our internal differences and stand up for the cause of our people. This is a trying moment in our history; for this next last lap requires a lot from everyone. We must unite to frustrate the NCP hopes of keeping the country together. May be it is time for each Southerner to start contributing towards referendum. This shouldn't be the task of politicians alone, but for us all. Mr. Akol Kordit, my thump up for that well done job. But in all, the man at the moment is non other than Mr. Pagan Amum Oketch; sir (Amum) stand tall, its gonna be well!

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***PRESIDENT AL BASHIR 'BORDER EXPLOSION'
REMARK UNFORTUNATE***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 12, 2010

The North and the South about possible border troubles should the South goes separate in the next year January Referendum. To him, the border disputes between the two countries (the North and the South) would be another crisis should the two sides failed to agree now. Granted, this is an honest and straightforward offer by the Head of state to the people of the Sudan, and gave him hereby my utmost appreciation for being a caring leader. This man called Al Bashir is a man of his words and from his heart come his words.

Let's start directly to address this line to the President of the Republic before we hypothesize further about the 'explosion' statement. President Al Bashir, Southerners have turned on you to deliver on your promises. You are a serious leader we must not forget. Go peaceful with the South on the border disputes. No Northerner in our memory who's real about our future as you do; none before you and possibly in the future. Sir, do everything in your power to reign on your hardliners to allow peaceful disengagement between the two countries. You did well to resolve Referendum Commission impasse, you can still do the same on this matter of the border between the North and the South. It can't take away more lives. Enough has been enough for those bending for war.

To the reader: as you internalize (analyze) the President statement, what comes into your mind? In another word, what do you make of his remarks on that Saturday in Khartoum? Well, I have heard Southerners charged that the President is belligerently out to wage propaganda war in order to intimidate Southerners who are most likely going for secession. Others went traducing the North/NCP and further accuse the President of having declared war against Southerners earlier. I don't think that is the case. But truly Southerners from every walk of life have a reason here to piece together the President 'explosion' remarks. Already our people are much divided about trusting the NCP. On Thursday though, Dr. Riek Gai Khok (from that party) spoke honey and butter. Southerners however expected those words from Dr. Nafia Al Nafia, Dr. Gutbi Ahmed Al Mahdi or Dr. Mustafa Osman Ishmael.

Here we have two positions from the leading two parties (the SPLM & the NCP); one for border demarcation issue sought out before referendum and the other arguing that since this could delay the referendum because of dilly-dally from the other side, the matter should be postpone until later date. Who is therefore right and should be believed? The South/SPLM of course, but I think it is not about who's right or wrong but whether the border issue could really take the two sides into another war in the first place. Look, both sides have come a long way, and awkward to hear our leaders coming out openly to talk about war again.

For starters, it is good to look at issues in contention at the border between the North and the South. One is the new map different from that of the 1956. The other is the future status or movement of people and goods across the borders. The movements of people looking for grassing land and traders shouldn't be a deal, but encroachment by Northerners to claim Southern territories. Yet (just to reiterate) the cases in point cannot take the two up coming countries into conflict again.

Take for example Joda and its strips leading to oil areas at Western Upper Nile State (not unity state), these areas are exclusively Dinka & Chollo areas, momentarily left to Arab Kala and intruders. Now the North has the stomach to claim them by introducing cosmetic map, what a twist! Even if that is the situation nevertheless, we can still persuade our neighbors in the North to stop entertaining impossibilities and start negotiating on bilateral terms between the two emerging nations. Generally still on this matter, the President has been candid indeed to express a Northern opinion owing to that of the South, but the South has the right to peacefully call the North to abandon Southern territories.

As we call for peaceful resolution of the border issue, there is an urge need to be thorough and proactive because the North has already deployed thousands of its troops at the border, as we speak. The 1/1/1956 border we all know is badly curved inside in favor of the North. We ought to do more ground work to settle border disputes even if that could take back again to the Hague to Arbitration Body. In another word, we must intensify our intention to dialogue to Northerners to stop

pushing southwards. President Al Bashir you have a moral duty to salvage the situation not to explode it.

His Excellency, President Salva Kiir Mayardit and our beloved Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny finish the good job you have started together after untimely departure of our icon Dr. John Garang de Mabior. Don't divorce your partnership with the NCP even in the face of threats. People are beginning to trust your able hands to fulfill what Dr. Garang and his Naivasha team have started. Work closely with President Al Bashir and like-minded NCP key members.

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ATHOR'S INTERIM ADMINISTRATION DEMAND IS RIDICULOUS

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 20, 2010

This topic has refused to go away, and readers should bear. General George Athor Deng, a renegade SPLA general who is widely believed to have masterminded the massacre of SPLA men at Doleib Hill Military barrack 20 days ago and currently engaging Southern forces in his hideout around Pigi, Fangak, Ayod and Nyirol counties has stretched his conditions for talks from the removal of Jongeli Governor to the removal of Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardi in Juba. This was aired through UN sponsored local radio known as Miraya FM on Thursday last week, and the Minister there has warned the radio sternly. I don't think it would be ok to close that radio at its services to the people. But H. E. Minister Paul Mayom Aketch has a case!

Back to the argument; Southerners couldn't believe their ears, as the status then was that the General was seeking negotiation and meaningful talks meant to clear the air about the alleged arrest and his subsequent exculpation (free from blame) about charges linking him to the cowardly attack on innocent soldiers at Doleib Hill Barrack. Until that interview, he has insisted his innocence. He was almost to be believed. We from that Thursday are made to re-consider our perspective about Athor intention, yeah?

Who in his right mind here could still doubt that Gen. George Athor is no more interested in talking but upset, conspiracy and plots? Who again can deny that Gen. Athor wasn't behind Deleib Hill attack? I for one was fooled until that interview. He had even called our president blind; that is a loaded word, besides being crude abuse. I started to question myself whether that is the man whose roots are traced to Duk Padiet in Bor, where a kind-hearted man called Philip Thon comes from. My conscience however came to the rescue in making this assumption:

Gen. George should applaud for being frank and open and this is why: he has delivered two important messages that are general and specific. Whether that was a joke or not, the matter requires more study. One is that he has said he isn't alone but a daring spokesman standing in for others behind in the army and in the political Southern setups, especially within the SPLM camp. I doubt this statement but it must not be thrown out of the window.

Secondly and this is related to the above and possibly his generous message to Juba leadership, the general said there is a plan already in the making and therefore fair for the Commander In Chief (C in C) of our forces to watch his shoulders and stop pursuing him there in the forest. To put it loosely, the general wanted the head of our government to put his house in order first before its too late. What that means in relation to his cold blood killing of soldiers on duty is anybody guess's.

If that is the case then (from the prima facie) we got to arrest/answer this question: who are these people he alluded to be in his team, looking for the over turn of the election and the overthrow of the SPLM system? In another word, who is who in Athor's camp, the person or people who is/are momentarily quiet but stand to support General in his drive to change the system? Well, my guess could be wrong or right, but the likelihood could be 'SPLM Independent' candidates, a group that claim to be agents of change and are 'with the people'. These men and women are everywhere at different times, but now they have made their case loud and clear that they are here as challengers to the SPLM system. Independent candidates have all along associate themselves to the SPLM party, and doubt whether the triumphant ones are still close to the party as we speak. Others are real, but not all of them.

By then we heard some of them promising to return to the party once they are elected; did you hear them coming back to that party and if yes, where? Those defeated by their erstwhile colleagues still have the courage to cry wolf that they are cheated out of their victories in the just concluded elections and therefore fair to resort to other means of change. For them to resort to peaceful means then there has to be re-run- fresh elections. I don't think that is a way to go. This is an insult to Southern conscience. Majority of them lost democratically. To use force to intimidate a system is known as treason. In my humble submission even as we suggested peaceful resolution as the first option, the two sides (the military and the talking) should go hand in hand. The general will be tied and run out of ideas on his hit and run tactics (ambushes) in the few months to come.

Weeks leading to elections, we had suggested that independents candidates are moles within the party and soon after elections; we shall see their color clearly. We weren't taken seriously and now we have a reason to think again about the so-called 'SPLM Independents' among us. I had a feeling that they should be 'harrassed' (shame not arrested or killed) and the term used known as 'disowned' be modified to separate genuine SPLM from chaffs. With the exception of Western Upper Nile State (someone called it Unity State) and Central Equatoria State, the independent

candidates were fairly beaten. Gen. Athor was the first to lose badly, and he knows it. Why make noise to confuse our society further into division?

Others are after their personal interests only to anchor on fiascos in the two states mentioned above. Our leadership shouldn't pay damn attention to criminals who shed blood of innocent soldiers with no proper justification. He has continue to spill the precious blood of those who are fighting for our rights, and even goes bragging to the international that he has killed this number and that number. How stupid are we when some among us cheer him when he continuous to kill his own people. Someone had proposed ugly that since he is a fighter, he shouldn't be touched, because he can kill more. That is balderdash!

Gen. Athor isn't invincible to the SPLA, only that our C In C is father enough to use proportionate force to cordoned and eventually persuade him to come to his senses. How long do you think will he continue to dodge Gen. Peter Boll Kong? Am afraid this man will kiss the ground in shame in a little while; the blood of our soldiers he is killing for no reason will haunt him! He had hoped and wished him and his family good life afer independence, bathing in their glorious past, but unfortunately these are gone for eternity.

I heard a catchword from independent candidates that they are for change. May be there is a need for change, but is the time ripe to do it? No! Again you change a system by persuasion (election) or in obsolete and worse cases through a coup de tat from the headquarters. It's even painful and indeed unforgivable for brother Athor to unabashedly take the responsibility of destroying the system has personally built; just in the name of change. SPLM trully could be rotten, but who is clean to throw the stone first? Gen. Athor has been at the top in the army, what changes did he do there when soldiers go on for months without their salaries? How does he justify his holier than thou attitude when he has built for himself two bungalow houses in Juba and a huge one at Korfulus; where did he get the money from? He is rich, arrogant and bullish; he must be shunned by peace loving Southerners. He became an enemy to our people. He has committed a crime, a stupid act at best; real Southerners ought to distant themselves from this murderer.

Wait a minute: what fraudulent election are these people talking about? They (Independent Candidates) were heard and voters rejected them, is a defeat a crime to go world over and allow yourself to be prostituted by the UN against your own people? If Dr. Lam resort to court cases, who's Gen. George to call for annulment of the election and the dissolution of the people's government? Dr. Lam has more and is tested, but he knew that elections are just elections and any small difference or mistake committed by a few can't amount to burning of the entire house. The demands made by non compos mentis and muzzy general therefore are irrational; there is no way the SPLM leadership could waste time talking his terms.

Keep him surrounded, contained and whip him lightly as an errand brother; after all he is going to starve there under a tree. But make sure you take into account the issue of those who pretend to be SPLM but are hyenas inside. Their plan is to weaken our Front and allow the enemy in Khartoum to re-group and thwart the ultimate objective we have been waiting for. Mr. President and Guandit Dr. Machar, my thump to the way you handle our internal affairs. You have spoken and behaved very maturely, only if deaf out there could listen. Go ahead and form an inclusive government (Dr. Lam Akol should be made the speaker of the Southern House) with your full eyes fixed for January 2011. Don't pay much attention to Athor, development and services but political destiny for our people. Thereafter, we shall chart out concrete pillars of progress when we know the Arabs are forever gone. The point: leave no stone unturned until the general faces justice he has denied his soldiers at Doleib Hill! Long live the people of Southern Sudan, down to enemies of peace!

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SPLA: CEASE THE FIRE, TALK TO GEN. ATHOR

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 13, 2010

It is not any military secret anymore; the SPLA and renegade General (Gen. George Athor) forces have more than once clashed on what the two sides called 'reconnaissance clash'. Details are sketchy but surely Southerners are again at it-doing the dirty job for Jalaba, if you may allow me to start from my utmost lamentation. This is pathetic and a pity to our crop of leaders who are coming up these days. Jongeli (sick 'man' of South Sudan), what do you want? Any time when our people move closer to unity, you scatter it and make fun of our coexistence. Ooh! How I wish this state should learn from others, that life is precious and that we can't all be leaders at once. In Jonglei, death is nothing, where are we heading as a nation under the threats of those who are outside our established laws. What is wrong in Jonglei state that should keep the whole nation prisoner.

May be that generalization is unnecessarily but somehow it is unbearable to others when one region dominate news, for bad reasons. Even under glaring facts, Jonglei man would still go on to cough an explanation to justify a wrong. Gen. George Athor has nothing concrete to justify his cold blood attacks against innocent state security officers. I thought I have said this before and some colleagues somewhere have mentioned it elsewhere. If he has a problem with the Commander In Chief (C in C) of our armed forces, why pass that anger to our men in uniform who are there to protect our gains? The President is an individual, why sacrifice a nation in his behalf. Please comrade George Athor, don't kill your own brothers for no reason (s). You are still dear to many and people want you to come back to your

senses and stop fighting the war with bad cause. Elections shall again be there, but our future. I know exactly where your heart lies, but for the sake of referendum ahead of us, you need to think again sir; kindly swallow your bitterness and allow us to focus on Khartoum alone!

On a positive note, Comrade Athor, has behaved decently by avoiding civilians' areas, and only engaged his new 'foes' outside civilians' settlements. This is good and commended from our brother George Athor. I believe Gen. Boll Kong is doing the same. Our people are to be allowed to freely go on their business in their farms as the seasons for agriculture has started. Keep your 'reconnaissance clash' outside our babies, and elderly generals. Our people have seen everything that was and this is their time to break and enjoy whatever that remains of their lives. We sincerely beseech you!

Let's turn to the topic at hand. Last week we had suggested that the Government in Juba shouldn't rely on talking alone. We were driven by the events coming down from there, as the renegade general was already busy doing the necessary preparations to attack key installations on the behest of Southern enemies. That is per the layman information on the ground. We may have been wrong or right, who cares. Fortunately, our leaders in the military were much ahead of us. They managed to go round the General and the general on his side wanted a breathing space, so he started to 'pinch' Gen. Boll from behind. The two know their strategic and tactical strengths and weaknesses, the thing that could be a plus or negative to either side. But last week event clearly shows that Southerners have died for no clear cut cause- a few at least than what the media have projected.

This brings us to this question: should Gen. Athor be listened to and if yes, where do we begin? Some observers who are against his choice are saying but look the general has given tall orders such as the cancellation of the just concluded election; that the Jonglei State Governor elect should step down; that there has to be an amnesty given to his men and prayers done over the dead bodies of over our comrades- forgiven done without any precondition. I don't know either whether the said condition can any sense to decision makers. They (observers) continue to say that Gen. Athor has earlier warned the State capital city Bor to brace itself for possible attack. General Athor at the same time insisted that he had a problem with the Commander in Chief of our armed forces, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, they charged. One thing though is certain: no one knows whether the general had actually issued them or enemies of peace have done it on his behalf. On one of the medias however we have heard Gen. Athor quoted on his aborted arrest by the C in C as the cause of the crisis.

Generally, military option should be reserved for self defense, and if that could be pursue then there is this question: who will win at the end? Say if Gen. George defeated Gen. Boll (God's forbids) will the Government stop there and reinstate Gen. Athor as governor? I doubt whether that idea has crossed the mind one of our leaders in Juba. If on the other hand, Gen. Boll overpowered Gen. George; are we

going to celebrate the defeat of Gen. George? Absolutely not! In all, there is a need to think about the consequences of going for an out war against Gen. George Athor Deng.

I stand to be criticized, but if it pleases the leadership, let them try out whatever we are hearing from Gen. George Athor (at least if internet is the authoritative source of this information) in the issue of Uncle Lual Ding, Uncle James Wani Igga, Uncle Benjamin Majak Dau, Uncle Gatjang Awol mediation. Uncle Lualdit is a good man and can diffuse the situation peacefully. He is old enough to do what an African man can do. I applauded brother George for asking for mediation and open contact to our President. That is the best way to go and hope the momentum must not be lost. The UNMIS mediation might work if we give it a try. Church leaders should go down to their knees for prayers; this is a serious thing and God should intervene.

Our beloved Vice President should pick up this case- oversees the problem of Athor. He is a man who doesn't joke about life. Hard liners within the army are tough about going for nothing less than capturing Gen. George. To me Gen. Athor needs two things: one he wants to be reinstated into the army and the second the future of men under him is his headach. Let's bend that army law, already we have done about Kiir. If there is a way to make us of Uncle Lualdit towards achieving this goal (peaceful resolution of the problem) let's try it. Arabs in Khartoum are laughing their shits out because of our blunders; let's prove them wrong.

On the field, there is an urged need to disengage the two forces and start to talk. However, we must not sacrifice security on the altar of peaceful resolutions. This is critical. Do you got what I mean? By this time I know we are sharpened to discern the danger before its too late. Our nation is born out of crisis and by God grace we will come out all victorious. This is a challenge and indeed a crisis, yet there is a voice that calls for wisdom to approach this matter at hand. Therefore the leadership in Juba under our dear President and the big Vice President should do whatever is possible in their disposal to arrest the situation before hand/to bring the situation under control. I love the way they have kept out of the media or going public about what/how they intend to put to an end to this problem at Jonglei.

In this note, I must tell enemies of peace to shut up their mouths. We will win whether we fight one another or not. But as things stand, our leadership in Juba and Comrade George are opening up to each other. It is encouraging they stick to this! The South shall surely see the fruits of a difficult struggle by next year (inshalla). Jonglei incident is just a drop of among other crisis we have been facing for the past sixty years. We will not stop dreaming of going Eastern African. Our future lies there, not in Khartoum or in the Arab world. Distractions are facts of life, but we will overcome in Jesus name!

Personal note: I find my personal box each morning filled up with frogs, cats and dogs messages from members of one tribe. All about everything including lines

on faeces- reference to this author. I have no problem with anyone right to argue- in fact am used and only turn to bless each one of them each moment when I come across these stuff. Yet it is advice that we shouldn't carry a motive into opinions, even to assign different names I haven't written under my work? Names are important and are personalities. YOU MIGHT FIND IT A WRONG! That means you are free to write to him but don't be carried away by shouting too much on nobody called Isaiah, he is nothing and have nothing to show. 16 May Oyee! Be blessed!

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***GEN. ATHOR REBELLION: DON'T RELY ON
TALKING TO HIM ALONE***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 6, 2010

The incident at Deleib Hill SPLA military barrack in which 5 soldiers were killed and others seriously wounded remains a sad incident indeed. Fingers linking the incident to Gen. George Athor are many. Yet there are those who think that Gen. Athor can't be associated with that cowardly act. The author wasn't left behind- not convince that George could do just that. However time has proven things otherwise. This is how: despite the denial Gen. Athor made a reckless statement on Monday that he was to be arrested by President Kiir, and his loyalists' soldiers resisted it. Without further explanation, what does this tell you about the General implication? That is your assignment. In a nutshell though, waters have passed through the bridge.

But the incident has angered every true Southerner at heart across our political and social divide. People on the streets of our cities and villages couldn't understand why it happened. Their minds are reminiscently wired to the 1990s madness, when Southerner took the live of his fellow Southerner. I have kept asking myself a hundred times 'could Gen. George be behind that attack on innocent SPLA men'? If yes, why so? I find myself not alone.

I curse the phone that burst it on my ears in the morning of Saturday; but had insisted to my caller that Comrade George Athor can't be involved. Unfortunately, the truth came out slowly against the general. Reading through daily sources coming down from Jonglei State, there is more to say about George Athor implication, the very person we all know during the war. Youths are on the move (mobilization); he issued threats almost everyday and has applied 'shifting posts' from one argument to the other. Korfulus people are confused, even soldiers around there don't know who is who in relations to Athor rebellion. May God of peace be with our men and people over there!

If that is the case then, where does this leaves you as far as security of our people and their properties is concerned? How will this scenario going to end, just to say it in another word; will it end peacefully or militarily, if yes, how? Well, suggestions are floated by many, but to date, our leadership in Juba is skewing toward peacefully resolution of the problem through his colleagues and the community. The Commander In Chief of our forces has made it clear that, he doesn't want blood to be dropped among Southerners anymore. He seems to be genuine. He must be supported by peace lovers around here and outside.

The State security apparatus that could be 500 times more than those with Gen. Athor are bidding their time, until the diplomatic channels charted out by the C in C are exhausted. Some people have already picked up conclusions that His Excellency quiet diplomacy has started to work. Gen. George might find himself fighting none, but to himself, they say. I don't know whether that is the case yet.

Generally, life in Jonglei and other part of Southern Sudan goes on normal. Ears and eyes are still fixed to National Election Commissions about the remaining National electoral results. People expected Mr. Alier team to announce the names of their representatives, and subsequent swearing in of our President before the House. I'm hearing/reading 'independent reporters' taking this matter of Gen. George too far. Please be responsible, our leaders and Gen. George are talking, stop stoking fire for the sake of it. There is calm all over, and the business hasn't been interrupted even around Pigi County.

Doleib Hill incident has overshadowed an SPLM overwhelming event/victory in the just concluded elections. Southerners were more upbeat about the future after the election. People have fixed their eyes in the remaining small period leading to Referendum in January 2011; it has been a long and difficult transition period ever. Problem after every problem! But we are proud of what the SPLM party has thus far achieved on the political front. The party has kept it bargaining side in tact. Some of us are of the opinion that the SPLM party is learning and is well placed historically to oversee our affairs, at least for the next few years.

On this matter at hand, Juba leadership should know this is purely unjustified and if Athor is involve because he has lost an election, then the man has no case. He must be broght to book. He has fairly and democratically lost that election and nothing will change this fact. What does that to do with killing of innocent soldiers on their duty? Politics is a game of numbers; you get less you go down, period. How dare is he to dispute a margin of 100,000 votes between him and his triumphant challenger (Gen. Kuol Manyang)? He lost seven counties out of ten. He should have been graceful and humbly accept the defeat, by congratulating his people and the Governor elect Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk. What makes him think that he won that election and was rigged out? If he thinks he has a case why not go to court than rush to gun and military threats? He hasn't been serious, therefore shouldn't be taken serious.

Let's guess facts about Gen. Athor motivations. One is his obsession with the past achievements and the name he has acquired thereof. He believes he has done enough to make him climb the last ladder defined by Abraham Maslow. In the military in fact, the general was revered and respected; he was feared by many junior officers. He was a good soldier especially his guerrilla tactics. But the general has blown up in flames everything by that trigger on Friday. The general (if indicators stand that way) has done silly thing that has scrapped everything we thought was positive about him. An Arab jabs about short people on 'fitna' and 'thagina', could be true about this man! I don't think the president approach will work alone without other approaches, given this man wily and wicked character (am rude, yeahJ). This where am coming from!

I didn't buy either the lie that Gen. George departure will weaken the military might of the SPLA. Yes it's a blow but we must not overestimate his military capabilities. We have others more capable than him. Other tough officers are even coming up. SPLA has suffered before in the hands of feeble hearted people like him who come behind to attack and brag about it. But in the end, it is this SPLA that makes someone somebody! Athor furthermore isn't that great soldier; we have others in the likes of Oyay, Oath, Pieng and Mamur. If by burning alive innocent children and their mothers in Ayod a stepping-stone for greatness, then excuse me, that isn't a laughing matter?

Hey, what battle against Arabs did Gen. George participate fully and unilaterally? To my best knowledge, Gen. Athor has participated in no military operations against Arabs since his graduation on the 28/12/1983 with Jamus Batallion. He was a junior officer until 1991 when he broke rank with Nasir faction and started to commit unthinkable crimes against unarmed civilians in Nuer land. He is furthermore fond of disagreeing with his bosses. Who can forget the story about him throwing away AKM 47 at Khor Machar in the 1980s, when men were driving to battle? I don't think it is fair to go down on our knees shivering because George Athor Deng has left Southerners and joined other traitors who relish in stabbing Southerners at the back. I'm excited he is from Dinka anyway...

SPLA top brass are advice to take Doleib Hill incident very seriously. Mutiny is a mutiny, whether it involve deaths or not; they need to employ both diplomatic and the military against Gen. Athor. He isn't sleeping after realizing he has committed a mistake. This is so: he has been sending mixed signals through international media, something very abnormal and worrying for someone who was seen to be in the fore front fighting for Southern cause. Don't leave anything to chance. Power hungry people are dangerous.

This however doesn't amount to declaring war against Gen. Athor. War is bad unless imposed (like this one), it has no benefit to everybody, yet there is need to be extraordinary careful when handling that renegade general. He isn't Athor we all know before. There are others who are morally and materially ready to support him,

hoping for the disintegration of the Southern Front under the SPLA. They must forget it! Enough with divisions among our forces based on tribal, the law will deal with only lawbreakers. Gen. Athor in this particular incident must clear his name in the court of the law, whether there is a price to pay or not- for the sake of who would be following the same footsteps.

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SOUTH SUDAN: NEW LOOK OF A NEW NATION

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 17, 2010

In four weeks time, the South of the Sudan will know its long awaited political destiny. People there shall vote on January 9 2011 (22 days from today) and results are expected to be released a week later. All systems and indicators point to birth of a new nation in the horn of Africa and indeed in the Africa continent. The Sudanese authorities have invested enough time and resources to ensure the process goes ahead as planned. Congratulation to all. Southerners in the process are beaming with hope as they unmistakably look ahead for their hard won freedom. Hail the newborn King and newborn nation!

If that is the case (freedom around the corner) for the people of Southern Sudan, then there are number of issues the leaders in Juba should revisit/restart thinking earlier as everyone look into the birth of a nation in February 2011. Of course our leaders aren't sleeping, they had actually gone ahead of us on these issues. What some of us would want to do however is to remind them once more unless they forget. The unit assign with that duty of making amends/adjustments is called Southern Sudan Constitution Review Commission or whatever name, and there is a gentleman who often shy away from meeting the media heading it.

Let me bore you to mention a few, and hope our debate should lead somewhere. Please note that the author shall only highlight some of the issues with no much elaboration. Here we go: one of the issues is the name of the new nation; is "Southern Sudan" a name we would retain and if we need to change it, what name are you preparing to give to the 'baby'. Anyanya One had "Azania" as a name of the Republic, a name with rich meaning, what about you? I believe in divorce, the two partners severe any grain of relationship. This is to allow for an identity creation on the side of the partners. In our case, the same is true, we ought to create our own identity; name is one topping the list!

Second, our new nation needs to adapt a different coat of arm other than the eagle one we have in our document and everywhere. Baffalo has come out strongly as a possible coat of arm for our nation. Whether animals are slow or not, baffalo has a

historical ties in as far as our struggle is concerned. That is right from Anyanya One War. If you think birds are ok, then fine. Let's go to the third issue: the currency note. Boma was suggested and if we think our nation will have menatory problems to print money or cut that root, then let's prepare to have our own currency note name not pound. But if we feel keeping pound, then some artistical touches to change some manuscripts are required in our current notes.

How about the army and the party; will S prefix makes any further meaning when we break away? I don't think and know you will agree here. The army is suggested to be called Azania Armed Forces (AAF) and the SPLM to take Azania People's Party (APP), with its flag different from the current flag of the nation. Even this flag for our country can be 'trimmed' to look different from that of another country we neighbor.

Fifth issue is the language in our books. Arabic can't be our national language. During the Regional Government in the 1970s (High Executive Council), Moru language was chosen as our national language due to its easy vowels and structure. Why don't we revisit this idea or craft another one from among 29 or so beautiful languages. Some people say, our Arabic Juba could be developed, hmmm!, but if we are interested in foreign language, then Kiswahili is another language we can give it a try. Already we have a good number of people speaking it and as we intend to go East African, this could work well with us.

The other issue we said our leaders in Juba are working on it and that we just remind them in this note is the need to register or lobby for inclusion in the East African Bloc immediately after independence. This could help us economically to be specific, as the nation is planning to move the refinery activity to Lamu. Politically we need a group that identify with us in many respect.

Seven and eight issues -for our newborn nation- are internal matters of prime importance. Khartoum has all along tell the wold that we can't manage ourselves, and subsequently, the graving of a new nation will only lead to a failed state in Africa. If we are to prove them wrong, our think tanks are to invest in food security, education and infrastructure. These are key sectors, we really mean business. Some leaders in Africa in recent times have moved away their populous and countries from bread begging status to bread importers. Malawi and Nimibia are two key examples of how a brain of man can turn misfortunates to fortunes. We have enough arid land and hard working people, why not till the land.

A policy is needed from the top and money pour there. In few years, we can see the fruits of our plans. Road construction (weather road) is the best infrastructure a country can employ to stay on the path of development. Mr. Anthony Makana (the road man) borrows money for that purpose; we will pay it!

Our institutions are to be detribalized and positions given to any qualified Southerners on the basis of meritocracy. We have said this many times and we must

not be quiet when nothing changes. Some ministries are becoming monopolies of certain ethnic group and this phenomenon must stop! Army hasn't been spare either, pockets of appointments and transfers are questionable. Some institutions have turned these offices to private centers, where everyone speaks vernacular during office hours.

Another issue before we go is the life span of the current government. Are we prepare to go for another election and if yes, where is the money and time to go another gruesome exercise. It is suggested the April tenure of five years should go they way it is, and thereafter the country can go for another election in December 2015. Healing and reconciliations are matters on the table now.

You can go and on, but the bottom line is this: we have to be free and free from everything that relates us again to Khartoum. Our social institutions are to change, especially the one with Arabic culture. Our government shouldn't just jump to foreign culture leaving behind our beautiful cultures. Even now we are hearing our government going parliament way by scrapping religion from institutional system. Parliament rush to secularism catch before taking in to account what constitutes our social behaviors. It's unfortunate that our lawmakers don't open their sessions these days with words of prayers, what a disaster waiting that House. The Government should have avoided such blunder. Happy Nativity to all!

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RERERENDUM VOTE: WHAT A START, WHAT A PASSION!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 11, 2010

I have never seen such a resolve, determination and unity of Southerners in my life. I will not forget this day, as I watch carefully the move by our people for freedom. I didn't know the issue of Khartoum/Arab is a pain in the chest of every Southerner. I thought I would be the first to cast my vote so as to attend Church services, but I was wronged. At 3:45 am, I found already an old man, and another middle age one leaning their back to the wall, waiting facing the queue forward direction. I chatted with them a little bit, and then think through for few months. For a bout five minutes, three people came, and then five, and after 45 minutes at exactly, 4:30 am, we shape ourselves and for an organized queue. Someone entertain us with songs about everything struggle.

In about seven the line was so long that the Primary School at Malakiya was swamped with human being shouldering each other in a queue; some with huge smile and others with subdue mood due to great price paid for the price (freedom).

The message was unequivocally clear: succession. No one could tell whether the sun was hot or whether the queue was long enough that they felt a need to abandon the process all together. No appetite, fatigue or thirst but that of voting. Someone came up with water and soda to distribute, but his efforts couldn't cover a large queue of 200 meters.

So when I saw brother Massimino Alam Tiyaha somewhere with tears over his cheeks, my tears felt too, due to huge relief within our hearts because forever, the chains of oppressions are gone. . Personally, like many of us, I started with my bare hands in the seventies, by throwing stones (demonstration), then to the bush using a machine gun, and now with a voting card, what would my heart say about my dear people with whom we cherish similar cause but are with us today,? Of course mixture of sadness and joy! Oh God, may you stop anyone in Khartoum from interfering with the outcome. We have spoken loud and clear for the last four days, a decision that will be live in our memories for ages!

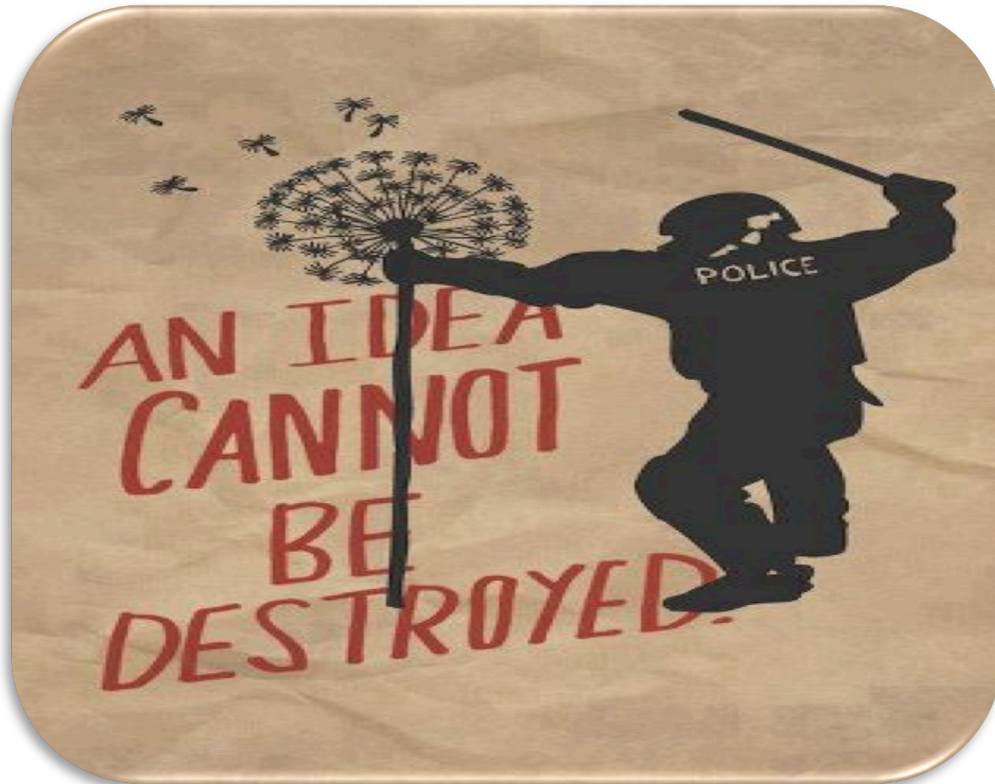
The momentum of unity we have shown against Khartoum therefore for the past few days, my people Southerners, should not be lost. People started to show unique solidarity not witnessed before. Celebrations have already started earlier across the land as the people of Southern Sudan knew ahead to where their thumps inked. The ball therefore is with the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and its Bureau in Juba under Justice Chan Reech Madut to play by the book. We know the two bodies operate under tough political environment, but so far they have done great job to guide the process; our people will not forget their tireless endeavor to make the referendum a success. The good lawyers Mr. Madut) and Khalil Ibrahim are proud people by now. But the big portion goes to the two principals, Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir and the General Salva Kiir Mayardit. Without their courage, there would never have been referendum today. No one had any courage this time last year to believe that the South and North are to divorce peacefully.

The consequences of the referendum process of course will take few more months to be effected, but with the voting almost behind us, with preliminary announcement on 21 January, and then February 14, 2011 for the final announcement, there is no turning back. What remains however, a lame excuse use by Khartoum and others, is how the South would handle itself as an entity. My answer is that this is a different thing altogether from why people went for referendum. The matter at hand isn't governance but freedom and political independence. Governance is a subset of the political arrangement and not a big deal to our people. Someone somewhere shouldn't link the two or try to blackmail our people. Who says our people don't know where they are going or what they will do once they are independence? The problem for the South has always been about its political future. Our leaders will prove anyone wrong in few years to come! The noise about South not ready to govern itself shall be a paste tense in few years to come.

The National Congress Party (NCP) hardliners and other Arabs chauvinists are advise to leave our people alone. Shiekh Taib Al Mustafa of the Justice and Peace Forum Party, and Chairperson of the Antibah Newspaper, I believe, is the only honest hardliners I have ever met. He must be happy now that the South is going. Others aren't satisfied with the damage Khartoum has done to our people and ready to do more, even psychologically. Please 'brothers' Arabs this isn't the end of the world for you. If the intention was to disrupt the voting, then take it that our people have done it already fairly. The Referendum exercise is over, let's be good neighbors. Long live Azania Republic!

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*****2011*****



TURN DOWN KHARTOUM'S REQUEST FOR EAST AFRICA MEMBERSHIP

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

The Republic of the Sudan has formally written to East African Community (EAC) leadership in Arusha for membership. The Secretariat or the Chairperson of the Bloc, the current President of the Republic of Burundi has yet to officially respond to Khartoum. The EAC was formed in 1967, but collapsed in 1977. It was revived in 2001 however. Rwanda and Burundi had since joined the community in 2007. The bloc has a population of over 130 million people, and has Gross Domestic Product of 75 US\$ billion. The mission of the bloc is to deepen and widen political, economic, social and cultural integration for the people of East Africa. The leaders are slowly moving towards political integration, as economic side is shaping up.

South Sudan after it became a state was expected to join the bloc but dithered or procrastinate for reasons that are both real and imaginary. There have been debate towards that end anyway, and Juba hasn't publicly made its position clear. But on the side of the EAC, there seem to be good will to admit South Sudan. East African Parliament has hinted that it could admit South Sudan with no much effort. Leaders of the Region have all wish that the new republic of South Sudan joined them as soon as possible.

But from nowhere Khartoum jumped and leapfrogged Juba something so surprising to many. The decision by Sudan to join EAC has complicated things for the East African leadership as a whole but particularly Juba. If Juba applies now, it will put the Arusha team in an awkward position of balancing between the two requests. For instance, if Khartoum application is rejected and that of the South Sudan is accepted, Arusha will have to justify it more convincingly.

The reality though is that Khartoum request must be rejected on the basis that it has virtually nothing to 'deepen' or 'widen' with the rest of the East African Community. Khartoum is distinct and has nothing in common with the people of EAC. Juba on the other hand is preferable because of its political and social affinity with the people of East Africa. Khartoum is culturally an Arabized and Islamized one. Khartoum furthermore has no borders with the rest of the East African Community. In the future if South Sudan is admitted, the South will act as a conduit for movements of goods and people for the people of the Republic of the Sudan. For now, they should look for market elsewhere not in the East Africa.

There must be reasons why Khartoum want to join EAC bloc at this point in time, something they didn't do for the past fifty or so years after independence in 1956. We shall casually examine a few in the next clauses. We all know that the futile economic war wage by Khartoum against South Sudan has retrospectively affected Khartoum more than the South. Khartoum economic status is in an unstoppable dive. Analysts have already predicted sharp economic deterioration in few years to come unless something is done now. For the past ten years, Khartoum has enjoyed enough income through oil, and with the South packing, Khartoum is desperate to find enough money to keep support the huge army and its security organs. There is war everywhere, and this activity needs money. Khartoum thought by going East African, its liquidity problem would be addressed.

Little did they know that their application to join EAC, has raised more eyebrows and questions than answers. There is an element of theoretical dimension, something so close to political maneuver to outsmart if not to outwit and dilute South Sudan entry in to the bloc. You see, Sudan has unfinished business against the Republic of South Sudan, its avowed archival. This is how: Khartoum is aware of dilemma in which the South is in at the moment as to EAC membership. The economy of the EAC countries for the past few years has been steady and quiet impressive. South Sudan intention to join under its current economic shape is shaky. To join will mean

that South Sudan must be ready to compete with the giants of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Juba is delaying for understandable reasons, and with time, it will lodge a request, something the sisters of East Africa will definitely granted.

Khartoum in this juncture wants to capitalize on this short-term strategy by Juba so to scoop whatever it wants before South Sudan became an official member. Sudan understands the bitter past of the two countries and if it joins first, the South might turn away or decline to go there. There is too much bad blood between the two countries and this will not go away overnight. Juba has suffered an economic blockage for the past seven months, but impact isn't that much as East Africa stood in for the South.

So Khartoum is cleverly playing politics in its impending difficult economic meltdown It is my wish that the regional leaders turn Khartoum away from joining the bloc, that country is a trouble maker and might cause problems to the rest of East Africa through its ideological orientation and poor partnership. They must be rejected and ask to go to Arab countries for trade or any other integration. Long lives East African Community. Down with Khartoum!

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KIIR ANTI-CORRUPTION WAR IS NOTHING BUT BLOOPER

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

The government of the people of South Sudan known then as Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) that has officially become a republican government has struggled to minimize if not to weed out corruption in its system. Numerous attempts by various groups within the same government were used but all have yielded no fruitful results; this is as far as arrests and prosecutions are concern. Artists have also joined the fight against corruption in their written lyrics or songs, but all the same, little has been achieved. The swindlers as ever have been on the business of stealing public money at will. The Treasury is losing millions of pounds every year.

The practice (corruption) comes in many forms, but in our context, financial malpractices have swayed other forms of corruption in our society. Our talks concentrate on money and only money. It is also good to start from where it hurts most- money. But how did thieves make it into the Treasury in the first place? Well, there are wild contracts, medical treatments or referrals, assistances and allowances everywhere, only be a few. Contracts are the worse, about 80% cases of corruption.

There are no proper checks and balances at the Treasury unfortunately. The Treasury Procurement Procedures are loose loops used to enter dubious schemes in the tunes of millions of pounds. Questionable international pretenders come to South Sudan from well-placed personalities and within no time, these people wire back millions of pounds to their respective countries, something Uncle Elijah (former Central Bank Governor) had tried to stop, but somewhere not effective after Khartoum 'jammed' the electronic banking system.

Interestingly, the head of state and his team are still with aura to come to the public and offer pronouncements everyone has already heard them making. Please, time for big mouthing and rhetoric about that vice has long gone! What people want and want done now is to follow your earlier pronouncements with actions. Mr. President, sir, people had expected you to expedite the Anti-Corruption Bill of 2011 before the National Legislative Assembly. That is the first step you ought to take if you want everyone to take you serious. That Bill is where we find Prosecution Powers that were missing for years; without teeth, the Anti-Corruption Unit won't bite and certainly you have nothing you could do at the top.

Who is going to prosecute thieves involve in the Dura Scam? What of the Nile Commercial Bank beneficiaries, who will dare questioning the implicated? How about land grabbing you talked about? Ministry of Justice has never tried a chicken, let alone a human being. Courts are rotten, as corruption fights back like a bear. Mr. President time is up for you to work through institutions and within the law. Going public through our beloved Vice President can't help the situation. In short, your so-called five steps to wipe out corruption are hogwash meant for public relation gimmick and nothing more.

Look, we have been there few years ago, even if no one could deny your good intention to fight corruption, but don't forget that this is a monster, that doesn't need emotions alone, the damage is done and already there; what you need done right now is to use institutional legal means, one of which is that bill before the House, and second is to visit reports made by Anti-corruption about some remedies that are of long term in nature. To bring back money from overseas or wherever is easy said, but involve strong legal institution empowered by the law to do just that.

The public has heard big scam only for culprit to be mysteriously hauled out from their ministerial jobs and no action is followed for the money or assets to be returned. This hyper phobia brings us to another key recommendation for fight against corruption, namely the need to sing or threaten less but execute much. The public is tired of lip service, we want one or two big fish brought before the law and tried. These people are criminals and are still around us, why? What they have done to the people of South Sudan is bad. Leaders ought to live by example and what we are seeing and hearing is appalling and is stark opposite of what we have charted out in our manifestos.

I was glad to hear that President Kiir never returned a scandalous grumpy minister who happened to wed a Ugandan granny using a chopper. You started to ask yourself whether this old man is crazy or the system is crazy. Others have returned smiling all they way back to offices after they reports in their respective ministries criminalized them. The fight against corruption was lost long time ago and time to shout less is here.

I wholeheartedly however welcome the president proposal to import brains from the outside. This is a brilliant idea; the drawback though could be the kind of experts we are looking for from the outside. Let's try friendly countries, especially our sister countries in East Africa particularly Rwanda and Tanzania, then we can stretch southward to Botswana and Namibia if need be. These countries have over the years developed sustainable economies growth from their meager resources, something we could copy and 'paste'.

Mr. President needs support from the top, otherwise, am seeing his 100 days pledge coming to naught. No wonder, we are already near half way, and no single primary school (they talk of 30), clinic or road that will be finalized within the next seventy-three days. The man has run out of fresh strategies on how to address the issue of corruption in his system. Anti-corruption latest Report that was presented to Parliament last week was a Pandora Box, an embarrassment piece for the government. The Report talks of 123,000 Million United States Dollars scams; the very money we badly need to finish up the road leading to Malakal town or from Malakal to Ethiopian border. Malakal town is one town in our system that badly needs an out let road for goods and services.

We can bemoan one problem, and never take our time and ask ourselves where the rain started to beat us. We had deep crisis in the market, as prices jump the roof, and government did nothing. There were brewing troubles in the Blue and South Kordofan States, but Juba looked away until our black people there were chased away like no humans. Juba could have gone somewhere and sought peaceful solutions to crisis there. We also had our brothers and sisters slaughtered in Uror County in Jonglei State by ruthless murderers from Murle tribe, and the government paid lip service, if any, even the Governor didn't think of resigning.

Please, Mr. President enough with your talk shows about corruption, the thing will not go away through mere repetition of the same tone, talking yes but also remember, we are humans with limitations as to tolerance ability. I salute the job well done by Dr. Paulino Riak, of the Anti-Corruption Commission and her team. They have sounded an alarm again and again, but apparently no one is ready at the top to help fight effectively. To be exact, the top has been slow or dally-dilly something not nice in the fight against corruption. Madame Riak is a disciplined public officer whose public and private scrutiny makes her the best person for the job. His Assistant Mr. John Saverio Ayik is a distinguished lawyer and a nationalist, a perfect combination that could have spell well for the public. Now that the public

jury has shifted to Parliament and the Executive, please we want someone 'punch in the face' before we hear so-called critical steps. Dr. Machar never washes dirty linen of these people. They are corrupt.

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***SOUTH SUDAN NEW CAPITAL RAMCIEL DOESN'T
NEED A CLAIMER***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

The Republic of South Sudan leadership (represented partly by the Executive) has chosen a piece of land in Lakes State as the national seat for the government of the people of South Sudan. The decision was taken by the Council of Ministers couple of days ago, subject to Parliament endorsement. The President has formed a Task Force or Committee to look into the geographical area of the new land, and to map out strategies for possible planning leading to relocation. This is a second team (Task Force) within six month. Everyone knows every detail therein, yeah?

But the urgency of the matter at hand especially this year was felt by everyone, as the current city Juba isn't anymore suitable to host the national capital due largely to land problem but also politics. The dice therefore has gone in Ramciel favor in the aforesaid state, and the issues at hand are: will the Task Force completes the mission more successfully on time, or will it end inconclusively like others before it? How about resources? I know some people have started to worry about financial support for that great idea, but the government is the government, we can start small, and if we want to leap, the government can borrow, why not! We have enough resources to clear our debts within no time when we settle.

On that land: who is the real owner between Aliap and Chiec (Dinka sections there)? This is so because there are conflicting statements made by the same people on that land (Ramciel). Chiec says the land belongs to them and the same is true with Aliap, who is to be believed here. The issue of who owns that land however is immaterial and insignificance; the government has chosen that place for its seat, period! Ramciel has become our National Capital irrespective of challenges ahead of the plan. What people are waiting is a road leading to the new place plus water. Ordinary Southerners would have gone there already before the Ministry of Housing and Physical Infrastructure.

Chiec voice is about participation and the question is why? Aliap wanted a plan about their cattle during wet season, and here again is another why? The later has enough land for animals during rainy season and has no valid argument to raise about Ramciel. But do we really need anyone to be part of the Task Force from Chiech?

No! If yes what does that tell you and me about another land problem awaiting the government in Juba?

Land issue in our homeland has become a hot cake these days, as communities interpret land law differently. It wasn't like that before. I have seen people beating their chest against the government that 'unless we are part of land arrangement, any service done on that land isn't needed'. The government has become so vulnerable before the people to the extent of begging them for any land for services. Some communities are becoming vocal for nothing, as politicians (State Legislative Assemblies) manipulate everything to ensure the national government stops short of providing services to the people. This is what am reading earlier now about Ramciel as it was the case today in Juba. Please my people don't engage your government that way!

Interestingly though, I hearing Chiec or Aliap putting up conditions before the Task Force could have even sit down and start working. These people (Chiec and Aliap) have probably compensation packages at hand or 'kick backs' about their land, something I strongly don't think should be done. May be the authors of the said conditions aren't representatives of the people, but the fact that it was made public and no single politicians from there raised a voice makes it an official position of the Chiech/Aliap about the land Ramciel, something so ominous for the start. They are forgetting that the National Government isn't joking about the future of South Sudan, someone must be affected to pave the way for a bigger advantage of many.

People should study afresh the relationship between the government and the governed as to land. The assumption by the people that they have to be heard loudly often on issues touching their land, isn't anymore a threat given the Transitional Constitution. The government must be allowed to operate freely, and within its defined statue. It is not any good when people are so detached from the government even to stand on the way of the system. The issue of Ramciel has been in the news for most of the Interim Period before independence and no one then had raised the issue of Ramciel land to be anything that must be auctioned, otherwise. I don't know whether we have become so materialistic and selfish about life against others. Something must be wrong, and I pray that the attitude of our people changes.

Take the issue of compensation (if that is the drive), must not be entertain; where will the government find money to do just that. We can moreover put back the clock after we agreed that the land should be a shared one. No one has the monopoly to sell or another to buy. People are running away from Juba because Bari people are tough on land though subtly. This isn't a secret. They are to be left in the city and everyone wish them good luck here. Chiec/Aliap hence ought to spare us another Bari style in Ramciel. The government relocation there is not stoppable; and hope the tide must not be changed about moving away the capital from Juba to Ramciel whether the conditions are there or not. The place is extremely beautiful, so large and good, surrounded by all.

But did I hear someone from there saying that the land isn't a no man's land? If yes then the protester must get it right that it is not about the land having no owner, but the true meaning of 'no man's land' is about any land where people don't have permanent presence. 'No man's land' dictum is an overstated phrase meant for any place that has less human activities, only animal and birds roam the land. It doesn't mean that the land doesn't belong to anyone. That is how Ramciel is and no fuss should be made about that statement (no man's land).

The land yes belongs to certain group, but not inhabited regularly by the same. Ramciel people ought not to cough excuses aim at scaring the government from going there. Ramciel time has come, and no claimer has any right in this point to stop the government from moving its seat there. Juba bottlenecks related to land were enough; we must learn to have the government space to work. Hon. Dr. Achol Marial can you talk to your people?

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SULE: ONE THING AT A TIME!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 15, 2011

The leader of the one of the Southern Sudan opposition groups known as the United Democratic Front (UDF), Mr Peter Abdulrahman Sule, has painted a grim picture that the new nation to be will not be govern well because Dinka has already shown the ugly part of governance by posting its people in Interior, Defense and Finance on the expense of other tribes. He charged that these people have taken over lands in Juba by force, and Central Equatoria State or Equatorians are just tolerant.

My ears couldn't take it as I pondered through vibes of the person I have known for a long time. I had wanted to die.

Brother Peter A. Sule, your interview this morning with BBC's Uduak Amimo over Southern Sudan government imbalance was unfortunate. I thought such overtones are to be kept to ourselves and wait for their rightful timing. Going to the world at this time with such sensitive claims send a wrong signal to our friends and could cause us internal rift.

I think your claims are ill timed, and hence are unforgivable, given our status at the moment. Please, such tribal rhetoric is uncalled for at a stage when we need each other most. Never again shall we allow this land to be thrown to the dogs because of tribal division. Every political party including the SPLM has been told to do better on issues to do with tribal division. Invoking division using the name of Equatoria

further is nearly treason, and this isn't freedom of expression but disturbance of our social harmony among Southern Sudanese communities!

Look brother, the grabbing of land claim has no basis, because it's the same people around Juba that are selling land to Dinka; they can't play double game here and then expect us to believe their theories. Who doesn't know that elites among Bari people have spoiled the good stay in Juba. Other communities are living as second-class residents in their own country. This is a fact.

Brother Peter, let's celebrate our hard won freedom devoid of hate overtone. Dinka is nothing compare to what we are trying to lift out of our shoulders. Elders like you know better and you shouldn't have been in front to incite your people against others. Why would anyone advocate division of our people at this point in time when we are just about to come out of the wood? I had asked myself this question a million times, but never find a suitable guess.

However, two things jumped into my mind: Mulana Sule was in the Dinka government a few months ago before he was kicked out, and he was quiet and very energetic, is it because he has lost that job, that is why he isn't now silent? Second, perhaps the deadly and most likely reason why this intellectual and respected leader came out openly to pin a charge against Dinka is that there are still groups within Juba that want the capital remove to another place for fear of unknown.

Personally I had written much about moving away from Juba because Juba isn't a nice place environmentally.

But to move away because a Southerner wants others out isn't anymore a laughing matter. Tribalism is a cancer and we can't allow it to go on among us like that. I don't know whether our leaders feel the same. Anyone who's interest in such a path, even if that person is Garang, we would wish him harm, and not to allow him to enjoy the fruit of our people struggle.

Brother Sule has staggered and should apologize to our people to the government of the people of Southern Sudan in Juba. The good man has touched nerves where suspicion and seeds of hatred are being planted before our eyes.

If you think I have defended Dinka, fine, but the truth is painful; generalization is bad. Not all Dinka are land grabbers. The government of the day is the government of the people of Southern Sudan, represented by all our colours and tribes, even if we don't deny that there is a heavy presence of Dinka at key positions. I know this wasn't a policy but coincidence since the SPLM party and the army inherited these people from the beginning and there is no way we can do away with them at this time.

In reality though, we won't be fair to say brother Sule was entirely wrong. There are problems with our people Dinka but that can't take attention away from our big picture. Mulana Peter, sir, please go slow, it's time for our people to come together irrespective of what situation we find ourselves in. We are giving away our celebrated unity. It's even too soon to talk about internal corrections.

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HATE OR LOVE HIM, SUDAN NEEDS AL BASHIR

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 1, 2011

Since the independence of the Sudan in January 1956, Sudan has never had a leader with such political charm and intent like Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir. I will talk much about him, and would request your patience, if you think otherwise. Whether his Ingaz Revolution is seen to have polarized Sudan society politically, his regime should be credited for achieving peace in the South and the East; as well as edging away the sectarian leadership in the North. The country Sudan though still reel from mistakes committed by a few behind his back in Darfur and the South, there is no doubt that this man called Al Bashir has done wonders in his leadership to facelift the country, something others have failed to do it in their 30 or so years in ruling. The North to be exact is far better developed now under him, and the economy has shown signs of booming; this might continue even if the South goes away.

But the biggest achievement for his government and the party he leads is the agreement he signed in the Kenyan Capital Nairobi in 2005. There is no better gift a leader could give to his people than to give them peace (I will repeat the same thing at the end). From the word go in 1989, the NCP started on the right track of identifying strategic direction for the country. Your interpretation however might be different from what you want done for the Sudan, but the truth remains: power is about purpose, and for that reason, the NCP has beaten others in putting forward something for this country, whether raw or good. The parties before it didn't do it. No wonder, the same faces are still crying foul, looking for routes back to power. The NCP efforts were rewarded handsomely during the last election. The party (the NCP) trounced their opponents like nothing.

Yeah, no clear mind can deny serious problems in the leadership of the NCP against black man in the Sudan; say the ugly role of hardliners within that party. We all know the pathetic status of people in Darfur, Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains or their vulnerability in the face of radical Islamism. Today the black man in the West, East and the two areas of Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile is cursing the

day in which Dr. Garang disappeared. As the South independence is increasingly becoming a living reality, they see no hope anywhere under the NCP hardliners. But I have good news for these people, something you can dispute or accept, and this is it: the man called Al Bashir is a serious leader in the real sense of the word. With him in power, he's going to unite the North, and spread out development like grains.

Why am saying this? I have observed him for sometimes now and came to doubt not his ability to take charge. He is a courageous man, an orator, who cares for his people. I looked at the flow of his promises and the man never swallows his promises easily. What is more? I hear him say, he will take care of the West, the East and other marginalized people in the North once the South goes, was he kidding? No, he wasn't, he means it. I know he's going to reign on his radical Muslims.

You see, his major problem has always been about the South, and in fact, leaders in Khartoum who came before him were beating around the bush about what to do on the Southern question. They know precisely what the South wants, but insisted on tired strategies of denial, or dividing them, on the expense of their cause. Mr. Al Bashir carefully pick the matter up, and in Khartoum, he sat down with Dr. Riek Machar Teny and agreed for a political settlement. Though the agreement known, as Khartoum Peace Agreement (KPA) didn't live, the spirit never died. KPA was the capstone of what that became the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). That later agreement (CPA) didn't just come out of the blue or due to any factors people say are external and internal. It took the credit of the big man called Omar Al Bashir to reach a compromise in the face of stiff resistance from the hardliners. If wasn't him and the Ustaz Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, the Referendum that is now a week away couldn't have been celebrated.

The man had weathered storms within and outside to bring peace to the South, an adventure done only be levelheaded people. Some Southerners are taking their time to trust him, but I think it is not about trusting somebody, but about sacrifices he had done on our behalf. The other day in El Gezira he announce his readiness to support the new coming nation, what do you make of this move, in as far his public relationship with his people is concerned? He took a risk to inform his people about what is going to happen. This reminds me of what the then President of South Africa Frederick De Clerk did to the Africaans when he was about to release Nelson Mandela. President knew very well that the future of the South has already been determined, and hence timely for him to prepare his people for the reality shock. His message was well received, and was indeed come at a critical stage.

Mr. Al Bashir could be a devil to you, but for Southerners, this man deserves respect and honor for what he has done for our people. No better gift than freedom. Mr. Al Bashir did, and therefore fair for Juba leadership to name a road or built a monument in his name. Even if we still think that a political week is precarious and an eon, I know President Al Bashir will deliver in his promise to allow his people (Southerners) to choose the future of their own. My congratulation goes to our

President Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit for taking the initiative to mention Al Bashir big role in making referendum a reality. Even the other outstanding issues (Abyei on top) between the South and the North, with Al Bashir in power, the two nations will one day come to an agreement. Long live President Al Bashir, long live the NCP, long live the SPLM!

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SOUTHERN CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE MISPLACED

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 27, 2011

After successful conduct of the referendum for the people of South Sudan, some groups and politicians are wasting no time but shift to post July 9 arrangements. One of which is the nature of the political structure for the new nation after independence. We are hearing our brothers in that category pushing for a transition government under coalition members to be headed by Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit until fresh election takes place. They said this was agreed in October 2010. Well, there seems to be interest by many about the debate itself as changes of whatever state attracts so much opinions and interpretations from different stakeholders. But I tend to think that our debate should be informed on the basis of our understanding of what does the constitution says shouldn't be done, and not what should be done after separation. In another word, we have a say on how we want our nation govern after separation, within the confines of our current interim constitution, but not do away with the constitution altogether.

I doubt whether we really need a transition government since the current government is mandated by the people for a period stipulated by our Interim Constitution. That means that our discussion about post July issues should be about what ideas we need to gather and then patch them up in our Interim Constitution. We aren't going to do a way with Interim Constitution (just to repeat myself) at once, are we? This is a process and therefore fair that our people cease from wasting time on coalition talks. Coalition government is different from broad based government and whatever the understanding or agreement reached between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the other Southern Political Parties doesn't take away an elected Parliament and the current Executive. This is a bitter truth.

But, I thought Nyakuron Conference Resolutions didn't call for dissolution of government, does it? It seems as if the ideas (resolutions) were meant to make the two camps (the ruling party and the opposition groups) work together on matters of mutual interests such as post referendum national issues in the cases of distant

system of governance through a constitutional conference. On present governance and its systems shall remain enforce until a Constitutional Conference convene and do it away more rigorous processes. It could be within the current five years of Mr. Kiir or beyond it in another five years of his re-election. So when we heard a shout that the oppositions want to have a say now in the Executive and be part of anything done by the ruling party, I don't get it. What are these people saying doesn't add up legally, as Dr. James Okuk says.

No wonder it is the same group that have spent much of the time sitting in the fence when things were tough or opted to stay in colleges and acquire shallow papers are the ones now with big mouths and spoons in the name of name of democracy and pluralism; this shouldn't happen now until the ruling party in the South stabilize our status. You call it dictatorship, authoritarianism or one man/woman system but feeble hearted boys and 'women' enclosed as political parties should leave men alone to finish the liberation job.

Yeah, time for political pluralism will sure be there; our book says it so, but for now, the new nation needs no more politicking but work, work and work (development). We have been in nowhere and we should all join hands and work together for the rebuilding of our homeland. We can't spend time jostling for power; this is a great moment in our history that the people of Southern Sudan (should be Azania) shouldn't miss. We have a lot in common, and few in numbers. The world is watching us why did we need our state in the first place.

I urge here hence our current Minister for Legal Affairs Mr. John Luk Jok, who is entrusted with the job of reviewing our constitution to take his time and never temper with our current elected system, decentralization practice or anything that might raise political temperatures. I believe he's a leveled headed gentleman and would apply the law. If the opposition groups serious, they will go the people in 2016 and from there; they will be employed by the electorates. Therefore, the entire government of the day and the SPLM must unify their position about issues after July 9. I heard them speaking different tongues...

Separately, the issue of name for our new republic has become a debate. The Minister of Information for our government was purported to have said that the government would go by "South Sudan" or "Southern Sudan" name and the question is what if the North changes to Sennar Arabic Republic or Just Sudan? Please Hon. Dr. Marial, don't conclude the issue of name at the moment, give rooms for others; some of us believe Azania or Nile will break the cord with the North forever.

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SOUTHERN PARLIAMENT, THROW OUT 'SOUTH SUDAN' PROPOSED NAME

BY ISALIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 26, 2011

We have heard the ruling party in the Southern Sudan (the SPLM) going by the name 'South Sudan' against other names on the believe that the name 'South Sudan' is familiar and many people have used it, fought for it and should be retained. The so-called political opposition groups have also seconded the said controversial name, and the Southern Legislative Assembly is left with the task of rubber stamp it any time soon before July 9 this year. The leaders of that party were upbeat that everything will just be fine there in that House (Southern Parliament) owing to their large voting bloc.

Few weeks ago after referendum it was understood that the government in power in the South was trying to use the name 'South Sudan' spasmodically before July 9, and also until majority agrees on the naming. Now we are coerced to accept the name 'South Sudan' because unionists have flanked our people under their 'project for life' named as new Sudan. To them, the retention of word 'Sudan' will ease in the future the reunification of the country. That is why these men made no pretention to keep the name of the SPLM party in tact, despite political realities facing the two regions. Some of us can't understand what's going on within that party when our people chose to look East African after Sudan unity was confirmed to be a mirage.

They know the remaining part of the Sudan is happy to keep the word 'Sudan' yet they insist on keeping the word 'Sudan' for reasons contrary to conventional thinking. Name of the country is as important as the country itself; as you can see from neighboring Congo. Laurent Desire Kabila senior when he assumes power in 1997, the first pronouncement and change he had to make was the name of the Republic. Norwegian 100 years ago made similar shift, and the list goes on. We can't be different from others. We are breaking away forever, and this should inform our decisions on anything be it passport shape, colors of sovereignty or TV use in our offices.

The name 'South Sudan' hence is politically an amorphous one and doesn't reflect why we decided to break rank with the North. We have said it sixty times over that the name 'South Sudan' must go along with an Islamist's manuscript on top of our notes- 'bismillah al rahman al rahiim'. After all, the name was a slur coined by Arabs to differentiate our race from others. Whether the North will still hold on to the word Sudan or drops it, let's go for something else. I thought we have been saying that the name is about identity and nothing special and historic about 'Sudan' name. Rhodesia name was abandoned by Zambia and Zimbabwe, why? Because the name

Rhodesia was attached to colonial masters in that region, the same way the word 'Sudan' is connected to Arabs (our colonial masters).

For record sake, our people had tried to name this republic long time ago using whatever name that came to their minds, and they were absolutely right. You have heard of Anyidi, Azania, Imatong, Sudd, Abyssinia, the Nile Republic among other names and these efforts were meant to sever us from the Northern Arabs. Today our leaders aren't ashamed of using the word 'Sudan', what a pity? The likes of Dr. Marial Benjamin are singing the tunes of Malek Agger on future confederation scheme between the two regions.

I have a conviction in my heart that the bunch of unionists within the people party (SPLM) has a larger project to unite us with the North in many years to come. Gen. Lagu had minced no word that the name 'South Sudan' should be left as a 'room' for possible reunification of the Sudan when 'Arabs come to their senses'. I don't know whether we can continue to blow hot and cold all the time. We are indeed bad students of history. Uncle Lagu fought so hard and has lived among 'wolves' and still carry a stomach to suggest living with the Northerners.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the people on the streets don't care these days about anything whether be name or corruption so long as they are free. They could have told Uncle Makungu that he was on the wrong side of history. But for the sake of tomorrow, the two sides of the old Sudan should now amicably separate and there forever. Separate two names are good for the two sides. The House therefore should rise up against partisanship and do the necessary national duty of stopping the SPLM unionists from dragging us back to hell known as the old Sudan. We are tired and sick of warning these elements within us who aren't reading the mood of our people.

It's not about the SPLM party however, that party is good but about a few that are still dreaming when everybody has woken up. Kindly give us a name, even if you call it Garang or Tafeng, not 'south Sudan'. There is no way some of us should shoke it on our throats when they know that it is not popular. End the debate of the name by coming up with a suitable name that will cement our resolve we have just made in January (referendum). If you go by the SPLM unionists' project of returning us to the 'wilderness' in thirty or forty years to come we will hold you responsible and accountable for failing the people. Away with the name 'South Sudan'!

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SOUTH SUDAN CABINET LINEUP IS A CLEAN BREAK FROM THE PAST

BY ISALIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

The Republic of South Sudan (RSS) has its first Cabinet line up announced on August 26, 2011. Never mind about constitutional forty (40) days requirement for the cabinet to be put in place; the delay wasn't any crisis. Again no one bothers about any cabinet becoming lean and slimmer. But where I started this odyssey, the ride to the cabinet announcement was a mixture of prolonged discomfort, apprehension and pleasure in near equal measure. In the end though we were served with a kind of an elixir for the pain of waiting. They took their oath on Thursday (yesterday), September 1, 2011). Though not everyone is satisfied, Mr. Kiir has come out of age and should be congratulated for a job well done.

We have before us a list of sixty- less three- ministers (Ministers and their Assistants combined), and with no time lost however, we have heard hullabaloo and hues against the President of our republic for what he didn't do or should have been done there, something so normal in any democratic society. Some criticisms are somewhat justified but others are utter nonsense only driven by tribal inchoate to score an argument against certain political party or group. By any standard, the current men and women represent faces of our people, for them to deliver is another thing; the fact that we have an inclusive government makes other misgivings irrelevant. Big brother Kiir has done what a listen person does to fix what was almost about to tear our beautiful land apart.

I have heard a group of youngsters under Greater Bor Youth whatever faulted President Kiir on the formation and shuffling of the government throughout the past six years. Their letter dated 27/8/2011 to one of the local newspapers (Citizen) issue No. 217 was a diversion from people who have no political problems throughout our political history. In any consecutive government then till to date in the South, people of Bor form part of any system. On this particular appointment, and for them to cry, they have missed it wide. Of course Mr. Kiir has goaded these people more than once, and the story is long. It is good now these people are sending an unmistakable warning against the president. Dismissal (oh, it is called retirement) of officers or systematic phasing out of Bor officers everywhere wasn't a nice thing to do for a man that has 99% following from there. The story could come another day.

As to the appointment in hand, Bor people should slice a pie and shut up! Some places such as Maiwot, Nasir and Ulang Counties aren't anywhere near, but they are quiet, owing to the fact that it is impossible to have everyone on board at the same time. There is no any government that could accommodate everyone; it doesn't exist.

But if we could give the president time, there other rooms in the government for politicians.

But brother Gordon Buay had pointed out something related to meritocracy in his last issue that appeared on the 27/8/2011. Though the government is fairly cut across our region, compare to previous ones, in terms of representation, the meritocracy gem in there has been compromised, and my fears are confounded when I look at the 'Achill heels' or old faces. These people are indeed are rotten, and the president should have done better to leave them out. The fuel man (Garang Diing) should have been given a boot; the same could have been applied to the Mr Stephen Dieu for sleeping over his job on prices. Does anyone on the top know that bread has jumped to three pounds for three pieces? The two institutions (Commerce and Mining) have failed our people a big deal. No amount of excuse could wipe away a poor job on the side of the ministers in question. Unfortunately, the president and parliamentarians haven't felt any pinch about how the economy is crunching before everyone watch.

On Finance even if the appointment looks find, there is a voice already that Comrade Koste Manibe is a soft and a deadwood, thrown into a hot seat, say he won't deliver. I can't imagine seeing him making any shift against financial sharks posted by the connected to fleece the Treasure for personal benefits. Dr. Lual Deng if the business of money matters for development could have been tried. Dr. Deng is a rare shoot, developmental oriented chap who could have redeemed the government from perennial financial problems related to delay, procrastination, economic stagnation and abuses, skill deficit and the list goes on.

The point for everyone to know is this: the president (Gen. Kiir) has done his part, may be we should leave him alone and look at what the men and women will do to our people. Secondly, it is high time for us look to the future with sense of hope; the future is indeed bright, it is upon us to throw away our gains for our own risk! We must turn attention away from petty things and look at big pictures in the areas of political uncertainty about Abyei, the oil transit status through the Republic of the Sudan, the food security issue for our people, the road networking to our towns, the appalling education system in the country, disarmament (insecurity in some parts), and tribalism.

Personally I was short changed as my best and serious contender was elbowed for a junior position, a departure from what I had expected. But in all, we have a president for all! Thank you our dear President for keeping up the banner of our liberation! Turn to SPLM party and put life back before it dies, you got my thump up this time about sir!

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THANKS SOUTHERN LEADERS FOR CAPITAL RELOCATION PROPOSAL

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 5, 2011

As the 193th new nation awaits her official proclamation in six months time, the leaders in Juba wasted no time but to propose a new capital for a new nation to be. The Council of Ministers of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) has suggested that the new capital should be between Ramciel in Lake State and around Mangalla area north of Juba, in Central Equatoria. The reason being that, the current city Juba, isn't a balanced place in many respects to be the capital city of a nation; a wrong place indeed and has a lot of problems surrounding it. Some problems dated to colonial British town structure, while others have anything to do with the potential size of a growing city.

To be specific, Juba has some problems in terms of feasibility, urban planning bottle necks due to lack of spaces, squabbles about who should call the shot on land planning between the Central Equatoria State and the GOSS, seismological occurrences, geographical location for the city and poor social behavior against other communities by the so-called owners of the land around Juba.

Hence the leadership in Juba must be congratulated for being conscious and responsive to what constitute a capital for a whole nation means in the first place. Moving away from Juba is a brilliant idea and must be pursue with diligence and urgency it deserves! This is an idea its time has come, and it is popular one. A capital to be exact must reflects the face of us all, and should be about tomorrow in cases of modernization, expansion and urban planning. Juba has zero on the aforementioned situations in few or more years to come. The city capital among other things should be a place where the national government can spread out its 'wings' freely without being stopped by someone who runs with one piece of a law leaving others hanging.

Today in Juba even spaces for stadiums aren't around, saved for some dotted spots where kids run around kicking balls. Developers and investors moreover find it very difficult to invest here in Juba, or simply feel comfortable to own the land and use it for the benefits of the people in the city. Investors in Juba, as of now, are struggling to settle due to too many hands on who actually is legally responsible for land in the city. But more importantly and as I have said above and should repeat it again, other communities that are government employed staff are being harassed, discriminated and humiliated when the look for land or just try to hire it (rent it).

Certain ethnic groups (Nuer, Dinka, Shilluk or Murle) aren't wanted in city. Imagine it has been four years when leaders in Central Equatoria were asked by GOSS Council of Ministers to move their headquarters to Yei River, the Parliament there

fumes, and the government of the state stayed put to date. What does this tell you about these people in the long run? They might kick anyone out one more time once they feel everything has been set for them inherit. We must not be duped twice! We must create space for everyone to enjoy the fruits of our labor and be at peace. Peace of mind is important!

I was surprised the other day when I find a huge land named after Nuer around Jebel Kujur, and when I ask as to why the place was named like that I was told that the land was taken by force by that ethnic group because initially they were soldiers around there and they were refused land so they decided to have it willy-nilly. This scenario brings to mind that the issue of who owns land in the city capital would be resolved once we find ourselves in a land where locals aren't serious about land ownership.

I know there are some beneficiaries of land, individuals who have acquired enough land or built several apartments here; people who would resist going away from Juba, but these people are either corrupt figure, land grabbers or simple figures who are riding on the financial anarchy that characterized 2006 and 2007. These are ill gotten wealth and believe that our brothers in Central Equatoria will benefit from these assets.

Therefore the idea of Ramciel makes a lot of sense. Mangalla still a trouble spot, and must be avoided. I believe that Chiech people are much flexible than Mundari/Bari ethnic group and are even far away from that land; a bit of no man's land, where no one would want to know anyone where she/he comes from before getting a land. We will all be proud Southerner Sudanese in our own city, own by everybody. Ramciel is in the central of our republic for all to enjoy access. It is flat, beautiful and so large that everybody would find space. The city would be run by a governor, not by the Lake State appointed Commissioner. We shall stretch our city capital to the River Nile near Shambe, and then push it near Panyijar County in Western Upper Nile State (wrongly called Unity State). Juba is too hot throughout the year and full of diseases. Another bye bye for our people!

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SOUTH SUDAN MUST BE WARY OF THE WEST MILITARY COOPERATION

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 26, 2011

The newly born country in the world, South Sudan has a real and serious friend in the person of the United States of America (USA). Westerners generally have played an important part in many ways. The USA particularly has played significance role both on humanitarian and political fronts since the second war broke out in 1983. To many Southerners the USA is the Good Samaritan in the true sense of the word, when others 'passed us by', including people who could have helped most. The Americans support in kind goes to billions of dollars since that time, and that country (USA) still much ahead today after independence of South Sudan in an effort to lift this country (South Sudan) from its inherent socio-economic and stability challenges.

But lessons elsewhere have shown over and again that somewhere the West interest override ordinary interest of the host country and this in a way makes any cooperation (especially military) with the West a very tall decision for everyone to jump into. Not because Westerners are bad guys, the thing is that they bully throughout and that make other countries uncomfortable with military or whatever cooperation with the Westerners. Take for instance, the USA, its foreign policy becomes that there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies. We have seen that in Iran in earlier seventies and then again in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Africa, Westerners played a dangerous game everywhere and Somali is a testimony of that ugly practice. They left Somali in the lurch when they should have shown others that it is important to separate a Somali hungry woman from terrorists. When one looks at Somali, you can't help but pity them and start questioning big world institutions.

I deeply fight the sense of an unprecedented indignation, say about injustice unleash by Uncle Sam against humans like them. I have again and again cried when I see our brothers/sisters Somalis mistreated and left to vultures and wild animals for reason beyond their control. To me it is not about Al Shabab or terrorism war anymore but about wiping out Somali on the face of the earth. I salute the latest Kampala Submit by the true Africans leaders of Uganda and Eritrea on Somali, especially their recollection about the present for the future of that country. I believed they have asked themselves thus: 'hey, where does the West taking Somali, and for how long will that country remains ungovernable and shaky'. The Turkey Prime Minister on the other hand made a tremendous gesture by moving his entire Office and families to a gunned ridden city called Mogadishu. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogant is my role model and will remain respected and blessed! Bear with me as we go round.

In Zimbabwe the invisible hands of the world big brother was too heavy on the economy and the people there. The people of Zimbabwe remember well how it feels

to have a super power spoils for import and export sabotage. The market dried up, and big notes were chasing few commodities. The sin of President Gabriel Mugabe was the redistribution of land to the blacks from the whites. True, the land was for them all (black and whites Zimbabweans), but how could a small percentage of whites owned 60% of national economy through farming, while over 90% of Zimbabweans were wallowing in abject poverty, neglect and misery. President Mugabe made a right move to stop exploitation by a few. After all, it was the same whites that delayed and harmed many Zimbabweans during the struggle for freedom in the 60s and 70s.

To Westerners, Mr. Mugabe has been (still anyway) a dictator and undemocratic, a clever ruse used by so-called democrats to keep up imperialistic tendencies among poor and developing nations. Look, is there any country so repressive and undemocratic than North Korea, Syria, China, Burma and Gambia? Why didn't the Americans or NATO go there and 'protect civilians'? Who lies that the Africans have no values, unless a pretender source them from elsewhere. Whenever the West becomes nosy into African affairs, the situation of Africa worsens. The reason being that the West uses a wrong prescription to solve right diagnoses. This is where the African values come in.

We can talk and talk about examples from the West of Africa to the East, North of it to the South, about places/countries that have been put to ruin by the West involvement or presence. Ivory Coast and Liberia were beautiful destinations for food, recreation and whole living, but today, these countries are reeling from one problem after another. In the East, we had then a stable country called Somali with a blue beaches and good people living peacefully among themselves and with their neighbors, but after someone from outside disguised as a food provider during famine disaster there entered, the retrospective of that plan botched everything against the Somali people. Eritrea is slowly going the Zimbabwe way economically (say in few years to come), unless President Isaias changes tact.

In the North of Africa, we have seen leaders coming down like nothing in a more dramatic fashion, but in the end, after the euphoric waters died down, the North of Africa will not find peace! In Libya for instance, the West twisted United Nations Resolution 1730 to advance its dirty agenda against the Libyan people. Gaddafi could be on his way out from power, but differences and bitterness caused by the NATO airstrikes will not make that country stable again. Any patched arrangement can be ephemeral; tough times for Libyans are ahead!

In the South of Africa, the Swaziland King in few years' time, if not months, will not parade bare chest ladies for selection of a wife, and subsequently, the trouble will spill down to the people on the remote peaceful areas of Mhlambanyatsi or Thaba Tseka.

In the South Sudan to bring you closer to our topic, we are hearing the Americans touching down proudly with a message of military cooperation between

Washington and Juba. President Kiir went public to demand from General Carter Ham, the African Command Chief the training of his men (he called for capacity building). But General Ham has made his appearance more overbearing even his handshake and eye contact to a shy Kiir, something Mr. Kiir couldn't stand. In the end though we are reading a theory that perhaps the General has come for more than just a training of ill trained SPLA forces (South Sudan Armed Forces) but to seek assurance for opening up US Military Bases around the country. Boma is one that target in Jonglei State

No one could confirm this proposition, but the idea was mooted somewhere in 2009, and we in the media made it clear that it is too bad an idea. The American bases are conspiracy ones; they are there for an imposed agenda and sometime hard to remove them. They meddle in the affairs of host countries and are a burden. But more importantly, the Western bases are usually used to intimidate a sovereign state on what to do and how to do it. Enough is enough with any colonizer, Khartoum/Arabs were our big headache to our people, and people should rise up and say no to military presence of the West/Americans on our soil. Training of men yes, but not military bases, please!

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***MACHAR'S APOLOGY FOR 1991 BOR TRAGEDY IS
PATRIOTIC***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 11, 2011

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) broke up in August 1991 until 2002, when the two sides came together again. The break up at that time was so devastating and nearly brought the liberation struggle to its knees. There were problems everywhere: on the military and political fronts. The ugly part of it all is the tribal dirty seeds it has sown among our people. It was a split that never to be talked about openly unless one is prepared to soak all kinds of salvos from those against and for it.

The split by our people at that time, just not to waste your precious time, was unnecessary fratricide and horror we must now leave behind as we look forward to rebuild our nation. A healing is badly needed, the very pain caused by the aftermaths of the 1991 split. No amount of reparation could assuage that pain of destruction in that land, but admission of the miscalculation or mistake does. A bright chapter was opened to important section of our society. It took one-man initiative to bury the matter (hatchet).

That is why this man called Machar has gone to bed with the Southern Public. The man is here to stay whether you hate or like him. He has everything it takes to stay there, irrespective of what haters want done or not done against him. This is a beauty of people with big hearts. May this gifted man continue to offer directions to his people, Oh! May the vision of this great man be firm and unshakable, Oh!

But some people will rebuff the big man offer on the ground that it was 'justice delayed and therefore should be denied'- that it came late. They also argue that the big man should have gone to Bor or Panyagor to express it under no pressure (recall how elders in the party started the argument. The other concern is that the Vice President made an apology after the man they have tried to wrest power has gone (dead).

The author however thought that time doesn't affect the truth so long as it was done in good faith. Going to Bor/Panyagor or Duk again isn't a deal; since the big man has gathered courage to do what a civilised person does, there is no elephant to make out of it to press him to the wall. Between him and father (Dr. Garang) and as politicians and learned ones, they had cleared their differences then and forever.

Radicalists within their camps in this regard shouldn't make mountains again out of mound hills; they got to shut up, and allow our people this opportunity for healing. Machar has started it, others must follow.

Let's look briefly at the so-called apology at Garang's home in Juba on that cold Sunday the 7th, its importance to everyone and the leader (Machar) in question. We shall do it in few notes however. Our beloved Vice President chose the home of our hero (Dr. Garang) to make amend, something so symbolic and historic not done by any dead or living Southerners. What has killed our people and still will do them more harm is pride and arrogance. Time to forge ahead together is right here. It starts with you

Mama Rebecca de Mabior was just on a thanks-giving service/occasion, and from nowhere politicians from there (Bor) scratched the matter and the big man didn't disappoint. It was an emotional moment for everybody, something a coward and evil-minded people won't do. He stated what we usually say here that the rebellion was exploited by others, and wasn't the policy of the break away faction; that is unmistakable truth. He took the blame as a leader, and he did it very emphatically and sincerely. We must be proud of this talent at the top!

Second, the elegiac will remind others who killed political prisoners in Ashwa or whatever near Pageri in Nimule County and Chukudum in 1993/1994 that what they did there to finish up politicians, officers and innocent people because of their political orientation or tribe was ingloriously a wrong. Whether the directives were given from 'above' or not, the loss of lives of our politicians, officers there remains unforgivable unless the authors of that wanton deaths of Southerners come out

publicly and say 'we are sorry'. Example is set by the Vice President how about them?

Take it right, this line above doesn't allude to insinuation of group or one person, rather it is an expression of pain about what was done stupidly that must be let go out of our chests. It is shameful though that the officers who were engaged in disappearance are still being promoted, and are move from one plumb job to another. People know them and history will not be kind to such individuals in our society. Time has come for us to show maturity to the damage we did to ourselves.

Third, is that the said apology by the Vice President has put to rest (as far as Bor Community is concerned) a matter that has always divided our people; say Bor vs Nuer. The Big man (Machar) and by extension the larger Nuer community were targeted by Bor community for what had happened then in 1991. Yeah, brothers and sisters from Bor were on the receiving end of that rebellion and no right-minded person could deny the destruction it has caused these people. But the by gone should be by gone, especially now that the big man has come out and say 'he is sorry'. That is leadership, not because he personally ordered the macabre, no! Let no one again go over this matter again; it is close and is done. Congratulation to the big man for that job well done!

Forth just to wrap up, the entire Southern public shouldn't take such moves with guile, wily reception or for that matter for granted. What this great son of South Sudan (Dr. Machar) did to Bor people in Juba (not necessary in Bor Town) on Sunday should be emulated by other leaders whose political path trails blood of innocent people in our land. Gen. George Athor Deng and Gen. Gordon Koang Chol should now renounce violence and say to Southerners 'we are sorry'. By doing so, they are healed and allow others to heal too (Proverbs 28:13 and James 5:16). God bless Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhorgun!

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SOUTH SUDAN LEADERS MUST NOW NARROW NATIONAL PRIORITIES

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JULY 28, 2011

We have been liberated, thanks to four millions lives lost. The land is finally free, and the challenge now is whether the new nation has carefully identified its national priorities to kick start development and progress. Too much paper work has been done and the obvious dilemma however is whether we have chewed more than what we couldn't swallow. This is where we are coming in this piece of note.

The leadership in Juba granted never wasted time even before the Declaration of Independence on July 9, 2011. There are ambitious plans about everything ranging from security to capacity building then institutional development, health, agriculture and education. But to these leaders each one (area) is a priority and a must.

Our situation at the moment requires specific but manageable priorities. The ranking of priorities for a new nation is a hangover from our period before a state; and this should have been corrected right away. I could still see security and the Office of the President with fat budgets, an omen indicator that nothing is going to come out from Juba to our people at Lobonok Payam, Chaggari Payam or Akot. Security to this author isn't anymore a priority, because not every County is affected by violence. Our priorities should change. We have poor road networks across our land and hunger that beat each and every county. Again not every Payam has rebels or shields from bombs. We have a Southern child dying together with mother under complications during childbirth. These are real issues.

So what do we do? Well, there is an urged need to make use of our indices for each sector and come up with concrete priorities that fit our socio-economic circumstances. I feel strongly that the army budget has been in the sky (huge) and should be clipped. The public has a feeling that for the past few years, the money sent to the army has ended up in the pockets of generals to build bungalows and educate themselves in South Africa and the likes overseas. The military account books generally are hardly a domain for Auditors and God knows when their accounts will be audited. We are talking here of why it is necessary to slash the army budget in favor of roads, health, education and agriculture.

The Head of State Office moreover has a large budget and often his team overshoots it. We have category in there (in the presidency) named as donations, a bad budget that should not have been allowed by budget planners. Why should our president be allowed to 'bribe' his people? Donations after all limit the president from visiting his people. If for example he goes for one visit and dish money and in another with

empty hand, he would be unfair to the later. The president is a leader for all. He donates schools, health centers, roads etc not cash.

Let's tour briefly history about other countries that have succeeded rapidly through clear-cut priorities. Singapore until Wee Kiim Wee (Huang Jin Hui) took over in 1985 was classified as poor and struggling, but soon after 1993 when President Wee left the country, that Asian nation leapfrogged even those who then seemed to be powerful economically and socially there. How did he make it where the first president Yusof Bin Ishak failed? The answer lies with proper national examination and careful identification of national direction. At our current political status, we will definitely need another Wee to turn things around for the greater good of South Sudanese. Machar might be another Huang! Freedom or glory isn't alone enough, it must be translated to what an ordinary man or woman needs in the country.

Malawi next door was plagued by hunger under Presidents Hastings Banda and Bakili Muluzi but Bingu Wa Mutharika the current president put the matter to rest once and for all. Hunger there is in the past tense there. Libyan in the North of Africa was also one of the countries that picked up from nowhere to its envious situation, where now the West is laboriously fighting to install a puppet regime that will guarantee their access to Libyan wealth. I see no justification for toppling Libyan Government on the behest of outsiders with vast exterior motives. That country will not be the same but another Somali in the North.

Uganda is believed to be the breadbasket for East and Central Africa and the secret is all about what the government did earlier in its strategic plan. The food majority of our people eat in our urban centers come from Uganda despites our similar environmental status.

South Sudan is under difficult times of national planning and somewhere we must learn from the experiences of others. I look forward that our decision makers in Juba take the issue of food for our people as item number one. Second, there has to be enough investment done on our roads, because roads are important infrastructural element of development. Leaders should not waste time going overboard prioritizing everything. One or two things at a time; slowly and there we can move our bars to others. Basic needs first others later (Abraham Maslow hierarchy of needs). God bless South Sudan!

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SOUTHERNERS HAVE ARRIVED THE PROMISED LAND

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JULY 7, 2011

The National Anthem for the new Republic of South Sudan summarizes the purpose of our existence. In few words it was about almost everything: who to thank and why; where do we want to go, what we desire to become and how shall we do it. Thanks ineffably to the group of Southerners at the University of Juba for a magnificent job. You have lifted up the spirit of our people, and indeed depicted life in a more meaningful way, and trust that our people shall sing our National Anthem without referring to the paper. How can anyone sing an anthem using a paper script really?

As the curtain comes down in few hours time for total freedom for the people of Southern Sudan, we must congratulate ourselves, friends, salute our martyrs and quickly reaffirm our commitment to uphold the cause that have taken years to come by. We must translate our dream into dreams this time around to prove Khartoum that we were serious people. It wasn't just about masters of our own but making positive difference in the living conditions of our people, something an alien didn't do for 180 years.

For centuries we had hoped the birth of the 'baby'; today before our watch we shall all see it delivered, what a relief! Our 'mother' (Southern Sudan) has been barren for sixty (60) years, but God of heaven never tired of 'creation' even with that age. No one outside Sudan knew anything about the determination of our people for freedom, and sometime it was not easy to raise your voice about difficulties we face as black man in the former country called Sudan. We were slaves and second or third class citizens in our own land. We were misunderstood by anyone.

But the people of Southern Sudan despite scorns and humiliation by other 'men' who have sired their 'wives' never gave up one moment about their future; we had a living hope in us that one day our mother would definitely bear a baby. Today we are witnessing the birth of this 'baby' (just to emphasize). Never again shall our mother Southern Sudan be a subject of whisper by those who thought that we couldn't make it. Thanks to great people of Southern Sudan, whose eyes were on this day.

We must also thank the team of the National Congress Party and on top Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir for his great heart to compromise. He is a good man and we shall name a road or monument bearing his name in our capital city. Without him, nothing could have been celebrated today. President Al Bashir is a man, may he restore peace and development to the people of Nuba Mountain, Ingessina and Darfur.

Credit again has to go to our dear President Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit for guiding us to this land; he has been faithful to the cause of his people and good student for the liberation of South Sudan. He too has played his part very well. The big man Dr. John Garang must be happy now! This is a moment he has wished for his people! Southerners will not forget to thank true friends of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, DRC Congo, South Africa, USA, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Israel.

Our people however in their long quest for freedom have paid heavy price to achieve this glory. It never came out of nothing; men and women gave up everything to arrive at the Promised Land. The people of the South have every reason to celebrate for attaining their ultimate goal after many centuries of political uncertainty. We have made, Glory be to God! We are free and forever we are!

As I put down these lines, my tears haven't stopped flowing when I look back about the pressure our men and women put to liberate this beautiful land called South Sudan. The heroes of Torit, Bor and Ayod are still fresh in my mind as they face Goliath with nothing in their hands but burden in their hearts. The youths in particular across our country that defied luxuries but opted to pour out to the bush to suffer and die like swamps so to free the people of Southern Sudan; they deserve big pat and this freedom is their brain child. For without them (youths) nothing could have been achieved.

My people were a laughing stock, people without peace within themselves and the world around them. We were in misery and without hope, as Arabs played every trick in any book to keep the yoke heavy on shoulder of every black Southern in the Sudan born or still unborn. We lost generations in childbirth related diseases, something not anymore an issue in this century. Our children (in education) were off and on under trees/classes. Our people were still begging for bread from the North despite rich agricultural land. The opposite should have been true. Khartoum has used knowledge to make bread and then played starvation card to achieve political dependency.

In our new nation own by Southerners sanguinely, we are going to make hunger a history within a short period of time. Plans are there only political decision for money wasn't. We will reduce illiteracy rate by big margin within given time. Our children will sit their exams in roofed classes. We shall improve communication and road networks across our land and with our neighbors. We will lock up thieves and lock up our border leading to Khartoum so to stop a troublemaker from running to pick a gun against our people. The list can go on and on. That is a beauty of controlling and managing your own affairs!

But someone somewhere charges that even if Southerners are left alone, these people shall fail to govern themselves well. That is a lie! For sure we know precisely the type of system we want to adopt and with Kiir-Machar, am pretty optimistic about the

future of this land. Khartoum will wait and wait much longer to see us fail; but that shall be only in an illusion drain. We will succeed! Our main problem has been political freedom, now we are free.

Yes Southerners have individuals that are deficient in their thinking, tribal barons whose agenda is stark ignorance of what life means to them and to others. But the majority of our people know how to make this land envy for Khartoum in few years to come. With the right attitude toward our land, and type of leaders such Machar and Kiir, we will propel to great highest in no time. Imagine the never- give up attitude our people developed over centuries, it nearly impossible to think that Southerners will fail to make positive changes in the pursuit of better life.

We have talked, written a lot about what we should do, and our leaders know what it takes to govern. Though six years experiment has prove to us that there are problems in our own management style, let us be optimistic because this land shall be rule by the law. No one shall be above the law. Era of political compromise has long gone; system and the people will account everyone. We will have no excuse to mess up Southern Sudan this time around. It is time to show our different talents for the building of South Sudan. Words alone can't help. Long live the people of Southern Sudan!

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***ANY AWARD SHOULD BE ABOUT SOUTHERN
SUDAN PRIDE, MR. PROFESSOR***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 30, 2011

I find an article written yesterday (June 29, 2011) by a Southern Sudanese researcher Dr. John A. Akec about Gogrial contribution nationally and international offensive and tasteless. I must debunk it against him not the entire Gogrial people. Dr. Aketch blew the horn of Greater Gogrial so loud that his self inflated pride analogously reminds me of a Biblical Pharisee who stood aloft in the temple and prayed thus: “ God I thank you that I’m not like other men”, (Luke 18:9-11). Mr. John exactly wanted to portray other Southern Sudanese as ‘robbers’, ‘evildoers’ and ‘tax collectors’.

The good professor moreover didn't end his ‘holier than thou’ lecture but twisted historical facts about the liberation struggle for the people of Southern Sudan to suit his homeboys and girls. He had attempted to make Mr. Kiir wiser than Solomon, and Ms Wek more beautiful than Diana of Britain, a design we all know is typical of Dinka people. The truth of the matter is that Gen. Kiir is wise because Southerners

are wise and the same is true with Alek Wek. It is Southern Sudan that makes anyone somebody, and not the other way round! The party he leads to be specific makes anyone!

Kiir inherited anger, frustration and 'dogged' determination long enough right from the time of Fr. Saturino down to Garang, and nothing here he had achieved singlehandedly through his wisdom to liberate the people of Southern Sudan. Even Garang, if alive, couldn't claim to have liberated Southern Sudan. It is the combination of efforts from 1947 to 2005 that count not an individual whose fate smiled at him once at a time in the process of the struggle.

It would be affront to our martyrs if we allotted an award or recognition to one individual or a few. I am talking here about national contribution Dr. John highlighted in his Gogrial elevation piece. International award is a different thing all together as the choice doesn't necessarily mean celebrities or achievements.

Dr. Akec must not get carried away about 'his people' individual contribution so to insult the intelligence of other Southerners. Southern Sudanese have made it collectively to this end, I must repeat myself. Any success by an individual or group in any part of our land was for a larger good of all Southern Sudanese. Southern Sudan at the moment needs a tone that unites not a voice that scatters. We want to brag together as one people, not as sections or clans.

We have all suffered or contributed, and by any measure each individual in the South has contributed nationally or internationally. There is no point therefore for one section of our society to push itself above others as if the freedom for the people of Southern Sudan was the work of Gogrial people. There are similar stories in Bari, Shilluk or Nuer but these people don't go public to make mounts about what their daughters or sons have achieved for the nation. May be people needed to know what constitutes national contribution. Becoming a minister alone doesn't make anyone a contributor for the struggle of the people of Southern Sudan.

Mr. Professor your naked gloat about Gogrial on the expense of other Southern Sudanese has blinded you to spew venom against critics of Gogrial kitchen Government. You have easily forgotten, sir that you were few nights ago one. Was that not you Mr. Akec who has written extensively against the government of your people? You claim wildly that Kiir has stolen election, wasn't that substantiated by facts on the ground? Were you not the one who labeled GOSS as government that is run by good fighters but not good managers? You said Kiir regime has done much in the past six years compares to previous years during Addis Ababa Accord, what are you telling our people brother here? Don't you care that your brother Government sits over a dented government 'dogged' by corruption, largely orchestrated by your homeboys? Do you want to mention the Baaks, the Achuils, the Manutes etc?

Dr. Akec if it weren't corruption how did you become a Vice Chancellor of a college within a span of few years after you graduated with a PhD? Could your part time lectures in South Africa make go up like that? How many Southerners with many years in classes in colleges holding 'proper' PhDs that never made it to head universities? You have been quiet and now started to shower praises to Kiir, is that normal really? Someone thought you are reaping were you never sowed. Where on earth could an associate professor becoming a Vice Chancellor within two years?

If I look at some people you said have contributed for the liberation of the people of Southern Sudan, it makes me pluck a demur against anything positive you have done about Southern Sudan. Please brother; leave Hon. Aleu Ayieu Aleu alone! This man is a hero; he was fought fiercely by the then Col. Salva Mathok around Cueibet, Lakes State, when your hero (Mathok) was still a Sudanese army Officer. Let Aweil people brag not Gogrial; otherwise you are making mockery of anything and spoil a good celebration for us all. I must stop here for the sake of our martyrs in Gogrial, some of who aren't in your today's list.

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THINGS TO DO DURING SOUTHERN SUDAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 20, 2011

As the people of the Southern Sudan warm up for the Big Day on July 9, 2011, there is need to remind ourselves about few things we should do or not do on that Great Day. Mind you, small things sometime overlooked spoil somewhat decent arrangement. This is a big occasion everyone has been looking for, the dream for people of the Southern Sudan. Here we go:

One: the flag for the new nation should be raised by Gen. Joseph Lagu Yanga, not Gen. Salvatore Kiir. President Lagu has lived to see this day, he should be honored. This is not to undermine His Excellency the President (Kiir), but a sign of respect for someone who had led the struggle for the people of Southern Sudan, uniting all under one aspiration for separation.

Second: a gift to be prepared and presented to President of the National Congress Party (NCP), Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir for allowing our people to go. With the events of last month and this month, he's unlikely to attend but Ustaz Ali Osman Mohamed Al Taha will attend the celebration. President Al Bashir is courageous politically. He's lesser evil compare to other Northerners.

Third: the Big Day must be kept short, brief and entertained. Long speeches aren't welcome; five minutes for president Kiir enough not that monologue of saying everything through reading. Sometime in such big event, the leader needs no paper but heart to share feelings from the heart. Other heads of states and dignitaries as well as the Southern public want just to celebrate, nothing more. We also want to flock to bars and homes to finish up the duty.

Forth: prayers must be conducted by a Christian; no Islamic prayers are allowed!!! This is because our nation is 99.9% Christian; the very Great God of the Bible has been with us through thin and thick, and no need to prostitute ourselves to unknown gods of this world. We have tasted how mighty is this God under Christianity, and he should be praised, glorified and given due place in our new land.

Fifth: empty all Southern prisoners; Gen. Tanginya has to be set free to celebrate together with us. The Juba Main Prison is a disgrace to our people. Its very packed with human beings and Gen. Anthony who is in charge doesn't care about the human rights of these people. For every to be join the celebration, prisons are to be go as a good sign attributed to the Big Day

Sixth: reduce the number of security personnel that always jam the stage. A few will help, not an entire battalion of the army wielding machine guns before the audiences. Southerners don't assassinate themselves or aliens, where did these people get the notion that depicts the opposite

Seven: three days be declared for celebrations by our people everywhere. Seven days would have been ok, but given pressure at the border, we want to celebrate and quickly return to the business of protecting the Southern territory under threats from Arabs.

Eight: each celebrant needs at least a bottle of water if not a bottle of tustker on that Day. A time like these if its village's people go for everything even paying heavily costs, for it comes once a time.

Nine: renewed amnesty to all Southern armed groups, for they need such assurance once more. At that time, when it was made waters have passed under bridge and no one knows whether the clemency still stand

Ten: the Southern leader must smile this time about; mean or weird faces aren't needed!

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MR. AMUM CONSPICUOUS SILENCE IS WORRYING

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 4, 2011

Southern Sudan has gone through difficult times in its turbulent contemporary history. We have before us a choice of going to war to defend our motherland or talk while Arabs curbed away our rich and beautiful pieces of land using gunpoints. The Juba leadership and the public were beaten by events in Abyei in that the influential top figures of Southern Sudan were left with few options. The dilemma then is this: here around the corner (few weeks in fact) the Big Occasion of our lives, then a stab in the back by an arch-enemy of our people, should the South at this stage turn from the journey or should we eat the humble pie of aggression, abuses and humiliation until after July. The author sees no point of 'turning our cheeks' to Arabs or go public to swear that our leadership will not return fire or strike back under any circumstances. This inauthentic and unreal if not an oversight statement that doesn't augur well to the public given the damage and lost Southern territory to Arabs

But as if that isn't enough, Mr. Pagan Amum, the SPLM Secretary General went underground or hiding at a crucial time when his voice is badly needed. This man has never shy of speaking honey and butter about what is best for the people of Southern Sudan. The public is prodding as to what had happened to the fearless, the very Caleb of Southern Sudan, the hero of heroes and the Messi of Southern Sudan.

When Comrade Pagan opens his mouth, the National Congress Party (NCP) scampers for media refuge and the smearing campaign against him and the entire Southern Sudan. Dr. Barnaba can talk yes but he lacks imagination, he's too economical with information and not assertive. Mr. Amum uses information forums to speak to the people on what hasn't even been said and should have been said. His silence therefore has left a huge vacuum to the Government of the people of Southern Sudan.

Speculations are that Mr. Amum isn't well and is somewhere in one of our neighboring countries recuperating, but that isn't enough to be believed. Others say Mr. Amum is a devastated man after his alarm earlier in February this year was ridiculed by some within his party and largely by the so-called Opposition Groups. Recall Mr. Amum charged that Khartoum has a mature plan to weaken Southern Sudan government using proxy ways. True to his words, we had had rampant militia insurgent cropping up, provocation through large scale build up of troops along South-North border and economic blockage. I don't know whether there is an apologist who could refute him today.

But the most considered speculation suggests that Mr. Amum don't want to be seen as contradicting his boss, Mr. Kiir about peaceful resolution of the conflict in Abyei and occupation of areas South of Higilij and Renk County. Gen. Kiir as everyone knows is a strict disciplinarian; you dare him you risk it! Remember when he gagged Hon. Aleu Ayieny Aleu when the later goes against the so-called official position that the fateful chopper that killed Dr. John Garang came down through natural circumstances, and not any foul play. Mr. Amum like me isn't yet a student of newfound school of Oslo for a peace laureate. In fact there is nothing like 'taking anyone to war'; we are already there without the big man pulling anyone.

Strictly speaking however, there is another theory that could make anyone silence. The Southern Security forces especially the top brass at Bilpam have a portion of blame to the current military set back. The military job is to protect the national territorial of the people, if they could not get their military intelligence right and allow the Northern Army to build, hit and entrenched, what does that tell us about the capability of our men in uniform to secure our land. The Commander In Chief of our army has largely becoming nominal and the gap would have filled if Mr. Amum hasn't been mum. That was just a by the way because this isn't a time to blame but to start fix the problem.

Please Gen. James Oath, and Gen. Mamur don't listen to Kiir newfound song and affidavit of not taking the South to war. Who told him that others before him were warmongers? To sacrifice Abyei on the altar of diplomatic commission is suicidal and unacceptable! Abyei must be brought back by the barrel of the gun, the same way it was taken. I heard Garang saying the same lines when your rights are forceful taken away. July 9 whatever will not be affected whether fire ranges in Abyei or not. We don't need the North to recognize us; already we are. Make reason for Cde Pagan to talk

Abyei youths hence must lead this process. They failed then to join the war but to school. They are Southerners 100% and their place in the military especially among non-commission officers and junior officers is missing. Academic papers alone and international community wrath will not move Arab forces out of the Southern land called Abyei. Let those who stayed way then still keep away, men from Toposa, Lotuho, Bari, Nuer, Chollo, Dinka, Azande, Murle, Mundari and Acholi finish the liberation job. Faint hearted and 'women' are to shut up! Mr. Amum over to you!

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OPPONENTS OF SOUTH SUDAN DRAFT CONSTITUTION MUST GIVE US A BREAK!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 19, 2011

I must state first here that opponents of the South Sudan Draft Transitional Constitutional ought to give a break to whining each passing moment in our political journey, especially after this period when we almost settling. They must read the document again, think through why each clause was drafted that way before they embark on a hullabaloo to discredit the government the parties that drafted the Constitution. Everyone thought we have graduated from small politics of 'unless it done by my man or women' that whatever must be rejected and criticize.

Reading through the minds of the so-called opposition groups, we have unfortunate and wasted youths, tired so-called politicians (they proudly called themselves opposition groups/parties) when in fact they are busy bodies only after the down fall of the people of Southern Sudan. Their future from day one has all but about sabotage and conspiracy against the people of the Southern Sudan. Please opponents of our people pause and allow us to celebrate the independence of our nation with full joy.

The President of South Sudan His Excellency Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit must be a happy man like me by having a caliber such as Hon. John Luk Joak in the capacity of an Attorney General for the Southern Government. His efforts along with his technical team have produced one magnificent document (known as Draft Transitional Constitution) of all times. Our leader Kiir has indeed come out of age; he has talented men and women in his cabinet, we should be proud of their dedication for their services to the people.

Mr. John, will be remembered fondly for having crafted a perfect constitutional 'revolution' within national legal framework. By then in 2005 some of us were ardent opponents of the Interim Southern Constitution due to its loud silence on cohesion of our diverse social setups. Mr. Luke and his team in the just about to be pass Draft to the Legislators have proposed damn legal infusion that will pay off in twenty or so years to come. But in one word about the Draft, the document is a blend of all, and has series of legal promises and dictates that are very appealing to our deeply rooted social problems.

Of course constitutional precepts are about generalities, and grand policies on how we want to look like. To fine tune grand ideas one must break them bits to arrive at the nitty-gritty of each line. But the process isn't always rosy; it takes years and centuries, as stakeholders would love to see their interests written and respected. In our case we were lucky to have a committed team, men whose focus is the Southern

public not just political parties they represent. Today we have Draft shortcomings notwithstanding, we should be proud and thank our brothers and sisters for a job well done!

But Mr. John went away with bruises as he wrestled out the document from opportunists and pretenders. He still is being demonized for 'sins' not of his own. He was after the future of his people, nothing more. The physician turned politician named as Justine Ambago in particular has poked his ugly mind into personal life of Mr. Luke; the man fumes and wrenches at Luke individual political life, as if Hon. Luke was personally dictating terms and references passage-by-passage and chapter-by-chapter. He called him names and end up cursing the SPLM as a whole and then infer the leader of that party in a subtler manner. Before him was Mr. Lupai, an agriculturist and the boy from America whose world is around Nuer, Nuer and only Nuer. We don't need to have ethnic urge itching their way to our constitution, that card is outdated and must be shunned by men with this land in their hearts.

Though the Draft is meant to take care of the Transition Period leading to election in 2015, the prospects of doing it away after that Period are indeed nil. The Draft will be refined and will continue on its current status with little touches on peripheral matters. This is a living fact! It might not be 100% perfect, but this author believes strongly that we have just started on a right footing

I have been dreaming about Mogga becoming a Commissioner in Maiwot County and Gatkuoth becoming a minister in Western Bahr El Ghazal State. Our current Draft will surely make this happen in few years to come, something decentralization or federation won't do. On the contrary, decentralization would have thrown this beautiful land to endless crisis of 'mine' vs 'his', 'this region' against 'these people'. In fact is not about decentralization or unitary system of governance that matters but how does each system work for a common good of an ordinary man or women. Federalism in our social context (diversity) in a third world country is a bad system; it must be allowed to die slowly! Devolution on the other hand, closer to decentralization is more of a shared responsibilities and not necessarily semi-autonomous under federalism. We have chosen to have half federalism and half unitarily.

But the noise about Presidential powers in the Draft or decentralization quest is just pretext and nothing else. First our president needs to be empowered because we are slowly slipping to anarchy, that piece of the law is necessary, at our status! Mr. Kiir, at least for the next two years, must be mandated to restore an ensued chaos caused by rebellion by our own sons. Mr. Kiir and Dr Machar or others behind them are matured and I for one trust their leadership skills. The fear about abuse of power by these men will not arise. You may call them dictators but that will not make them dictators. For the past few years, we have tested them, and know who they are; they behaved decently despite our too much demands on our side

The so-called opposition groups have no right to cry wolf about being ignored; it was them who walked out during the discussion of the Draft when the period they thought could have been 1 year was rejected on a sound ground of logistical and financial implications of going for another election so soon. They had hoped of staging another coming back from the seats they have lost badly to their opponents currently in Parliaments. They must shut up and own the process irrespective of gray areas they seem improper. After all constitution isn't a panacea to every socio-political and economic problems.

Secondly, the opposition groups were yearning for sharing of power with the SPLM party something I believe would have been absurd on the side of the SPLM if they had accepted it. Sharing of power? For what basis can the SPLM share power with those that lost election fairly and squarely? They lost election and if they want to come back, they should wait the next turn and do the necessary preparation to punch afresh. For now the game is over, the people of the South are sick of bickering by small section of our society when the majority has decided to give the SPLM the benefit of doubt. They might be corrupt and govern poorly, but the same people have guided our land to its desired destination. We need to appreciate one another and stop pulling one another down just because my uncle or tribesman isn't a president.

I still have trust in the wise leadership of Kiir-Machar; let us cease from insulting them when it is about time to give applause they truly deserved. They human like any of us even if we don't wish away the ugly habits by some of their tribesmen. We should keep faith in them and do something about our ethnic hatred eating up every time we want to move a step forward. Mr. John and his team have done us pride; the House shouldn't play politics. Mr. Kiir ought to remember Mr. John and his team in the next government. I prefer going by this 'dictator' called Kiir or Machar than someone who changes faces.

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RELOCATION OF SOUTH SUDAN CAPITAL FACES PROBLEMS

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

MAY 11, 2011

In March this year, the government of the people of Southern Sudan formed a Committee to assess areas of Racial in Lakes State, areas North East of Mangalla Payam in Central Equatoria State (CES) and North of Terekaka County on the same state (CES), as well as of course Juba as a fallback idea. War veteran named as Gen. Oyai Deng, the Minister of Investment in the Southern Government leads the Committee. Sixty days were given by the President and the Committee could have been up this week and deliver a recommendation.

The Committee members went to the suggested areas (Ramcial, Mangalla & Terekaka areas), talking to CES, taking into account every potential obstacle that may make the national capital difficult to be developed. Experts and technical teams were reported to have formed part of the committee.

Initially at the time of the announcement and even today, the public was/is divided about the idea of relocating the people's capital elsewhere. Groups were formed, those for the idea and other against it. All of them of course have valid arguments, but as always, one argument will override the other. Those against the idea of relocating the national capital argued that it is not any priority to talk about huge project such as the relocation of the national capital when there are pressing social and physical problems to undertake in the areas of food security, health, education sanitation or water and general infrastructures.

But people who thought it otherwise (this author included) wanted to know why the issue of the relocating the national capital isn't a priority, when the land issue and an ending squabble as to who should call the shot in the city remain matters of major concerns. By the way, the idea of relocating the national capital isn't a small matter, something in which a small group of people would want to put it under carpet! Juba in all standards has fallen short of becoming a national capital for the aforesaid reasons among many more.

Besides, we must not nag each other everyday about this matter of 'my land' and 'those people'. We have had enough of paper writings against one another; threats and intimidation against one other and it time to settle in peace and harmony. Since we have a future to cherish together, we should be focus and make use of natural differences to avoid problems in the future like it happened in the 1980s. Complains, complains, magnifying little things and snipping or 'spying' one another must be put to rest once and for all. That spirit if we are not careful is will tear us apart. Let's help ourselves out amicably and salute the team that came up with the idea of relocation

of the national capital to a neutral spot. Our brothers Bari are to be left alone. Let's have a picture of this city ten years from now. Environmentally moreover this place called Juba is woeful.

I have said all that stuff above because it seems as though the idea of relocating the national capital is faltering or it is about to be compromised as the word goes around that the Ramciel thing is fast disappearing or under challenge because people say there is lack of water there and it is huge financial burden to the new nation. Others also don't think that Atut in particular and Achiech or Aggar would be better people than Bari. Recall Atut youths are said to be ruthless and rowdy, the boys we all see around Juba exchanging money and sometime extort customers. Someone charges that these people have someone in the Bank of Southern Sudan that ditches hard currency to these boys. I pray that the new government reshuffle that bank because of these old men at the top! Endowed economists such as Dr. David Naillo Mayo, Dr. Majak D' Agoot among others could do better. Oh no that is a stray, yeah?

So if we disqualify Ramciel as things look certain so, then we are left with two options- Juba and the North of it. People say North of Juba is popular with the ordinary Southerners. But a word goes around that some members within that committee don't want to leave Juba for personal interests. People whisper that most members within this important committee of survey for a new capital have their huge businesses and assets behind here in Juba and therefore would make every excuse to keep people around. It may be true or not true. The point is that water can't be an issue; we all know it but also the Nile isn't far away from that place.

Juba would have been ok if we have a feeling of brotherhood, living together and sharing little land with less noise around us. But now it is an impasse, other tribes don't feel safe psychologically anymore. Enough is must be enough; living as second-class resident is painful. But above all, the national government wants to expand and urbanize the city, developers wants to come in, private investors too have all along cry for land to put their heads down, where are we going to accommodate all these interests in a city already occupied, restrictively manage by certain elite of our society. Please GOSS leaders if you insist on staying here in Juba, then you ought to free yourself and others from those around here.

May be it is time to prove the issue water shortage in Ramciel more nakedly. If however the leaders in Juba would love to maintain Juba as the National Capital due to any reason beyond their reach, they must do the following things: one is that they need to convinced the CES that the national government has the authority over the city, and not the vice versa. Currently everything has stalled, as the state doesn't have enough resources like the national government to do more urban works. This is important and it means practically that the city where the national government sits must not be administratively made part of this State (CES). The city can be elevated to become a state on its own with parliament, ministers and the like.

Second (if people insist on staying in Juba or its eastern side), the native of Juba especially Bari should drop their claims that the city belongs to them exclusively, and therefore their legitimate right to write ultimatums and issue threats against anyone. They must visit history on major cities, which were inhabited before; whether that is the case. Government has authority to use people land for the common good of the same person. That is no basic right being violated when the government intends to extend service to the people. The national government should not be undermined by a section of our society for selfish drive. Capital extension is an ongoing and no one could stand on the way of the national development.

Third, the definition and interpretation of land ownership under CPA must be repealed and reviewed. I got impressed when His Excellency the Minister of Telecommunication Gen. Madut Biar read out a certain piece about the land in the Transitional Constitution. I was satisfied and believe parliament will not temper with this vital interjection! The law that a land belongs to the community has been abused and misused to mean that citizens have every right to deny government projects irrespective of larger benefits associated with them. The land yes belongs to the community but the community belongs or answerable to the government. Communities are the governments and any part can't deny to be part of the other. What the government thinks is good for the people will always remains so, and should not be rejected in blanket. Capital is one of the good investments everyone wants, why are we (say Bari) so protective and offensive when they are being given a hand of help.

Forth, the islands North of Juba must be used for common good. These could be Business Centers, seat of government units, Cultural Centers for tourism purposes, Parliament, United Nations bodies, State House, or any other major governmental projects such as colleges, hospitals, or simple recreational centers. Locals around there should understand and comply. The government can compensate each affected member.

I want my people to renounce hate against one other. People around here were beautiful indeed; Bari politicians have spoiled them and are not anymore beautiful but bitter. Why just hate anyone who doesn't do you any harm? Even if others leave Juba they will still turn to minor groups around them and that had happened actually in the eighties. They will poison one another, kill their ministers and chase one another away from anywhere near this city or its surroundings. The decision to remove the national capital was a wise one; it should not be narrowed though to narrowed politics and tribal hate; it's just developmental.

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CORRUPTION IS A PERSONAL CRIME NOT POLITICAL

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 27, 2011

The government of the people of Southern Sudan promised people that it would not entertain corrupt practices within government institutions. Anti-corruption Commission was established in 2006 headed by a doyen lady in the person of Dr. Paulino Riak. The body she heads is an independent financial watch dog mandated to investigation and make necessary follow up with relevant authorities to arraign financial accusers in custody, and subsequently bring them to courts. So far, the Anti-Corruption Unit had tried to fight corruption but too little has been achieved. Six years done the line, there have been loud outcry that the body (Anti-Corruption) is not doing enough to go further than recording corrupt cases.

The strong lady however has started to show signs of taking the war to criminals. All along she has been arguing that her Unit 'isn't a police or a court'. But somewhere last year after Parliament passed the Anti-Corruption Bill, there are signs of activities towards that end. For example, an Undersecretary in the Ministry of Education was accused, and this month the court charged her of theft and was sentenced for ten (10) years imprisonment. Last month (March 2011), the Auditing team from Auditor General 'qualified' books of accounts for the Ministry of Labor and Public Service as; four senior staffs of that Ministry were implicated and are reported to be behind bars in Juba Prisons.

The dura scam of 2008 has now surface and big fish are likely going to appear before the law on what had happened to the money at that time. Recall the money was said to have been distributed to Ten (10) States but the bags of dura weren't delivered. The current minister of Finance had already passed the bug to his predecessor and the public is waiting with a baited breath on who are these people in the first place that pocketed four (4) billion pounds.

I have seen this Paulino beating her chest that she will go for nothing short of zero tolerance to corruption in the Government of the people of Southern Sudan. Is the Anti-corruption Commission bold enough to apply justice irrespective of any person involve or will the body be selective of who to prosecute and who not? We will wait and see! For now though she needs strong backing from the public and the government. Lip service to corruption was exploited by people who were looking for anything to discredit the people's government.

Auditor General is a disappointment, and badly wants him to go! He spoiled my day during his Press Conference regarding his strategies for the next few years or months. Mr. Wondu labored for hours to tell the public tangible challenges his department

faces. Lack of qualified auditors wasn't a challenge. Again when did Auditing become an institutional matter in our third world countries? True we need internal auditor in every institution but for now external auditors could have done much. External auditors aren't missing; they are everywhere. He was 'corrupt' with his words to the public.

But the truth of the matter is that corruption fights back. It has already started to do so long enough as some groups have started to cry foul that their sons and daughters are victimize. Regions are ganging up against their own people, and tribes are cursing the government of having targeted their sons. This is nonsense! Financial criminals must not apply cheap politics to hide behind their people and bubble about what others haven't done. Crime doesn't ascribe to be tribe but personality; you commit it you face the law. That charged Undersecretary didn't send money to Uganda using Madi people but her conscience directed her to do so. Public officials at the ministry of Labor and Public Service didn't inflate allowances; they did it individually with no one form their families. If we continue to associate crimes with our people then we missed it wide.

Let no one politicize the drive please; after all we have been charging that the government is doing nothing, isn't that good to cheer them up so to eradicate the deadly vice once and for all? I strongly feel so, and don't see any reason of defending anyone who is on the wrong side of the law. Some people say but why Dr. Josephine when others have cashed away more, and the point is that the alleged theft haven't be proven. We all know how the law works, don't we? Unless evidences show it otherwise, the person is deemed innocent. Whirls of rumors have been in the air for sometimes now, but if you dig deep in to the alleged corrupt practices at GOSS, you find that nothing concrete that proves the suspected. Hence it is not fair to make judgment before proving it in white and black.

Some of the claims in the air aren't all true. I'm saying these for the sake of the truth; in our today payment systems in Finance Ministry, its not easy for an individual to walk away with money without being noticed. Thanks to friends from overseas who are stationed there! If you want a claim or money it takes you not less than 6 stages by different bodies before it is actually banked. This means that we have come a long way from our initially start of our financial management system in 2006 and 2007. Mr. Tisa and Garang, the Undersecretaries there are doing their best, and we should commend them for job well done.

Allow me to go religious below: corruption my people, is a sin before it becomes a crime. If this land would be exorcised from evils of old, we should not defend anyone who wants to get rich quickly. In our last government in Juba here in the seventeenth and eighties, we failed really to live within our means, but did everything to amassed ill gotten wealth, and God blew everything away. We can't repeat our past mistakes again. Let's not make God angry. It is a sin for the people of God in the South to ignore that we had Almighty God taking care of us at that time, and still

around with us during the peacetime. The South must do everything to protect its image abroad; my people weren't corrupt before.

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EQUATORIANS CONFERENCE IS QUERIED

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 18, 2011

The people of the three states of Eastern, Western and Central Ekuatoria have met in Juba-Nyakuron for matters related to peace; unity and development lumped together under the theme unity, equality and prosperity. The foot soldiers of the big three leaders (Governors) of these states did an earlier preparatory shuttling a month ago, and all system went at Nyakuron Cultural Center during the past four days. The Conference commences colorfully, graced by invited other members from other regions. The participants and organizers were upbeat that the Conference will achieve it intended objectives for the good of the people of Ekuatoria in particular and that of the Southern Sudan. Now the resolutions are made public.

But this author has faulted (like my dear brother Dr. James Okuk Solomon) the theme and intent of the gathering by Ekuorians. Regionalisms at this stage are uncalled for and indeed unnecessarily. I thought we have graduated from parochial politics, an outdate fashion that has killed progress in the developing countries. Any conference should have been about Southern Sudan and only South, unless there are compelling reasons to do so. In our case I doubt whether we have really issues to be address be one section of our region against others. To curb out one piece and leave others in suspense raises concerns. I know people aren't saying things publicly this way but currency is that something is foreboding.

Conversely however, I have a positive view about people of Ekuatoria in general; they are good and great right from day one in Torit to date. My hat goes down for you Ekuorians for standing firm in thin and thick for the liberation of the people of Southern Sudan. Other regions of course have done their part but rugged most of the time. Ekuorians have shown again and again that they mean liberation business. That spirit must not be charred by only looking inwardly. Our beloved Vice President has said everything good about you yesterday. But here I don't take it kindly that you meet to chart out your future without others.

Granted, regional gatherings aren't new in our struggle. Greater Upper Nile had similar conference held in Panyagor in 2003, and Greater Bahr El Ghazal people did their own in Tonj area few months later. But at that time, the two aforesaid conferences (Panyagoor and Tonj) were largely about national focus opposed to regionalism matters. We are hearing that Ekuorians have discussed unity, Justice

and prosperity, and the imposing questions are: unity against whom? In another word, with whom are equatorians uniting against? Southern Sudan has poverty, illiteracy, diseases and underdevelopment as main challenges for our new state. We have no more enemies among us so to design an outfit. We shared similar challenges and nothing will really be peculiar to Equatoria and not to others.

How about justice, who can paraphrase it further here? I hear some saying that Equatorians don't want police, prison and wild life nationalize. They want their sons and daughters to occupy any of the said security forces. They are even entertaining the idea that the army should be shared equally among the three states. The big Vice President had yesterday been close to same sentiments to the delight of the participants. My ears couldn't believe it, when he questions the kind of federalism under GOSS, the government he is the second most powerful person. The same government two governance perspectives! Am confused why these two leaders contradicting themselves in public! That is another topic another day.

I doubt whether there is true Southerner who will ever agree to federalize our security units. Nigeria has a federal system on everything but not security; the same is true with the remaining Northern Sudan, India and the United States. Why do we create parallel arrangements or laws, when our laws talk of nationalizing security. Please fellow Southern Sudanese (Equatorians), leave our security status, structures and deployment alone; claim anything else and not the army, police, prison, wild life and fire brigade. That is a red herring thing we should stay away from. The South needs that mixture!

Look justice has another side of the coin called injustice; the later is done by a system manned by human hands and minds. If we take that someone somewhere has inflicted injustice to Equatorians, then who is he in the first place for us to kneel down and ask him to correct injustices done against Equatorians. We have missed the point therefore! The best place we could have use to fix things is the Book (constitution); if we failed to put up laws that will guarantee justice, equality and good governance, conferences would do us nothing. That is where we got it flatly wrong.

I don't have time to argue about 'prosperity' catch due to time, but the summation of what we have been saying in many words above is that regional conferences however noble their causes they are trouble shooters and hence problems in making. Already the public (say other regions) is calling it a perfidy scheme or Kokoro Renaissance Conference; a can of worms that was effectively applied by Khartoum to slice our psyche. That might not be the case in Nyakuron anyway.

Proponents of the conference however argue that one of the resolutions of the Nyakuron Conference would touch power; say for instance presidency quest or key slots in the executive, more counties or constituencies. If for example we rotate presidency, then why not do it. International borders for the three states should be

manned by Equatorians and the list is long. The drawback in the long run after we have chosen to go regionalism, would be that we will never be Southern Sudanese but groups; I must repeat myself here. South Sudan comes first!

Some of us have tried to advocate for years the need for unity based on what an individual could do and not where that particular person comes from. Dr. Garang our founding father had made it vividly his strategy when he first appointed Chief Administrators in our ten states. He was conscious of our diversity but the same time ready to mould different parts of the South into something. We need each other for our common good. Regionalism is bad; we spent years together and no need to separate at the end of everything, I don't care whether Equatoria Conference will complement the GOSS Task Force work, the point is this: how will the resolutions of this conference going to fit into the national Development Plan of the larger South when one section of our society move to start a liberation from within. Why do we want to chase away other Southerners in our cities and states at this stage when we have enough land, opportunities and resources to share together? Why would anyone start to rewrite ugly history we had closed, known then as regionalism? Please spare us such divisive theories, the new world is moving together not as pieces?

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REBELLION OR NO REBELLION, THE SOUTH IS MOVING ON!

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 5, 2011

No one had expected the likes of Gen. George Athor Deng and Major David Yauyau to hold up arms against the government of the people of Southern Sudan, the very government they have been struggling to establish--which in fact they did. But the past is the past; we have these men in arms against the state with treason charges hanging over their heads. They have made it abundantly clear that they are there to destabilize the new nation, unless they are allowed to make their way. They wanted the government to tumble or fall. Fortunately however they will have to wait and wait longer for that to happen.

The government in Juba was dully an elected government, and nothing could go between it and 2015 unless through unconstitutional short cut means known in another language as coup de tat. Apologists must tell us something new, not the democracy we have been through. This is a reality we must leave it or take it, and hereby advice on the onset our brothers that claim to be fighting for quick change to think again. Southerners aren't fool to believe losers because they think this person is a scientist or belong to our clans or tribes. You lose, you lose and you have before you another chance to do your political homework in the future so to win the confidence

of your people. The Home and Away Hotel can't either bring you back the seat you lost democratically last year.

The option to taking arms to intimidate the state is far fetch a daydream; the South will triumph over its enemies whether these enemies come in the form of brothers or political losers. To kill your own people and your own people army is unforgivable, and history will judge our brothers in Upper Nile harshly. But truly, there could be deaths and security threats in Upper Nile against the state but that is just a little storm by little personalities. The region (Upper Nile) is firmly with the government.

Our people must not overestimate the danger pose by rebellion in Upper Nile States. Its normal in the process of the larger crisis, and time will prove that nothing actually was there in the first place. What is there is skirmishes (hit and run), too much hot air, call it propaganda on the side of rebels against the Southern Government with a hope that some perennial dissident groups within the SPLM will leave the party and join them. But time has changed for one section of our society or any tribe to buy any lie anymore. People know that what is happening in Upper Nile is pure malice by some failures to make a point.

So, there is no need for the public to panic from Greater Upper Nile troubled and sick region that has ever been rebelling. Gen. George can't win his home county let alone the entire Upper Nile Region. He has however a few from his Korfulus base, Khartoum of course as well as the white army from Lou Nuer that were left out during army integration processes. To my surprise everyone in Upper Nile wants to be general, that is why villagers left their cattle camps to join the army, what a joke! But above all these (George and the group) have no moral cause to steer up a change. They lost election squarely and this should have shame them if they really know the values of democracy.

The point we are making therefore is that the South can't be taken for a ride and expect things to go on like that. Time to crack a whip is coming. We have just been out of the war and nothing could distract the people of Southern Sudan from noble objectives of putting pieces of their lives together. We want to rebuild this land (put up infrastructures), we want to put food into our stores, we want to let our children come back home for education, we want our health facilities establish to stop the flow of our money to India and Jordan. The list of what to do is long. Our people don't have time to fight one another because someone wants to become a divisional commander or a governor.

But someone proposes that there could be an internal struggle for power within the SPLM party, a situation in which George and the company are mere king's makers. He cited an argument by George himself over Miraya Fm local radio that 'Mr. Kiir is blind'. I end up though not taking him serious because am pretty sure that the SPLM party is very much united, though no one could still rule out the fact some are still nursing the thinking that someone somewhere isn't doing what he supposes to

do but relies to others to wheel him for their personal purposes. There is no power struggle within the SPLM party, I repeat. Take it from this little author.

As security situation becoming daily talk in our bars and public places, our people should rest assure that things are in safe hands of our men in uniform in Bilfam. They know what they are doing and the cat will be let loose once we are out of the wood in July. Opposition groups and their allies in the bush know this fact, and want to destabilize the region before July. They are bound to fail. Our army knows the trees around and the terrains where spoilers could hide, and they would be found out! The South is moving ahead with its agenda despite threats, sabotage, and often empty threats by enemies of the South that are mostly Khartoum backed groups. They had wanted the South to fail, and still wish it fails; but thanks to Kiir-Machar wise leadership, they are there for a rude shock for their lives. The South will move on! Khartoum, what do you want?

Look, the SPLM party and that of the SPLA was tried before by many, and its process has never been reversed. They are called people army because of the composition and formation from day one. They are politicians in uniform and ever there to frustrate individuals who might be interested in selfish schemes against that of the people of Southern Sudan. Our army isn't the best yes, and has public relation problems and lacks training, but they are the best fighters when it comes to defense. No group has ever come top of the SPLA even if anyone kills an SPLA company. The ultimate end of any similar scenario is the rebellious personalities coming back with heavy ranks and heart begging, and nothing more.

I believe we have a future that was written by the blood of our martyrs and nothing will change it whether someone hires a foe or hide in his tribe. Our people are tired of internal dirty games of plotting to overthrow the people government. Time for theories has long gone and it's upon us to adapt to new dawn of majority rule through a ballot box. Military mean is outdated to resolve differences, if they are real issues. Gen. Athor and the likes are insulting our people conscience when they refuse to accept the fact that they are fighting a losing war from unjustifiable causes.

My piece of advice to our army spokesperson, my respected comrade, Col. Philip Aguer Panyang: please don't go to the media about anything related to the army or security; some of these so-called reports might not actually be real security issues but sheer imaginary pictures of what the situation would look like. In our case we are firmly on the ground, and here to stay. The secret of any official press releaser is to deny, deny and deny. Long live the new land!

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THE SOUTHERN ARMY MUST RISE AGAINST SECURITY CHALLENGES

BY ISALIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 17, 2011

There are gunshots daily in Upper Nile states, and occasionally in Western Equatoria State against Southern Army, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (the SPLA) and the civil population. These are in the form of ambushes, raids and skirmishes. The group that attack the SPLA accused the government in Juba of stealing elections in 2010, and must be replaced by another friendly government elected 'democratically' by the people. We have heard names such as George Athor, David Yauyau, Gatluah Gai, Oliny Uluak, and Abdul Baggi Ayii pioneering this change. The group claims to be reformers with the backing of silenced others within the system. I have no comment but to wait and see!

But the unexpected is that there is something awry within our defense system against internal revolts. The army leaders have given away security ground on a false belief that the external focus deserves much attention than the internal ones. The Southern army today is losing its credibility to protect itself and the civil population even within its defined capabilities. The rebels kill and get away unpunished. The civil population is gradually dropping faith in the army that has liberated them. The massacre in Fangak in February this year and the infiltration of Oliny to Malakal couple of nights ago and skirmishes by Gatluah in Western Upper Nile State today, bring to mind a worry that our men in uniform are sleeping, not adhering to their national duties to protect the people and the properties for the people of South Sudan. We shouldn't wake up and say 'its Khartoum who did this or that'. Yes even if that is so, what did the army do in the first place to put off fire before it goes to blame anyone who stokes it.

Therefore I have a feeling that our hard won peace and stability is regressively being stolen before our watch because someone isn't taking his job seriously. Hence there is a need to check out whether the man in charge in Bilpam for our army, Lt. Gen. James Oath Mai is indeed a man for the job or there are elements within his forces that want him to fail. Forget about his glorious past, the reality today is that the General doesn't know who will hit him next. Others are already saying he should resign.

There is a saying that Gen. Athor has more loyalists in Gen. James camp than those following him in the bush. Of course that is a lie, but am afraid the man has people with his contacts in Bilpam. Oh, our land is slipping back to dark days. I expected our government to take the issue of security very seriously. If it means going out for an all out war to stop spoilers, so be it! We are through with referendum and our freedom is already here with us; nothing will change our decision for an independent

nation, whether we have war, called tribal war, or not. Its inexplicable to have small groups going against the tide so to advance the scheme of our adversaries in Khartoum.

Negotiations that do not yield fruits are too bad a gamble. The rebels aren't anymore interested in talking even if we talk, talk and cry. They are in to frustrate us for their own personal gratification. The short man with glib of pride filling his lung, called Athor will not listen to Dr. Machar wisdom and advice about peaceful negotiation; he's hell bound to kill others so to intimidate Juba. I know how he could achieve that purpose (intimidating the government). Unless there is anyone supporting him in Juba the general must pay for his sins. For how long are we going to allow our men to die just like rats in the hands of losers and heartless characters like Athor and Gai? It is so painful allowing this stupid general to roam, harass and displace innocent civilians with no firm response from people defense forces. There is time for everything; our leader offer for amnesty has long been rejected by Athor and the company. I wish I was god to kill this little pig called Athor and put back his life.

Please for the sake of peace, let's not waste time that these people will reconcile with our people. I felt empty when SPLM leaders publicly differ on what to do with the renegade who destroys his own people. Rebellion is a rebellion and nothing short of the same should be delayed. It is about time for President Kiir to reassure our people about being in charged. He's too quiet and this has emboldens his enemies. A time like these a leader must reign and roar. Everything has its time; time to talk and time to act! We must not burry our heads in denial that nothing is actually happening when our innocent heroes in uniform die daily. The army top leadership must think again when dealing with issues touching the military. Let's not display negative image about our army; there are tough times ahead of us. If we cannot contain and arrest situations such as these, how sure are we that we can stand the test of aggression when North strikes us.

Southern Opposition Groups/Parties negative role (insecurity cause)

In fact the so-called Opposition groups that are calling for 50% share of everything are nothing but enemies of Southern Sudan. They spent force, busy bodies. They had enough time with the Southern enemy and have started to regroup to fight within us. Unfortunately, it seems as though there are people who are supporting them within the SPLM party. This is dangerous for an historical party like the SPLM to have a fifth columnist. The party must learn to stick together or splinter. Discipline is key!

I was glad that those who called themselves Southern Opposition Groups have walked out of the Constitution Review Process. That was a blessing in disguise; these people don't represent anything and most of them aren't actually parties but individuals and opportunities with no Southern cause at heart, saved for SANU and FORUM under Bona Malwal. The rest are bunch of brief case personalities who

want to jump to power through Home & Away. Mulana John Luk should continue unperturbed; the Iscariots are gone! We started the war, finish it, arrange peace, and write the interim constitution without them, we can do the same now. After 'too many hands spoil the broth'

In fact it wasn't in the interest of the Southern Sudan to have another "Power Sharing Agreement" done in Juba (Home & Away) behind the back of Southerners, when it should have been time to look beyond our stomachs. Traitors must stay in Khartoum not anywhere in the Southern Sudan. Give them no rest, and please no sharing of power with anyone. The opposition team must first give up practices of sabotage and treasons against the Southern people. We are tired of another internal rift year in year out because the same faces want to be presidents. The world was warming to us, but now they are giving us a pause to see whether we can govern ourselves well. I suggest that the SPLM should cut its ties with enemies cloned as Southerners (Opposition Groups) for good and work with like-minded ones such as the aforesaid parties. But above all, a measure needs to be taken to safeguard the overall national objectives. The entire opposition groups are on the enemy payroll; a fact that we can deny on earth but it is there. We can't compromise our security; there is someone who threatens to destabilize our country and he/she must be stopped.

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JONGLEI TRIBAL CONFLICT: GOVERNMENT MUST FIND DURABLE SOLUTION

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 6, 2011

It is exactly two weeks when Lou-Nuer Youth in Jonglei State started to attack their cattle herding counterparts and ever-aggressive tribe called Murle. It was devastating and horrific to say the least. There have been displacements and deaths. The recovery will take a while. It is not anymore a small matter, but national problem that must be brought under control to avoid future recurrence. I fought tears when I looked back at what had happen in Jaale in Bor South County few months ago. Now our people are at it again in Lokuangulei. My people are becoming brutal; fear no God and savage against one another, an omen (a bad one) that wasn't there during the liberation struggle.

When people across our land celebrated what could have been arguably one of the blessing years (2011), the people of Jonglei conspired against one another, defying all manners of conventional reasoning and start to crush one another using all available arsenals and means.

I like what our beloved Vice President did when he immediately received the alarming news of Lou-Nuer group moving towards Murle Land. Dr. Riak Machar, in his usual caring spirit, wasted no time, but flew directly into the middle of fire and pitched camp among the advancing warriors of Nuer, in an attempt to persuade them from advancing further. That is leadership! The Youths (Lou) accepted to go home, but on condition that the Government must now take over from them the mission of disarming Murle tribe. They also requested the return of children and women abducted during recent clashes.

The Vice President pleaded that the warriors should now give government the chance to sort out such problems, but two days later Juba was silenced as the Chief Executive was in his village in Warrap along with his home boys on local traditional matters.

The Lou-Nuer Youth knew that the government had in the past made similar promises and no disarmament was done to Murle. They moved on searching for warriors from Murle youth, because then Murle fled and no one knew their whereabouts. They found a few and not much resistance. They entered the skirts of Pibor town on December 31, 2011, the very County headquarters and torched it down to ashes. They didn't want to see anything Murle including Medicine San Frontiers (MSF) hospital there. The local people there left for the bushes. The United Nations contingency and small SPLA force helplessly watched the destruction of the town with no finger to lift. On Sunday morning they left to their bases around Lokuangulei.

The same day the 31 December, the President of the Republic emerged from his ill-timed and stretched leave in Akon (home village in Warrap State) and requested the Youth from Lou-Nuer to return to their homes. He also promised that he would send a force from the Southern Army to take control of the situation. Today as things stand, there are signs that Lou-Nuer Youths have moved back to their villages, but there is no activity as to the arrival of the force except a contingent from around Bor areas. The Southern Army arrival could be a long way to come, but also what would be the definite mandate of this force. Let's hold our breath and see what that force will do there during the aftermath.

Though no one could ignore the fact that our young government needs time to pick up, especially in the area of infrastructure, there is no way the government should be left out of the blame for failing to stand up against armed civilians that have continued to terrorize others for nothing. The disarmament that is localized (say done by the state) doesn't help our people; there will always be local politics that frustrate this important exercise. The job should be for the national government to start disarming.

The government humanitarian intervention yes, but that shouldn't take attention away from insecurity dilemma caused by small arms in the hands of the civil

population. Political divorce isn't an option; people of Jonglei must learn to live together like people of Eastern Equatoria State. You can't rush to heave blame on Lou-Nuer for seeking solution to their perennial problems of child abduction and theft.

How do you feel if another human being comes and take your child away at gunpoint or steal it. I'm not saying that the Murle must be wiped off the face of the earth or innocent lives such as children and women be involved, but I want Murle youth to feel the pinch! Your own child sometime must face the rod unless he/she spoils. Who lied that the wombs of other women from other tribes will have to produce Murle children? I want this chapter of civilians fighting one another closed; enough with deaths in Jonglei and other cattle rustling areas in our land. The SPLA should do its job.

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WHY RETURN THE REMAINS OF TRAITOR ATHOR TO HIS FAMILY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 29, 2011

This question is directed to decision makers in Juba, people who said the body of renegade Athor must be returned to his family in Khorfulus or wherever for burial. This matter must look simple but grand in interpretation. The idea was bad! Why return his body there? What precedent are we setting for others in our land on this same path (treachery)? I thought his body should have been left to the birds of the air and wild animal, like others he had brutally killed for no reason at all. What did this man do good to deserve a decent burial? The advisors of the Vice President must be careful (I have a piece of advice down here to the big man anyway). The idea of 'honoring' Athor in death is a mistake.

Are the authorities planning to bury Athor decently because he's is a Lt. General or is it that he is a rebel leader. Why didn't the state then burry Colonel Gatluak Gai? Everyone knows that Col. Gai was 'buried' by the army and that was it, why should traitor Athor be given state special treatment, a blunder that could raise unnecessary emotions to victims of his rebellion. How will widows and children of Athor ruthless killing feel when the murderer body is taken to his hometown? The one who came up with the idea of Athor body return to his family don't care about what this man did to the people of South Sudan.

Why do we have to do just that (return his body) when we had wished Athor to die? Personally I had wanted him to die earlier, and us to follow later. Traitor Athor stands condemned alive or dead. Any other traitor deserves similar treatment, and

this must be a lesson to those who are still among us doing dirty things underground against the people of South Sudan. No right-minded man therefore would reward a wrong.

We have been complacent in correcting things, and this must be made to end. By posthumously honoring Athor, we are not doing justice to ourselves and to his mindless war victims!

It points to earlier hypotheses that, perhaps there are some members within the Government in Juba who are indeed members of the rebellion in Upper Nile. Those who wanted Kiir-Machar government to go through unconstitutional means. There is no illusion about their intent and plans. They are among us, majority of them are in the un-finished business (rebellion) of the 1990s. They are guided by our sons and daughters in the Diaspora. They want power, and Athor being an obstinate and know little about the world around him was used to advance this agenda. These people are to be stopped.

There is nothing that can go on forever and look forward for an end to rebellion among our society in general and in Upper Nile in particular. A sick region that continue to pose a danger to our long cherished peace. I don't mince anything against any traitor. Going to fight your brother or sister because of greed or under tribal influence is unforgivable. Corruption and others can't take us to war, men. Corruption song is a farce and nothing more.

But the rotten idea of burying Athor in his home village, using public resources isn't a laughing matter. Why waste resources on that mad man remains? The United Nations chopper should have been used to help ferry troops to the borders of Lou-Dinka-Murle or else send to transport medicine and food to our returnees along the Sudan border. Traitors and sympathizers must give us a break, and not to fool us in believing that they are championing of human rights, sanctity or dignity of hum being. We have been there and we know the true color of these 'advocates'. One of them came from Khartoum few months ago and has been busy doing his normal job of treachery, the true sponsor of Athor's activities

Juba must wake up and spare us another shock. Traitors have supporters within us; I must repeat myself, a hundred times here. I'm a bitter man! Unless something concrete is done, the peace we yearn for will elude us behind our backs! Juba needs to understand that scars of rebellion are still fresh and no one need another split. Enough with persuasion for Upper Nile people, they won't listen. Someone must take charge now; otherwise the situation (rebellion) will turn tribal.

Someone has charged (unsubstantiated of course) that the rebellion in Upper Nile is being done for one or two leaders there in Juba. This has partly been supported when Mayom Group/Rebellion in Western Upper Nile State (so-called Unity State) call

for Juba regime change or toppling Kiir government minus the Vice President. I don't know how could the Vice President survive if Kiir goes.

But the true concern here is that the group has majority backing of people who are from the Vice President very constituents, and since they come from there, there is a furor that the big man (Dr. Machar) isn't doing enough to quell the rebellion there. My little advice to the man of the people is that he must demonstrate to Thomas' that he has nothing to do with the rebellion. The charge is sticking, and unless he distances himself from these busy bodies by firmly and practically do something about that rebellion. His soft stand toward the rebellion in Upper Nile in general has cast serious doubts about his future leadership of handling rebellion against the state. Persuasion must be supported by realities on the ground. Athor body row has confounded matters. Sir, don't be one-sided thinker. At times a leader will have to risk, after all, that is his/her constitutional mandate to protect the system and others.

May peace be there among us in the Year 2012! Down with Athors, the Akols and the company.

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SOUTH SUDAN AND THE SUDAN NEED STRONG BILATERAL TIES

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 21, 2011

The Republic of South Sudan (RSS) and the Republic of the Sudan (RS) relationships have reached its lowest ebb ever. During the Interim Period from 2005 to 2011, the two erstwhile foes had differences, but the situation didn't reach the height of the military and wild provocations, as is the case now. After the split in July this year, the two countries have failed the test of working together on matters generated by the same. The matters were made worse when the two traditional friends of the South (the Blue Nile & Southern Korfofan) were declared war zones by the National Congress Party (NCP).

Between RSS and RS there have been accusations and counter accusations against one another, a scenario that have technically put the two countries into unnecessary cold or 'hot' war. There is no need for hostility to be exact brethren, even if the two countries disagreed on pertinent matters of coexistence. The two countries therefore must work out some ways to peacefully resolve their differences. Belligerency and confrontation won't help resolve the outstanding differences, but dialogue. For the good of the people of the two nations, there has to be ties and bilateral relations, bad blood and ugly history notwithstanding

For the Republic of the Sudan, just to begin, they must play a fatherly role to matters related to South Sudan, and the RSS should also not forget the history that binds it with that 'father' called the Republic of the Sudan. But the father shouldn't push the little son to a hard rock. The 'boy' won't find space to breathe. Khartoum ought to relax its stance on Abyei, Border Demarcation, citizenship and its restrictive trading policies or market practices against the RSS.

The RS has a fundamental role to play when it comes to building of relationship with the RSS. RSS has just started from nowhere and RS needs to show restraints and patience and help this new nation to pick up. In contrast, what the Sudan is doing right now, by competing with the new emerging nation called South Sudan, is not desired! They must go slow and complete the noble mission they have started in the Kenyan town of Machakos in 2002.

A responsible government can't and will not be lured into prolonging the suffering of its citizen it purports to protect. Khartoum being the epicenter for political and military mantra of the larger Sudan should have avoided becoming obstacle to other regions well being. There is no reason for that at all. The South Sudan event (separation) was bound to happen, whether Khartoum was for it or not. The split was to take place willy-nilly and no one should bend on punishing anyone about it.

Khartoum must allow the people of Abyei the right to choose their destiny, as came from the Abyei Protocol. It must start with allowing the ruling by the Courts of Arbitration in The Hague on the borders then actual exercise. These people deserve to go for plebiscite; the sooner the better. There is no need to keep them in political limbo and under harsh conditions. Their situation in Mayen Abun and other surrounding areas in Warrap State is indeed pathetic. As things stand, their political status is shrouded with uncertainty with no much interest anymore these days from people with whom the Abyei people have entrusted their future (say Juba). Khartoum must exercise maturity and let the Dinka Ngok to decide their future in an atmosphere of friendship.

On the border impasse, Khartoum shouldn't push inside territories of Dinka, Balanda and Shilluk. The Sudan is big compares to the South. The 1956 Border between the North and the South is archaic known to everyone. Anyone from the North and the North can tell where the border lies. Jau is even deep inside and there are other places west of it where Khartoum has encroached. The current South Sudan map is interfered and North ought to tame their ambition. You can't bring the border between the South and the North to Fangak in Jonglei State. Land was why we died.

Juba on their side must understand that Khartoum needs a market and that is why it has sought and knocked at the door of the East Africa Community. The South to the North should have been a permanent trading partner, not Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia or Chad. Juba should open up for their Northern country because

without it, the South would choke the Northern an already battered economy after the split. Yes we belong to East Africa, but Khartoum should have been our first trading partner. We have been spending a lot of money on building materials, food, medicine, etc coming from East Africa, but the North could have been cheaper.

Socially, we still have hundreds of thousands if not millions of Southerners still living in the North. We have enough children in Northern schools than those around here, majority of them are in colleges, isn't this a factor to keep up with that relationship? Yes I do think so; we must endeavor to find ways of working with the Northern Sudan. We must hence not engage the North in clandestine theories to destabilize it. If the North will reciprocate, well and good and if not, we will be justified when we go on the offensive to paralyze the North. President Kiir in this respect must get back to President Al Bashir for a peaceful resolution of the outstanding issues.

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WHO'S THE FOUNDING FATHER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN?

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

DECEMBER 7, 2011

I'm probing to seek genuine answers not to provoke anyone or anything against our heroes, dead or alive. History is a beautiful thing, if it is interfered with and poorly written it back fire against values that guided human dignity and honor. Every leader in our case is a founding father in his/her own right, and the public will have no choice but to accord them the necessary place in the annal of our history. We owe them utmost appreciation for what they have done for the freedom of our people!

Now that the liberation dusk has settled, and the mission is over, to whom should we tie this title called 'father of the nation' or 'founding father of the Republic'? This is an important question whose time is right. The other day in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in Juba, I found a beaming man distributing small books written by so-called Bahr El Ghazal Council headed by the former Chief Justice Judge Ambrose Riiny Thiik, in which they have labeled Kiir as the Founding Father of the Republic and Garang as the founder of the New Sudan Vision and Nation. May be there are other books in which Garang was equally given the same title (founding father of the nation). If that is the case, then there is a problem that needs deciphering.

I find it less talk about matter (because of its sensitivity), but for us in the media we always go for the truth and solutions for any anomaly or vague picture. Keeping quiet and allow the matter to die alone won't help. It won't die naturally, it will hurt many, it has to be made clear on the onset. Talking underground either isn't a nice thing to

do. Mr. Ambrose mind has this argument: that Kiir should be the man, since in Kiir watch, the freedom of our nation and its proclamation were consummated. To them Garang is like any other great leader such as Saturino Ohure, Emelio Tafeng, Joseph Lagu etc. I don't have to stand on their way of thinking.

The issue here by the way is not about personalities but about us. Every leader we have had is fresh in our memory including every martyr that died in the course of our freedom. We are free at last and proudly grateful for a job well done by our leaders. The challenge now is whether we could keep up with the cause they have been fighting most of their lives. May we make the dreams of our leaders a reality. May we have a truly united and stable country under President Salva Kiir Mayardit and his able Assistant and man of the people H.E. Dr. Riek Machar Teny! May we have showers of blessing anytime from now, and that we should live in peace among ourselves and towards our friends.

Having prayed and sincerely wish that things go for better for our people, I however don't see any reason of taking you away from our topic. To this little author, there is no incentive to deny a credit to one of our great leaders and award it instead to his colleague in the arm struggle Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit. Gen. Kiir is aware of it, and always reserves himself a second fiddle accolade (at least publicly) to his brother and boss Dr. John Garang. Some people have tried the button of malice on the expense of Garang's legacy, but Comrade Kiir has resisted them, and I wish he continuous that way. Garang for starters was too heavy a man, so superior, unique and anything (a joker if you like). He was original and wasn't a pretender, but above all was an inspirer and a visionary, qualities that critical for a leader of any nation.

Let's briefly define the majestic phrase ' father of the nation' before we visit other historical leaders of other countries. According to Oxford English Dictionary, "father of the nation" " is an honorific title given to a man considered the driving force behind the establishment of the country, state or nation". Also The Free Dictionary put it that: the founder of the nation is "a person who founds or establishes some institution". By face value of that brief definition therefore, you could go on making your own conclusion (s).

Remember it is not about achieving independence or being the first president that makes anyone the founding father of the nation. That is not necessarily the case! It is rather recognition for a cumulative and extraordinary efforts an individual has exerted in the formative stages of a nation.

For example in Egypt, Saad Zaghloul (1859-1927) couldn't have been recognized as the founding father of the Egyptians if an independence ticket was attached to that title. The first president of Egypt was Mohammed Naguib (in 1952). Namibia on the other hand became an independence nation under Sam Nujoma; he was sworn in as first President after his SWAPO took over from the South Africans in 1990. But the founder of that nation remains none other than Hosea Kutako, not Nujoma.

Tunisian Habib Bourgaiba is known as the father of that nation but before him were others that witnessed the achievement of independence, why? Because of what he has established there, something others before him didn't do, and what other after him were and will try to build on.

Sierra Leone Thomas Peters became a founding father among many more because of his 'driving force' when he convinced the British Abolitionists to help settle 1,192 Black American. The same is true in China with Sun Yatsen, who is currently holding the title the 'father of the nation'. Everyone could think that Mao Zedong is the founding father of the Chinese people, but that is not the case. Indian Vallabhbhai Patel freed that country from British rule, but still the honorific title was given to Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948).

Liberians Joseph Jenkins Roberts became a governor in 1841 for seven years, but that country wasn't colonized. He is the current founding father of the Liberian Republic. South Africa is struggling now to rewrite their history by giving the title to Nelson Mandela but before him in the then Free Orange State were Jacobus Groenendall, Josias Philip Hoffman, Pieter Jeremias, Francis William Reitz etc. Afghanistan Ahmed Shah Abdali who is the founding father of that nation came earlier before others, and he is recognized for his efforts in 1747. We can go on and on, but the point we are making is that it is not about someone overseeing an independence that makes anyone an automatic founding father, it is about what a nation think someone has tangibly contributed for a nation building. I thought Garang could be a serious contender there.

You may disagree or not, yet it is essential to be careful before we rush to give everyone that title when he doesn't deserve it. Kiir to me has done something but it's too early to crown him the founding father of our nation. We would be doing injustice to his predecessor who actually erected our foundation (at my best judgment). May be we needed to be generous to give it to Garang, prejudices aside. I'm seeing President Kiir being push so hard; the people that are doing such things aren't helping him in any way.

I don't know why some people become so tribalistic and parochial in their heads against the ordinary. I doubt whether we are sincere. Mr. Ambrose and others please don't Gogrialize this title, leave Kiir alone; he is there because Garang was there (do you get it right). Kiir is one of the founders of the SPLM and First President of the Republic of South Sudan, nothing more.

In summation let's have this matter known, not each interested group projected it in books or someone writing it somewhere, it confuses the public. We want to give credit to one among equals someone who has done extraordinary efforts for our freedom. I don't know who is legally responsible to put this matter to rest, but I presume that the Ministry of Heritage could initiate the process, and then Council of Ministers to pass it to Parliament and finally it is there promulgated. Since there is

huge conflict of interests, say some groups that have now engage in crowning Kiir, it will take a while for this matter to be resolve. I salute Abu Sala with all of my heart!!!

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SULE REBELLION: SOMEONE MUST COME CLEAN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Politicians in the Republic of South Sudan have no intention yet to detach themselves from military activities against their own brothers and sisters on the other side of political divide. This is the case in point about our big brother and elder Mulana Peter Abdulrahman Sule of the United Democratic Front, one of the numerous Southern registered political parties. Brother Sule was caught in military attire, observing training of youths for a rebellion against the state in Munduri East County of Western Equatoria State. His men opened fire and there were deaths on both sides, an unfortunate thing indeed to believe in this point when we have already crossed to the very 'Promised Land.'

The incident had shocked so many people in the land except in Khartoum and those who have been wishing the South to fail; our own brothers and sisters whose loyalty is stretch between their heads and stomachs. Mulana Sule has no military taste since he was young, and people started to scratch their heads in disbelief whether the report is real or imaginary. The old man is now under detention along with a few others, and the big question that comes is, whether the old man was alone or under a larger picture we must eagerly wait to see. The latter hypothesis is what this piece is all about: whether Mulana Sule was indeed acting unilaterally or from a stand point view of others, probably groups that boycotted the Transitional Conference debate earlier this year.

Role of Security Operatives

But before we discuss further, I have an issue with the security system in our country; the very people we rely on to protect the Southern interests from spoilers outside and inside the country. The system of security has come under serious challenge, something the authorities concerned must look into before something unthinkable or terrible occurs to our democratic nascent system. Either informers or their bosses know little about what it takes to avert damage or danger or the group itself is full of saboteurs that want the elected government of the people of Southern Sudan to fall.

Security experiences of last year show that there was a great lapse in the security operations. We had an incident where several officers were massacre by renegade

George Athor in Dolieb Hill Military Barrack. The deaths could have been avoided had the security people were for their jobs. Gen. Athor intention became much crystal when he moved his headquarters to his home place of Korfulus. No proper proactive actions were taken to contain him and attempts later after the incidents didn't help the situation. In few words, the entire security operation is in serious credibility problems.

Rebels have their backers elsewhere

Allow me to move a notch higher to implicate some quarters (probably later deviate heavily on one perennial problematic character) related to brother Sule military activities in the Munduri land. How could someone come to a busy place like Eastern Munduri and stayed for four good weeks without the conviction of the host authorities or the knowledge of the security? How did that happen before the watchful eyes of the entire State Authorities and its Legislative Organ in Yambio? What of the Commissioner of the County in question with its administrators as well as the MP, aren't they not part of the plot to overthrow the government in Juba and if not how do you leave them out in this scenario? I look forward for more queries on the side of the people around Western Equatoria State in general and people around Munduri in particular! Someone or group of people are on the know, about Sule treason activities and the law shouldn't spare anyone.

The place where Sule and his men were doing training (military camp for Sule rebels) and the County headquarters is a few kilometers apiece, and you wondered what did the people think shouldn't have been asked about that happening. To be exact, the authorities and the people there need more explanation about episode leading the presence of military camp before the nose of the authorities.

What of the MP for that area (Munduri East) is he innocent, and if yes, what was his effort through his people to denounce and disown the presence of Sule Military activities there. We all know that the very MP is estranged member of the SPLM who has been in and out of the party from time to time, and had all along he has been trying to go with a wind that conspire against his party the SPLM. Dr. Richard K. Mulla and the Commissioner of that County to my view are to be quizzed. The Commissioner is a close ally of Mr. Mulla and the two have connived this time around in a big way.

Is Dr. Lam's presence in Juba a factor in the Mr. Sule rebellion?

Sule yes, could now be behind bars (according to impeccable sources, says the head of state), but others are still at large something the security should pursue with the vigor it deserves. Is Dr. Lam Akol presence in Juba a factor in this development? The two men (Sule and Lam) have are birds of the same feathers; the two had a shared conspiracy tendency from their Nasir rebellion in the 1990s when the former was co-opted from his Imatong Liberation whatever. They left together for SPLM-United

accompanied briefly by late Arok Thon Arok, after Lam broke rank with Dr. Riek Machar in 1994.

During referendum time, the two men made inflammatory releases suggesting that the referendum should be held back until leadership issue in Juba is sort out. They called Juba administration a Dinka thing and must be replaced. How could someone do just that? The sickness that Dinka are always bad guys must be used to undermine their place in our society. Let this old and tired policy finger pointing be refused at whatever cost.

About Lam, the man never voted during referendum and so did his supporters. If anyone didn'tt vote in the referendum, what stake does such a Southerner has about the South really? Should Lam be left alone to go on mobilizing as this is his wish and that of some quarters, then we must be prepared for another shocker! Dr. Lam wants power, power and only power and unless this is done, the people of the South will not find rest they badly desired.

Dr. Lam strut our streets, the very place he had wanted annexed to the North for fifty more years, and I wonder why allow him to do so. Mr. Kiir sees nothing with that! The president has been played into Lam dirty tricks once more, just to believe a lie that nothing is wrong for him campaigning in the capital city. The old man isn't about cooperation with the government of the day on matters of 'national interest' but planning a back door stage scene. I failed to see this man changed! I don't care whether there is a deal the two leaders had actually struck behind everyone knowledge, but the truth is that Dr. Lam presence in Juba is a threat to our national security; our people will pay a cost once more, and Sule incident is a case in point for more queries towards the man who thinks he knows everything and should be left to rule the people he once betrayed.

Now you may ask where I got this hunch about Lam factor here. History is a good teacher, his past political records are volumes of folders about a conspirator who isn't yet tired of becoming quiet at his age. I sincerely doubt his two public appearances in Juba in less than two weeks. One in Nyakuron a week ago, and again on Friday the 11/11/2011; this makes me suspicious that the man is struggling to fight a guilt of something. He mentioned 'no violence democratic change' more than five times. His body language among other things then tell it that something was afoot, that must be denied and cleared. It is the same Lam who repeated happy to called Garang a 'dictator' and a charge that never struck. The man himself wasn't better in his series of journeys from one party to another. Imagine he came late in 1986 and start immediately to call for change for a system he never participated in its formation, what a nosy man that was!

Old theories, same person

In Northern Upper Nile as Zonal Commander in 1988, he requested some powers which he used draconically to kill and lord over everything to coerce revolutionary members who were opposed to his dictatorial style of managing guerrilla affairs. Garang removed him elsewhere. When he found a new space as spokesperson of the Movement due largely to his sly and commands of crank and deign, he started to go over board about everything concerning others. In Addis Ababa and then in Itang at the end of the 1990s, Dr. Lam character became subject of discussion to some members after he chose to question anything done in the field and around there.

Just before Itang evacuation in June 1991, the writing was already on the wall that something is going on, and everyone knows. In Nasir the coup was already known even to Garang weeks before the actual announcement. My Cadet colleague told me in July that year that Lam had talked to them about a plot. Funny, Nasir coup leaders didn't know that everything was everywhere! In short and for the sake of our people Dr. Lam should be exiled. To bring him to the government won't help; leaving him out either would be a disaster. Sule case has awakened patriots that there is a need to search souls about Dr. Lam presence in the capital city Juba.

But learning through Southern Sudan Television on that fateful evening about brother Sule when the army spokesperson Col. Philip Aguer Panyang, I felt more in-secured than when I was in the bush; it is unacceptable therefore to have someone plotting against the people's government on the behest of Khartoum and foreign spoilers, and our leaders allow it to go unchecked. President Kiir and our beloved Vice President should carefully rethink their today's business with the opposition groups.

Suggestions

These people have no regards for the welfare of the people of South Sudan but their stomachs. I hereby suggest the followings: the so-called Opposition parties are to be vetted and new law regulating the political parties enacted quickly. This means that there are some individuals that called themselves parties that are bankrolls by Khartoum to destabilize the South and these people activities are to be thoroughly and regularly monitored and if needs be muted it. If it means cracking down or closing down their activities in the South, so let it be!

Secondly (related to the above), our President must watch his back as to his relationship with the Democratic Change in particular and other so-called opposition groups. This man called Lam can't contribute anything positive for the South. He is still the same character of many years ago. He has full presence in Khartoum as we speak, and in Malakal South of Renk. What does he wants? Without him, the South will move on. The country doesn't need Dr. Lam; he is a bad politician! The Head of State should stop his endless reconciliation bids and go for the medicine Sule had wanted dosed on the people of South Sudan.

Third, I look for a country where citizens exercise discipline in pieces or in total. We have lost that element and someone must enforce it. Under Kiir things are getting out of hand so slowly but surely. He must burry his heads that things are rosy because the South has become an independence state. People aren't anymore listening. The South has more collaborators than during the war, people who pledge allegiance in their lips when their hearts are elsewhere. Mr. Security, bring Sule sympathizers to book, and go against rebellions in Upper Nile. Governor Bangassi J. Bokosoro please sir form an inquiry against the Munduri East County Authorities and around the place of incident.

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GADDAFI'S DEATH: SHAME ON SO-CALLED LIBYAN LIBERATORS

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 26, 2011

The world has watched with shock the humiliation inflicted on the true African son called Muammar Al Gaddafi on Thursday 20th October 2011. It was one of the worst days of African history. The men of Misrata and the entire Banghazi Western stooges never understood the consequences of their action against the man who had brought Africa pride. You can't hate a leader that has led you for over forty years.

The late Maummar al Gaddafi's body was ridden with bullets and then stripped naked and shown like dog to the world; something which is so un-African. It leaves someone with a feeling that indeed the Arabs in general and Libyan so-called liberators are terrible, wild, and brutal, thugs and inhuman people. How could these people treat their leader and someone so respected in the continent in that manner? How could that be done in the modern era of human rights and in an increasing civilized world?

No wonder, it was the American President called Hussein who first called the brutal killing of an African hero a 'new chapter.' What 'chapter' is this American man saying should now be opened, chapter to loot African wealth and keep them on aid? Is President Hussein not now a murderer by admitting the murderous scheme of the Americans towards the defenseless and innocent people around the world? The blood of Maummar al Gaddafi will be on the neck of the Western leaders not the Thabactis of Misrata. These people (Thubagt or Muntasir/Kuwaiti descents) didn't know what they were doing after all, as the West plotted using NATO to get rid of the man they have been looking for for years.

The African continent has lost a brilliant leader who stood his ground not to budge to Western catch phrases of 'democracy and freedom.' There is nothing better about democracy or freedom when it doesn't bring your family daily food to your table, allow your children decent education, house you, give you roads and provide basic healthcare and facilities. In the then Libya under Gaddafi, we had everything, with no single dollar from the Americans. Our big brother Gaddafi was able even to send some bread to others in need in Africa for free, unlike Western packages sent with strings attached, supervised by the same Westerners. Look at Senegal with so-called stable democracy right from day one, how do you make of the gap between the rich ordinary Libyan and so-called Senegalese? The difference isn't that because Libya has oil and Senegal has nothing, but the latter is heavily depending on the outside than from the inside resources from the country.

By Gaddafi's death, the continent will have to blame itself for failing to protect him and safeguard the continent un-warranted invasion by aliens and pretenders. The African Union (AU) and most Africa leader -save for the chairman of the Commission of the African Union Mr. Jean Ping, President Gabriel Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Y. Kaguta Museveni of Uganda - coiled with their tails down to their feet in fear before Western aggression. The so-called revolution in Libya wouldn't have succeeded had the Africans stood their ground to condemn and push for reconciliation and internal peaceful transition to democracy.

What we are hearing that the liberation of Libya is complete is nothing but a hoax. That society will remain divided for many years to come. The reason being that any patch-up arrangements from the outside that are not internally driven will have a short life span, given other experiences in other parts of the world. Libyans, especially youth, were in support of change and plural society, where everyone could be anything, not one family ruling the country forever. But naked change without direction and clear-cut issues that need change is precarious.

The continent must prepare for more trouble after the North of it has been overtaken now technically by the West. It will just be a matter of time before Westerners call for Regime change left and right of Africa with NATO support in the air. The continent of Africa with the support of proxy elements within has failed to read the signs that the West would like to take over this place and make it a dumping ground for the likes of President Yaya Jammeh of Gambia, Ethiopian dictator Prime Minister Meles Zinawi, President Paul Biya of Cameroon and other despotic leaders in Asians countries.

Others called it a beginning to an end for dictators but it is actually the new beginning for colonial and conquerors of the least developed world. Our people (Africans) are robbed of the lion and serious leader whose heart was to unite the continent and turn its ever-ending misfortunes to fortunes like the Libya. I mourn for the death of our leader Maummar Al Gaddafi and curse the people of Misrata and their backers for killing the African man. At least they should have been kind to keep

him alive, and not to go barbaric to humiliate the African contingent. Shame on you Mr. Mustafa Al Jalil.

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***HAS THE BATTLE TO SAVE GARANG LEGACY
REVIVED SPLA 1991 IDEOLOGICAL
DIFFERENCES?***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 20, 2011

On 28 August 1991, the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement split into two factions, one led by Dr. Riek Machar Teny, the current vice president of our Republic. The other faction was led by the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior. The former was to be known as Nasir Faction and the latter as Torit Faction. The Nasir Group proclaimed large territory in the Greater Upper, whilst the Torit faction had its presence across other regions of Equatoria and Bahr El Ghazal. There were factional and fraternity fights, displacements and deaths; events politicians in Khartoum used to weaken the liberation struggle for the people of Southern Sudan. It was a difficult episode in our contemporary history.

Nasir Faction made their ideological positions very clear on issues to do with the objective cause of the liberation struggle, human rights problems within the movement, and the internal managerial style under Dr. John Garang. The group questioned the 'new Sudan vision,' and they gave reasons why it is unattainable. To them there is no way southerners should shy away from declaring their intention of fighting for the South and about the South. Concerning human rights the group thought it would be wise to respect human dignity and allow people space to speak up and criticize anything that is not in place. Over leadership, they thought Garang was overwhelmed doing everything, and this could wear him out. At least that is what is on the minds of most.

We don't have time here however, to dissect these claims, and to discuss whether the rebellious men leaders of Nasir were serious or not, but one thing is clear, and that is, the Nasir Faction architects made a fatal mistake to declare war against their own people immediately after the movement lost its political and military base in Ethiopia, and at a time when Juba was marked out to be 'smoked.' Instead of fighting Khartoum, with whom we had fundamental cause to, we were pursuing. Our brothers there turned their ammunition against their own brothers and sisters on the front line fighting Arabs. There are incentives though, through Nasir's political tragedy, in that we were able to look inwardly into our house and make some corrections. Yet consequences of SPLA split are still fresh and visible. One of which

is this debate over who should be the father of the nation, a front that has been sharpened by Diasporas.

One man made a comment few weeks ago on the same topic, challenging the legacy of Dr. John Garang de Mabior; he made a spirited defense of his position, even in his second letter published a couple of nights ago. Readers are familiar with what others have said in response; those against and others in support of the challenge. This author had also attempted to 'hush' that author on the grounds that it doesn't matter whether Garang was a unionist or a separatist, after all we had achieved our freedom at last what Dr. David de Chan called "ambiguous" vision in reference to the new Sudan vision. Secondly I had wanted that brother to pause and allow our people to heal; as such comments could cause more rift and problems to an already polarized and tribalised society. Third, my intention in my response then to that comrade is that we have pressing matters at hand where Kiir and his administration must held accountable. These are in the areas of high market prices, food insecurity, problem at the higher education system after the split, graft menace, institutional and human development matters, the ongoing disarmament process, reorganization and realignment of priorities for a nation among other pressing matters. I mistakenly trusted the writer. He stood his ground for a case that is popular (save for Garang distracters). Garang is a father of the nation, what is wrong with it? If it were Kiir or Machar, we would have gone with it. Dr. Garang should be left to rest in peace.

Separation vs Unity: who is fooling who?

Now that the debate has gone hay wire when both camps played it dirty to rake up matters of the 1991 split in a more subtle, clever and intelligence passion, what do you make of this matter at the end of it all? I have deliberately brought up the 1991 situation to the equation, because there is too much overtone we had there to attach to the argument. I have carefully read what was written and what wasn't written and have a picture of where we have all come from. Before one hypothesises further or attempts to answer the above question (of what do you make of this matter), allow me to prod into that author's biography. Who is that author, his political school or affiliation, drive and scholarly background. What I have collected thus far behind his reverie and polemic, especially his conclusion of the letter of reply to a certain Dinka man from Australia, that brother is certainly a Southerner, sagacious, unfortunately he has intellectual confidence that borders arrogance. There is also a tinge of duplicity under his garbs that makes him oblivious of others feeling about what he had projected.

He is probably not a politician, a lawyer or professional writer. This is why: politicians mostly are anonymous, ambiguous and are 'liars,' that writer falls outside that box. Lawyers on the other hand play it safe all the time, unless they are accused of libel or defamation. Writers take go beyond the reported matters, but leave matters inconclusive and open, to avoid becoming biased. So who is he? Well, he could be an engineer or a fresh researcher (I might be wrong or right), a group that thought

books or science are indelible or biblical. He doesn't like SPLM party policies and Garang particularly and that is his right and no one could go in between to gag him.

That comrade has laboured to make us believe that he is a good listener or reader to what is in the book about Garang vision of unity. He does not want us to talk about Garang other side of his vision- separation. He called him 'honest,' and 'not a liar.' I disagree. That brother has played duplicity card and this is too bad for the generation to come. He knows everything and insists of being truthful. I hate such charade and wild pretension. If Garang has said he has 'fought separatist,' what is a deal or wrong with it. Even Kiir has also said the same line, as do all others. But their speeches should be judge by their context and that is what makes a difference. What is we say Garang or Kiir were lying, how did that change their level of contribution for the people of South Sudan; should we deny them their historical rightful places and go for 'oscillators' who jump ships any time they think the going is tough? Absolutely not. Credit goes where it is due, and Kiir being a sound minded man doesn't want to be seen as taking the place of his predecessor, the man he highly esteemed.

The SPLM Party has survived threats and will again triumph

The SPLM has lived with such machinations orchestrated by such characters, and nothing has changed. The noble course of liberating the people of South Sudan and deliver their services has not been stopped and nothing will stop it for some time to come. We had tribal groups and individuals who ganged up against the SPLA/M and their fate has been like their treacherous causes. They never succeeded. There is no guarantee this time about that they will now succeed by whipping up support using 1991 diffeences. I have faith in Kiir-Machar SPLM party, no theories that are largely tribal driven Trojan Horse will prevail. Pretenders will try to plot but they must be prepared to wait longer. The party they had 'stabbed' from behind more than once will survive. I am making these points because that brother is heartless to insult the departed. He's a traitor who wants the SPLM/A to split.

Someone must get it off his dirty head that Garang isn't the father of our nation. What Garang and his team have achieved for our people is amazing. There is time for everything, yesterday matters must remind behind. Our people want a break from matters that divide our people. Nuer and Dinka must learn to work together and Shilluk shouldn't relish by throwing fire between them. This is what is all about author intention (to pitch groups against one another) and not because he did not know the truth that Garang was fighting for the rights of his people, and not against the separation per se. Garang fought two wars and by no means should this warrior and defender of our rights be denied his rightful place in our history by malicious among us

Who should be the father of the nation after all?

Let us return briefly to the question we have posed earlier about what do we make out of all these analysis at the end of the day. This is what I think are the scenarios: the SPLA/M has members who are dissatisfied for one reason or another, and these people are looking for an exit strategy. They may have been joined by their colleagues from other political parties, especially the Democratic Change and are hatching a regrouping formula. That brother who wrote that ominous letter is most certainly within that group-those outside the SPLM, who wants to woe others has nowhere to hide. Hiding by challenging the SPLM about Garang legacy won't help. Whether Garang or Kiir were unionists or not isn't the issue.

Secondly, and this could directly go to that author, who do you think could be named as the founding father of the nation? Will it be Gen. Kiir, Gen. Dr. Machar, Mr. Abel, Gen. Lagu, and Dr. Lam? Justice must be served; Garang stands out among equals, as our father (the founding father of this nation). Take it or leave it, it's done.

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GIVE GARANG THE RESPECT HE DESERVES

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 4, 2011

Our generation has become these days inquisitive, opinionated and worst contemptuous if not abusing to anything, even in this case of late hero Dr. John Garang de Mabior the true son and father of this nation called South Sudan. Someone somewhere here last week phooey that our big man Garang shouldn't be amortized or celebrated; this is because he (Garang) wasn't a separatist, but a unionist who only beat an about turn at an eleven hour. He charged that Garang was an obstacle to Southern independence by killing separatists. The writer concluded that the family of late Garang are pushing hard their man, when in fact the credit of championship for separation should have been delivered to someone else, probably SPLM/A Nasir architects. I assume thereafter he was relieved and self elated for having hurt someone he thought could never be allowed a foot note in the history of this country.

Well, I have no problem with opinion or anyone criticizing somebody, the elephant however is that to fake and attempt to be heard out of self misguided malignant against particular person or community is outrageous, and unforgivable. Take it this way on the onset: that pejorative by that writer has nothing to do with the ideas of this man called Garang but more of his character being attack. I have never recall a situation in another country where leaders of Garang type could go through such an unwarranted flay. Though internet politicians have time and again to rub our society in a wrong way, especially matters touching security and ethnic division (and now

history), the innocent people like you and me keep on burying heads in denial that such people aren't doing any damage to us. Unfortunately, they doing what our archrival are doing.

Get me right brethren, no one has any monopoly to go against freedom of expression, yet the kind of abuses we have belatedly attached to our expression worry the concerned little people like this author. I believe with all of my heart that there is always a red herring we must be pussy foot, unless we hurt and later stumble and be laugh at by 'onlookers'. Someone is laughing at us when we hurt one another for nothing. We must prove to the world and ourselves therefore that we are capable of being objectives and civilized in our expressions. Prejudices and the company aside! If we don't, believe me we will not be believe but end up playing around with our own history and the people that brought us pride and dignity. Garang wasn't god, no one could claim it that way, and no gods live among men/women. Each of our leaders has his time, we should be careful to give him the respect he truly deserves than go indirectly otherwise to raise a profile of a loser or under achiever whose political path is incorrigible.

Please, this is serious, unless we pretend and claim to nationalist by 'day' and devil by 'night'. There is no incentive for us to allow scrupulous senior politicians to hide behind their pseudonyms and expect to get away with it. By the way, in which way should Garang go to no history because of his 'new Sudan' project? How did the rebellion of Akuot Atem and Samuel Gai become ideological differences? Strictly speaking, the issue then in Itang wasn't about separation and unity differences but pure power struggle among the then leaders. Again when Garang spoke of fighting separatists did that change his strategy on the ground to free South Sudan? How about his other speeches in which he had called for separation, why didn't we put them together with his speeches for unity and weigh his intention? How about the CPA structure? Common! A unionist couldn't have called for separate systems in one country and still hope to unite the country; where on earth did you find such a model leading to unity my friend. I don't think that specific writer didn't know where Garang heart was but tried to rob us of intelligence by being corrupt and malicious.

Granted, Garang's new Sudan project took a long time to be understood by Southerners, but the reality dawn later that he couldn't have been more right. We then tried separation twice, yeah, and others around the other side of the world have also gone that way, but we all know the consequences of shouting it loudly- it never came through singing it. Garang new project after all have brought us freedom so safe and square, why again do we need to waste time piddle on a noble project done by a noble man?

By calling him father of the nation, we just giving him the acknowledgement for a good job he has done unto us. It is an appreciation for that man really did his part smartly. He is our father! We could be having other 'fathers' but even in a race not all runners win, there must one and only one that should be crown a winner. It is not

about 'running' but about finishing. Garang with all other misgiving like any other human being should be celebrated and it is not about his family doing it but the entire nation reserve him the place for a great job he has done for our people. Give him space please!

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*****2012*****



***KHARTOUM, THOUGH HAS A CASE, MUST GIVE
PEACE A CHANCE***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 27, 2012

Sudan and South Sudan have agreed to disagree. The two countries were made to sign an agreement known as Cooperation Agreement two months ago in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, the very agreement sponsored by the African Union. The agreement at the moment is running into trouble when the devil (s) emerged in the details. The Security Agreement in particular is overshadowing others in the process of implementation.

Each country has struck to its old school of finger pointing. The euphoria that was created as a result of the deal (Cooperation Agreement) is quickly turning to anxiety, apprehension and uncertainty. South Sudan is being denied oil transportation through the Republic of the Sudan, as there are reports of aerial bombardments by Khartoum against South Sudan. The United Nations Mission on the ground is conspicuously in the hiding, while the African Union is lip tied on accusation and counter accusations between the two countries of the Sudan.

Chronically, the Sudanese leaders from day one have all along charged that South Sudan is supporting and harboring their dissidents and are arming rebels fighting their government. The world has also stack odds against Juba on this matter of SPLA-North; that Juba should sever its link with the rebels fighting Khartoum regime. The United States of America in (USA) in particular was critical, a confirmation of which that led to scandalous alleged apology written by President Salva to President Barrack Hussein Obama of the USA. South Sudan Information Minister has since attempted to undo the damage to no avail. What on earth could it be that a leader of another country will have to kneel down to another leader in another part of the world? South Sudanese conscience was wounded if the purported letter was indeed written and dispatch to Washington.

But the sequence of theories helps us understand where did things go wrong in the first for the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Before any jumps to poke blame against the Republic of the Sudan for A and B matters and condemn it, there is an urged need to reexamine our approach toward Sudan and see whether there is somewhere we can find accommodation for our needed relationship. We should also be active solution oriented partner than struck in our comfortable closet of being dismissive of Khartoum. Therefore the charge that our country is supporting SPLM/A-North must not be thrown out of the window just because Sudanese were our enemies.

By the way, I don't like this name call 'South Sudan'; it confuses us with the Sudan. Who are the Sudanese and who aren't? After July 9, 2011, I should have named my country something else. Nile or Azania remains my favorites name, not amorphous thing call 'South Sudan'. Anyway we are straying.

Our differences with Khartoum were all about our political destiny and that was squarely achieved on July 9, 2011. It was the hardest part of it all! The Sudanese to their credit made a bold move to recognize us, and the rest of the world joined them. We parted ways in a manner that was decorum something that surprises many. We are no longer enemies with the Republic of the Sudan but just neighbors. They need us and we need them. Differences that are there are normal between and among neighbors. Neighbors quarrel and still maintain their socio-economic ties. Even Israel is doing the same with Egypt and others. We must not let SPLA-North spoil our relationship with the Sudan.

For the sake of peace between the two countries, time to ask the rebels fighting the North to stop their activities is now. Someone has alluded in writing something closer to what am saying here- the other day. We want borders open and movement of goods, people and services to flow. We need South Sudan and Sudan relations to thaw; we are historically one people divided by politics and ideologies.

The argument by South Sudan leaders that the matter of SPLM/A-North is an internal matter doesn't hold water. It is not enough in itself. How about our charge that Dr. Lam Akol of the Democratic Change and Major David Yau Yau are supported by Khartoum, isn't that not an internal affair of our country? Why do we call their differences with their rebels 'internal affair' and never call ours the same? We must choose between peace and war and not both. Peace is what our people want, not war.

Khartoum will continue to find a reason to disturb our hard won peace. They will go for feeble hearted ones and apologists like Dr. Lam to press their case against us. Khartoum might not be realistic in their demand on disarmament of their dissidents, but we aren't being truthful. One of the Azania's (South Sudan) strategic goals is peace and development so to improve the living standards of our people. Our leaders must demonstrate to Khartoum their willingness to open a new chapter, so for our people to enjoy peace and development after ages of neglect.

Denying must be flavored. South Sudan isn't doing its diplomatic right. Khartoum has stolen the show there. Everything is upside down as we chase after rotten image. The United Nations Mission in our land is breathing fire on our necks. They are everywhere wiring nasty things against us. When it comes to issues like the bombardment of South Sudan unfortunately they are nowhere and when it comes to negativity on anything against South Sudan they in hand to report to New York and Brussels. But also the United Nations Human Right Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) decried one moment when they spotted soldiers of Revolutionary Forces in Yida Camp. No single leader from South Sudan who came out to deny or refute what the UNHCR was saying, a proof that something is indeed going on right there.

Our leadership in Juba should not live the lie that the world doesn't know who arms rebels fighting Khartoum. UN Mission is informing them about every activity in our land. Moreover Khartoum has their own informers, Southerners whose loyalty is divided, especially those on the payroll of Khartoum, those that claim to be opposition groups but they aren't. The Democratic Change of Lam Akol is on top of things. We have also many Northerners around that are doing the dirty job against the Republic of South Sudan. What is more or new?

May be there is no hard proof that Juba is in indeed supporting rebels, but the simple truth that we never severed our link with the SPLA-North more radically keeps some doubt hanging that South Sudan is backing rebels fighting the regime in Khartoum. It will be painful to do just that radical however; these people (Nuba

Mountain, Fur, Masalit, Zangawa, Funj etc) are closely associated with South Sudan. We will have them on matters of peace and development. The world should have helped them in their political predicament.

But we are also not any better; we ought to talk to Northern rebels to join the march for peace and stop using our territory as springboard to topple our neighbor. We can go further to pledge material support for their development and not guns and ammunitions (if that is the case). Through force a change will not be meaningful in Khartoum, after all rebels have no unified agenda for change there. Dr. Khalil Ibrahim outlook was more unifying than our current tribal warlords. South Sudan would have been available then if they had joined our struggle to effect change in Khartoum. After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) particularly after independence of South Sudan, we have evolved into a different entity.

As for Khartoum, they must show maturity and patience against the Republic of South Sudan. They got to kick out Lam Akol and stop supporting David Yau Yau or any other clandestine groups. Time for harmony is here. They got to respect the agreement they have signed with the Republic of South Sudan. They should cease fire on the air against innocent civilians. Their rebels aren't Southerners and our people can't die again like that. They should allow oil production to resume and stop their rogue media from inflammatory remarks against South Sudan leaders or the ruling political party (the SPLM). The President of our Republic however must not join Khartoum belligerency path, but go for peace where he may find it. I was glad that he wanted to pursue it, and if that is the case then he should talk less and work hard for it. If Juba is wrong Khartoum must not go wrong also.

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***SUDAN IS WAGING A WRONG WAR AGAINST THE
PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 12, 2012

The Sudanese Parliament has declared general mobilization for war against the neighboring Republic of South Sudan. Yet they also target Northern rebels holding up along South-Northern border. Indirectly Khartoum is aiming at killing two sparrows using a single stone. It wanted to punish, fail and silence Juba and at the same time stop rebels fighting their government.

For now there seems to be no turning back from that thinking, the path chosen by the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to resolve their internal political problems as well as export troubles to others. The two countries are technically at full and all out war.

But I see Khartoum fighting shadows instead of concentrating on how to settle political differences with its internal opposition groups. The Northern Opposition forces are everywhere even in the South Sudan State, and this has worried Khartoum much not its differences over oil, border and land with Juba. Juba is mistakenly drawn into Khartoum needless war, and the cost for that move will be felt so soon.

Peace Process

This is a way to go! It might be long, but majority of the Sudanese in the North and the South don't see war as a solution to problems facing the two countries. Peace must be given a chance by any cost. Leaders from both South Sudan and North Sudan, especially those in the NCP are advice to return to the negotiating table for dialogue. Nothing is so powerful than language of talking (dialogue) and reasoning. It is about time for Khartoum to drop expansion crusade and work for what that works. No return to war please!

Let's resume talking, and somewhere we must critically check out causes of the current conflict. People talk of oil, border incursion and invasion, but we must not ignore Khartoum security fears after the two areas of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan unrest. They know rebels fighting against them are out to topple their government and South Sudan being so fold to help others in need, especially friends could be a springboard for that project. The security element therefore ought to be given the urgency it deserves. It keeps on coming up during the past negotiations and mediators must find ways of accommodating security concerns by Khartoum.

In another word, once the military dust settles in few days or months to come, there is an urged need to look into this element of rebels fighting Khartoum within space of political rounds of talks currently in Addis Ababa. Perhaps that is where we must begin

There are accounts of accusations and counter accusations that South Sudan is supporting rebels and the opposite true about Sudan. To be exact, Sudan started it, and South Sudan followed suit (support Northern rebels), morally however. There are no secrets about what is happening between the two countries and if healing and reconciliation are anything important to the two regions, there has to be openness and honesty. The two must cease from cheating one another for the sake of peace.

I still see window of opportunity for the two sides to stop the fighting and dialogue. The world must help the two nations in the form of peacekeeping mission and buffer zones. Negotiation must start from cease-fire arrangement immediately, followed by border demarcation exercise. Border current issue is really an issue. Countries must know their international borders otherwise it is possible for temptation to annex lucrative soils of others.

Though the atmosphere is just not conducive for talking at the moment, and the war is in the air, let us do what good men (NCP and the SPLM) did in Naivasha Kenya. To straighten out differences through violence is the last thing when other avenues are not workable. We must learn to seek peace through other means and not through war. Khartoum is wrong here 100%. They still live in the past.

If they continue in that orientation (belligerency), they will be shocked. They will never conquer South Sudan, mark my words! The SPLA has ability to discipline an intruder. They are wasting their time fighting the people of South Sudan for their own down fall. South Sudan has not bowed to anyone. We will withstand any threat!

Wait a minute, I read a lie that Panthou (now renamed Heglig) as part of Southern Kordofan, that is incorrect. South Sudan territories of the 1956 are well documented; Panthou is well deep within Southern territory, let no one again mistaken it using the current corrupted so-called map of the two countries. We still have other areas we will bring back even beyond Panthou. When did Panthou become Northern territory? The people are joking! Panthou is many miles behind in the state of Western Upper Nile

SPLA must not leave Panthou whether Khartoum rains fire on our men or through any pressure from New York (UN) or Addis Ababa in Ethiopia (AU). AU in specific should look away. Khartoum has is invading and they will find men here. If to patch up their economy through Southern land is an issue, then they are wrong. Khartoum must forget it quickly and look for other sources of financing their crumbling economy.

Way forward

The thing we hear over again that South Sudan did this or that is just a divisionary. The fact is that there is a civil war in the Sudan, and South Sudan is paying the price for an imported war. Sudan at the moment doesn't differentiate between South Sudan and her rebels fighting in that territory and this is a mistake.

Now that the Sudan has waged a wrong war against a wrong enemy, leaving Northern rebels behind, the people of South Sudan should stand up shoulder to shoulder, tie their belts and resist Sudan aggression against their territory and people, whether that is through talking or defending. Enough must be enough! If the price of peace is war, our people shouldn't just sit by and allow their leaders to sing 'peace', 'peace' when actually there is no vocabulary called peace to the Sudanese.

Khartoum ought to stop aerial bombardment in the territory of South Sudan. They got to go away from areas along the borders, until demarcation exercise actually takes place. They must cease from supporting Southern dissidents and close down their activities, the same way they did to rebels then fighting Ndjamen Government. If

Khartoum fails to do the right thing to stop harassing us, we will stand up and say a resounding no

There is no need for sovereignty if another country enters your own, curbed away territories, pillaged it and destroyed everything at will. Our people will not watch the North doing just that, at this point in time. We have 'rested' and since the North has pushed us thus far, we must give it another lap. Our people fought in ages and this war is nothing. Let us prepare for the worse as this war has been enforced on us. This message is to you my people (South Sudanese): Nehemiah 4:14

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***KHARTOUM THOUGH HAS A CASE MUST GIVE
PEACE A CHANCE***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 27, 2012

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Our differences with Khartoum were all about our political destiny and that was squarely achieved on July 9, 2011. It was the hardest part of it all! The Sudanese to their credit made a bold move to recognize us, and the rest of the world joined them. We parted ways in a manner that was decorum something that surprises many. We are no longer enemies with the Republic of the Sudan but just neighbors. They need us and we need them. Differences that are there are normal between and among neighbors. Neighbors quarrel and still maintain their socio-economic ties. Even Israel is doing the same with Egypt and others. We must not let SPLA-North spoil our relationship with the Sudan.

For the sake of peace between the two countries, time to ask the rebels fighting the North to stop their activities is now. Someone has alluded in writing something closer to what am saying here- the other day. We want borders open and movement of goods, people and services to flow. We need South Sudan and Sudan relations to thaw; we are historically one people divided by politics and ideologies.

The argument by South Sudan leaders that the matter of SPLM/A-North is an internal matter doesn't hold water. It is not enough in itself. How about our charge that Dr. Lam Akol of the Democratic Change and Major David Yau Yau are supported by Khartoum, isn't that not an internal affair of our country? Why do we call their differences with their rebels 'internal affair' and never call ours the same? We must choose between peace and war and not both. Peace is what our people want, not war.

Khartoum will continue to find a reason to disturb our hard won peace. They will go for feeble hearted ones and apologists like Dr. Lam to press their case against us. Khartoum might not be realistic in their demand on disarmament of their dissidents, but we aren't being truthful. One of the Azania's (South Sudan) strategic goal is peace and development so to improve the living standards of our people. Our leaders

must demonstrate to Khartoum their willingness to open a new chapter, so for our people to enjoy peace and development after ages of neglect.

Denying must be flavored. South Sudan isn't doing its diplomatic right. Khartoum has stolen the show there. Everything is upside down as we chase after rotten image. The United Nations Mission in our land is breathing fire on our necks. They are everywhere wiring nasty things against us. When it comes to issues like the bombardment of South Sudan unfortunately they are nowhere and when it comes to negativity on anything against South Sudan they in hand to report to New York and Brussels. But also the United Nations Human Right Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) decried one moment when they spotted soldiers of Revolutionary Forces in Yida Camp. No single leader from South Sudan who came out to deny or refute what the UNHCR was saying, a proof that something is indeed going on right there.

Our leadership in Juba should not live the lie that the world doesn't know who arms rebels fighting Khartoum. UN Mission is informing them about every activity in our land. Moreover Khartoum has their own informers, Southerners whose loyalty is divided, especially those on the payroll of Khartoum, those that claim to be opposition groups but they aren't. The Democratic Change of Lam Akol is on top of things. We have also many Northerners around that are doing the dirty job against the Republic of South Sudan. What is more or new?

May be there is no hard proof that Juba is in indeed supporting rebels, but the simple truth that we never severed our link with the SPLA-North more radically keeps some doubt hanging that South Sudan is backing rebels fighting the regime in Khartoum. It will be painful to do just that radical however; these people (Nuba Mountain, Fur, Masalit, Zangawa, Funj etc) are closely associated with South Sudan. We will have them on matters of peace and development. The world should have helped them in their political predicament.

But we are also not any better; we ought to talk to Northern rebels to join the march for peace and stop using our territory as springboard to topple our neighbor. We can go further to pledge material support for their development and not guns and ammunitions (if that is the case). Through force a change will not be meaningful in Khartoum, after all rebels have no unified agenda for change there. Dr. Khalil Ibrahim outlook was more unifying than our current tribal warlords. South Sudan would have been available then if they had joined our struggle to effect change in Khartoum. After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) particularly after independence of South Sudan, we have evolved into a different entity.

As for Khartoum, they must show maturity and patience against the Republic of South Sudan. They got to kick out Lam Akol and stop supporting David Yau Yau or any other clandestine groups. Time for harmony is here. They got to respect the agreement they have signed with the Republic of South Sudan. They should cease fire on the air against innocent civilians. Their rebels aren't Southerners and our

people can't die again like that. They should allow oil production to resume and stop their rogue media from inflammatory remarks against South Sudan leaders or the ruling political party (the SPLM). The President of our Republic however must not join Khartoum belligerency path, but go for peace where he may find it. I was glad that he wanted to pursue it, and if that is the case then he should talk less and work hard for it. If Juba is wrong Khartoum must not go wrong also.

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WHY SOUTH SUDAN MUST REVERT TO UNITARY SYSTEM OPPOSED TO FEDERALISM

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 7, 2012

The Republic of South Sudan (RSS) like any other newly created country in any other part of the world is grappling as to what system of governance to adapt and why. Since its independence few months ago, the country has formed a constitutional writing body. A highly touted team headed by a law professor has wasted no time, but embarked on a mission of soliciting ideas internally and from different part of globe. Couples of days ago, a renowned Kenyan professor (Professor Yal Phal Ghai) well vested in this field had lectured to the Committee Members about challenges facing the process and tips on what they should be doing in there.

There has been some furor of activities and wild schedules by the same team; however, people have started to raise questions as to why the team has kept this important exercise in secrecy. There are no forums for the public to debate things more constructively.

There is what is known here as Transitional Constitution of the Republic South Sudan in which ashes people are trying to either build from it or do away with it altogether. The problem again in this part of the world, the employer has shown more than once that everything must be done on his/their dictating terms, a worrying trend indeed. Generally, the ruling party in the South will love to have its interests written more expansively on the expense of objectivity or what doesn't work.

Someone must allow us to play on the level ground. We must be players in this constitution if we truly plan to have a meaningful country where each of our members shall feel part of the whole. The constitution this country wants must be inclusive, participatory and democratic, unless we build on a document that shall be a source of an ending crisis. Bad legal matters are proven deadly. Some countries in fact keep on amending their constitutions every time, to accommodate new realities facing them. In our context we got to do away with some poor jurisprudence

foundation, they will never helped matters but worsen our socio-economic and political situations.

Given experiences from our situation in the past seven years, we must pause and see whether there is a need to continue with our presence laws or expunge some flawed clauses in their total or in pieces. The latter should be the way forward. People aren't prepared to have another trouble political circumstance where issues to do with stability, peace, development and unity are endangered. In my best judgement, the Transitional Constitution isn't that entirely bad; the issue is the unsettled status of unitary or federal arrangements in our system.

Somewhere we find our system favouring federalism or whatever we are using now, and at some point, this is where we have unknowingly or knowingly mess things up. We must jump out from the fire before things become nasty. I see our current federalism fragile and source of crisis and this is how: federalism yeah could be good due to its relevance to specific needs of the local people, and it encourages creativity and innovation. But the same system (Federalism) is found out to be complicated and confused, expensive, duplicative, and anti unity. Sometime under federalism, corruption is difficult to detect, as there are many layers of governments. It doesn't eliminate poverty.

On the big matters of unity and harmony, federalism puts things asunder. In Juba few days ago, over six people were killed over land disputes, and the killer (s) is/are at large. The reason being that the security forces were inclined, partial and indifference. Different security agencies at different levels couldn't handle things in this situation and there a security embarrassment and fiasco!

Our people need to bond together and unfortunately this is not the case at the moment. We are building a false and fluid system where efforts are virtually wasted with regions stubbornly ganging up against the central government. About development, nothing can help an ordinary Southerner at the remote villages due to too much bureaucracy. I have seen some states as countries within a country, with nothing to connect them to the central government. Central Equatoria State is a case in point, where the government operates independently as if this state is not legally binds to the national government. They have funny laws, and in due time, they will throw surprises. In fact no proper scrutiny of legal jargons from states constitutions or by laws.

Upper Nile and Western Bahr El Ghazal governors have approached (entered in fact) into international arrangement/agreements with some foreign governments with little or no knowledge to the Central Government in Juba. The former was in Ethiopia and then China and inked some deals there, while Governor Rizig Zechariah Hassan was in Singapore last year with ambitious projects that should have been undertaken by the national government. Why do you make of these adventures?

Socially we down and soon it is going to be very difficult to heal the scars cause by social inbalance and strife. Southerners are now classified by their states of origins and this wasn't the case in 1972 during Uncle Joseph Lagu Yanga. Dr. John Garang meant well, though the card of 'people managing their lands' was misinterpreted and abuse. I thought it was a policy made to act as a deterrent to Arabs; why is it that our current leadership hangs on this terrible and unstable system? Isn't the Nigeria federalism situation an alarm to make us caution when applying federalism. What is in the minds of these people who are craving for federalism, what do they want something the central and unity government couldn't do

Economically, federalism hurts poor states and most of the time, it encourages unnecessary competition and selfishness. In another word, it breeds inequality and we don't want it happen in our land. Some states are rich while others could be left behind. We must distribution the national cakes equally to all irrespective of whether the oil or what other national resource is discovered where.

Therefore, it is my little proposals that we return our system to unitary, but keep counties under Districts Administration, so to run away from many mouths of politicians the government must feed each day. We need one another in development, and balance is missed at the moment. Our unity is in jeopardy. Some states have high level of skilled manpower while others is crying for brains, why not discriminate Southerners during employment offers? Federalism is good in rich countries, not in the poor countries such as ours.

Majority of world countries are unitary, except 25 among them the United States of America, Canada, Australia, India, Mexico, Brazil among others. Unitary is enduring, as it fosters great stability and unity. I must repeat myself: federalism is a troubled infused system where several local governments can cause more rivalry and problems to the national government. It is good only when the society is educated and wealthy. Lawmakers hence are asked to throw away federalism like system in our land. They must help the people of South Sudan achieve more.

In states headquarters, we can only have District Commissioners, civil servants drawn from anywhere in our land due to their merits. Districts will have their representatives in the National Assembly, where issues can easily be tracked, and services provided with less political complication. This is just one bad piece of the law or governance arrangement this little author wants change, others are also there.

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SOUTH SUDAN MUST NOT WAVER IN ITS DECISION TO KEEP OIL PRODUCTION SHUT

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

The decision made in January 2012 by the Council of Ministers for the Government of the people of South Sudan, and passed by the National Assembly to shut down oil productions in the country shouldn't be reversed, even if the distance future for another production looks so remote. The idea has been greeted with an overwhelming backing, and as a result it remains an important popular national decision. The decision should have been taken immediately after independence of the Republic in July 2012, but somewhere it never came to being.

Diversify the economy

On the question of the economy, in relations to dependency on oil, a lot has been said about the need to diverse sources of our national income, and it is just about time to use this 'crisis' of cash shortage to revive our economic practices afresh. Our economy has been in trouble even before the oil issue came into being. We never valued money, a sad thing indeed. Our macroeconomic was without direction and impact will be felt for many years to come.

Some groups in collaboration with some fat cats among us were/are fleecing our economy for the benefit of themselves and people from the outside. They must be stopped! Economic sound measures are to be put in place to protect the interest of the people of the South Sudan Republic. We have generations of entrepreneurs knocking for opportunities; they are to be helped!

No one will do better than the Southerner. We are free to manage our affairs. It is inexcusable to find our people with big papers employed by a foreigner in our land. Our government must get tough and tamed foreign economic aggressors or exploiters. If someone controls your stomach, he/she will have a say on others, and this was what precisely the situation we left behind in the Sudan. Economic independence is equally like a political one. Someone must do something our economic revival.

After the shutdown of oil production therefore, our people must not look back or compromise so to start returning our market through the Republic of the Sudan. There is no way again for our leadership in Juba to rush back to beg Khartoum for continuation of facilities usage. We will find our way here, and around our friendly countries not anymore through the rogue Republic called the Sudan.

The halting of oil production has not only helped the new country focus on other unattended resources, but has helped the nation build on its consensus about its tomorrow. We have come together again like during Referendum exercise, and this spirit ought to be upheld and maintained. I'm more proud of my people than any other time before; the future for my people is bright. What a people!

I thank our big brothers (Kiir and Machar) for the depth of their insight and courage to wade through difficult decisions. I have a feeling now that the two should be left alone, but wish that they had more in the likes of Gen. Dr. Majak D' Agoot, Dr. Milly Hussein and Madame Nunu Kumba. The future is bright, despite problems here and there; this is normal in a nation building. We will overcome!

Oil stolen was a fault by South Sudanese employed in the National Ministry

But not to carry you away after the commendation, Juba should now inwardly look at everything related to the next focus, and on top is the managerial aspects of our affairs in general, and the future of our human resources that have staffed the Government of the people of South Sudan. We have so many personnel, who claim to have passed their higher education classes, but majority of them unfortunately are unproductive, a gloom prospects for the new country.

Oil couldn't have been stolen that much had our people in the National Oil Ministry knew what they were supposed to be doing in their respective duties. I challenge key members of our society who worked then under Khartoum, why did they fail to sound an alarm about oil production actual figures, the data and exact number of oil wells in operations. They are part of the problem we are experiencing now.

Some of them are still carrying their brave faces by arguing that they couldn't do anything because Khartoum was secretive about information or data about oil. That wasn't enough an answer but lame thing to dodge the ownership of the matter in question. In which way could that be the truth? Our people need not to hide behind their limitations to do things better. Leadership has a portion of blame anyway.

The government could have trained people on the technical stuff about oil. Now is time to re+think training; this is an ongoing, and our sons and daughters need to access the knowledge on the same.

Apologists must keep off

I have said the above lines because some leaders have started to crack by blaming government for stopping the 'milk' from flowing; that the decision to shut down oil production will have an impact on the economy then to the people through services. We know these people by their colors and even now, nothing shall worry our people from their hullabalos and machinations against the people of South Sudan. They

have betrayed then and are wasting time now to sabotage our plans and progresses towards our economic emancipation.

One of them who did a disservice while serving as a tall minister has turned to Internet using kawaja name to advance his treacherous activities in the name of change and progressiveness. He mistakenly thought that some of us are seeking job when we write, shush! Mr. Kiir has since forgotten some of us and we have lived up to our presence status, with no complain or push for employment whatsoever. He is the president and couldn't hire everyone at the same time.

About the economy, yes for a while, there will be an economic 'pain', but in the long run, the decision to deny our archenemy the resources is too good and in place. Please if you have nothing to oppose, just keep quiet, the matter is too grave for an apologist or a loser to poke his/her dirty mind in it.

I'm back again to salute our leader Comrade Salva Kiir Mayardit and his able team led by a warrior Comrade Pagan Amum Okiech for a job well done. Brother Amum has shown again and again that he is there for the people of South Sudan, something a gang of malicious men and busy bodies among us are hell bound to die about. They must shut up, and leave such rare shots to do the job for them.

Wait a minute: why would anyone think that the decision to construct our own refineries and pipe lines through others (other than the Republic of the Sudan) would affect our people? That mentality must change or it has to be changed; we got to stand together behind our government on this noble and national duty of mastering our own resources. The measure (the stoppage of oil) is ephemeral and things by this time around next year would just be fine.

One of the skeptical is none other than is Dr. Luka Biong, a man I had esteemed for sometime because of his Southern spirit in his heart. The question to him is: what action are you talking about brother Biong. The Head of State along with his team including the Ministry concerned are doing their very best to keep us offload in the tide of the economic meltdown. Why didn't you join them to find an alternative (s) to the situation at hand, than criticize? You are a top senior member of the ruling party, what prompted you to go public pointing finger to your boss (the president) and your colleague (Nhial Deng Nhial). We must unite irrespective of our misgivings about the situation at hand, unless the government loses the confidence and support it badly needed in the face of our current economic challenge.

Inclusiveness of Austerity Measure Committee in doubt

I proposed that the Austerity Measure Committee be expanded to include technocrats, particularly specialists and consultants. We can hire from outside, if we may not find some around. But South Sudan has so many economic products such as Dr. Lual Deng, Dr. David Nailo, Mr. Gabriel Changson among many more, why

leaves them behind? What will the likes of Simon Kun Puoch, and Gen. Oyai Deng do in an economic business?

On the same token, the government shouldn't be selective; we need the three states left out of the composition to form part of the Committee. If it is a must to have states in the Committee, then we need all ten state Governors and their finance ministers to join this important Committee. The Committee at its current status should get to work immediately. Otherwise the decision to keep food (oil) in the 'gugu' is perfect. To repeat: no return to Khartoum facilities even if they lower a charge per barrel to a single cent!

On a different note, I have heard, with relief, the postponement of the Conference for the National Liberation Council of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). I wasn't sure why would such an important meeting be conducted behind the back of one of the Vice Chairmen of the Party, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, who is currently visiting the United States of America. Someone has plotted, but in all I thank you the organizers for putting off the Conference! We must remain united and together. This is way to go!

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***SOUTH SUDANESE, PLEASE STOP HARASSING
ALIENS***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 21, 2012

After independence of South Sudan from the Republic of the Sudan six months ago, the people of the South (say some) have started to misbehave towards other non-South Sudanese or foreigners on the ground that they aren't part of them. The tendency is building that aliens are slowly taking up opportunities when the locals should have been the one benefiting. There are frequent reports of incidences against aliens by individuals among our society, veritable or otherwise.

Invariably, the people that do such offences are reported to be law-enforcing agencies, especially police and the security personnel. People say they have seen these estrange officers on our entering roads, home states and around our cities harassing and intimidating our brothers from East Africa for reasons that are largely financial. But others are on the extreme.

Our new nation is engraved on the principles of human dignity and pride of an African man or woman; and hence unfortunate to routinely hear malevolence practices among our people about discrimination and the like on aliens. Among us, we have had different colors: Greeks, Turks, people from Lebanon or Arabs descent,

Western Sudanese, name it whose future lies around here. We called them Southerners and they are identified with us in every aspects pertaining South Sudan. Though their numbers are insignificance, and anytime they could still go back to their places of origin, they formed part of us, as they participated fully during the referendum exercise, and we all celebrated the big event together on July 9, 2011.

Generally, Southerners have no problem with anyone around the world except Islamic fanatics in Khartoum. The world in fact is identifying with us, and that is why they stayed with us during tough times until the time of our independence. We must not make damning errors assuming that we are out of the wood. We were once hosted and cared by the same people we now see them on our streets. When we were on their cities as refugees, we were at home with them and this should be reciprocated.

Therefore the few South Sudanese that are bending to harass our friends across our land are a big let down to our nation building. It is possible to apply law without harassing, intimidating, shouting or yelling to anyone. Civilized people do things in a manner that gives away nothing but respect.

Shared Experience

I happened to be on a weekend tour of the road leading out of Gumbo in Juba, and what my eyes saw there was a stark shame against the noble people of South Sudan. I witnessed a police officer at the so-called Immigration Check Point shouting out his lungs to a driver of one of the buses coming from Uganda, and within no minutes he rushed to the window of the driver. Then he quickly turned to passengers of that bus. The goof (police officer in question) was speaking wanting English and somewhere the travelers find their way out one by one with papers peeking out from their hands, while bags hanged on their shoulders. The papers are called Immigration Documents or 'waraga'.

The man yelled at passengers with a rough tone asking everyone to open his/her bag, and everyone obeyed. I disembarked immediately from my car (call it office car) and went to the chalice 'boy' peeping through dirty pieces of men and women alike. I motioned him to come aside for a discussion, he grudgingly did.

I look straight to his swampy face, and went he opened his mouth to say something like 'keef' or 'hi', I almost bang my head on another street girl selling sweets. I realized he never had water touching his mouth in the morning due probably to bibulous factor, let alone a brush. I asked him whether he could apply decorum about so private matters of men and women, but before he answered me he had wanted to know whom am I, and what am I doing there against his 'official duties'. His face changed and looked me up and then charged forward a little, but he murmured and somewhere a young officer so blue in his police attire raised his voice

in a vernacular, and suddenly the officer in question disappeared into thin air, but not completely as his breath haunted me for a while.

The Officer (not the ratty above) talked the matter up in a more reasonable and perspicacious fashion, something I didn't expect from a person who claimed to be from Bor (he introduced himself that way anyway). I reasoned that there is a need to either enlist a female officer to check bags for female travelers or else sought a technology in this case. He nodded and I thank him, and we parted ways.

While driving back from Gumbo on a beautiful road down to the bridge, the episode of having failed to talk to the rude young man fully after all was boiling up in my head like a crime. I have been hearing people decrying the way our security officers treat aliens, but I never paid a damn attention. This weekend I was shocked to find it myself that we are doing wrong things behind the backs of our priests and government officials.

While we were in the bush fighting for our rights, we had few cases of aliens mistreat or kill. Whoever then that came to us could still remember us fondly.

But before cooling my head at Di Vinci Hotel (Juba), a friend called to tell me that some Sudanese traders (Northern Sudanese) were mugged in Malakiya the same night. Gangsters arrived there and shot in the air before they walked away with so much money. My throat was thick with lump of anger, as I gutted it with shame hovering my little head. I left, having cursed Gen. Titus Achuil (Police Inspector General) who failed to discipline his men at the Rajaf John Garang Training Camp.

The story am driving you at my people is that we were once living among these people peacefully, pockets of mistreatment notwithstanding. If it weren't the sheltering and the protection we badly then needed from our brothers East Africa and beyond we won't have arrived thus far. Police character is an international one and our police must conform to that standard. They got to learn to act politely but assertively on people found against the law, not through harassment or beating. The new nation police must not spoil our beautiful name because of few pounds on the pockets of our brothers from other part of Africa. It makes us small in the eyes of others. We are people of great history and sanity must be preserved.

The Police Unit should probe and apprehend individuals that are engage in such dirty job of extortion money in the name of 'waraga'. Foreigners know well that if you want to cross over to another country you got to have a clearance papers (immigration status/papers) and if the there are illegal immigrants, the best way to go is to apply the law more prudently and gently.

But our brothers from East Africa must also play it right in this matter. Some of them come to South without papers, others have their papers expired or forged, and this in any sovereign state is unacceptable, it doesn't work like that. You will have to

go to jail and fine according to the laws governing the immigration situation of that country.

Our people have every reason to live in peace with anyone, but not on the expense of violation of any international immigration situation of another country. They must also relax some rigid immigration policies on children and sick people passing through land or entering their territory. Majority of our students have raised problems about tough laws government immigration in Uganda; this is more of a policy however at higher level and leaders should pick this matter up immediately, and not the subject of this note.

Suggestions

I hereby strongly feel that the issue of harassment by illiterate officers be looked into more seriously. I look forward for an Inquiry to investigate cases of harassment by the police against aliens around our cities, borders and on our streets (am repeating myself). Secondly, there is an urged need to work out ways of releasing piles of trucks entering the country. This is harassment! I could see chains of trucks waiting deep around Juba entry and people say some of these Lorries have been there for days without any clearance. The question is: how did they cross the border to Juba in the first place? Of course someone had bribed his way in and could apply the same to enter Juba or any other destinations.

Third, we need a friendly Immigration Officers, a fresh team to overhaul the current rotten one. Recruitment is the best place to start correcting. There were problems in the recruitment of the Immigration Officers. I thought the newly appointed Head there would do something about the bad guys or put up a plan for change, but alas the man isn't prepare to conduct single press conference to tell us about his magic in immigration. He is too shy to look at men eyes. The President has made a wrong choice! Please police; leave our brothers from East African alone!

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SOUTH SUDAN ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION DRIVE IS ON TRACK BUT

BY ISALAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

There have been reports in the media about corruption allegations and counter allegations against senior South Sudan politicians. This came about when South Sudan Auditor's General Report for 2005-2006 qualified (you know this audit term, yeah?) books of accounts for Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The individual who were in charge of the queried institutions (the Bank and the Finance Ministry) have traded accusations one after another.

The House (South Sudan Legislative Assembly) had since called the then two financial principles- Mr. Elijah Malok Aleeng for the Central Bank and Mr. Arthur Akuien Chol for the Finance Ministry to explain to the public the whereabouts of millions of United States Dollars, the report purported to have been misappropriated during that audit period.

Mr. Malok quickly pushed the bug to Mr. Arthur Akuien, who had since lost his Treasury job in 2007. Few days ago after whispering here and there, the ex- Minister broke his silence by calling a press conference in Home and Away (Juba). He spilled the beans that he didn't do anything wrong, but some groups did something. He has charged everyone, specifically key members of the SPLM party including someone 'from above' for the financial mess of the time.

According to the ex-Minister, the prime suspects are the former Governor of the Bank (Mr. Elijah), the Vice President of the Republic (Dr. Machar) and the SPLM Secretary General (Mr. Amum). All of them have denied the claims.

People went away shocked and in disbelief as to the so-called 'revelations'. Funny enough some people have already passed judgment against the three. A few more are ahead baying for the blood of the quartet (recalled there is someone from above). They are challenging the government to arrest the suspects until the court settles the case.

Well, I for one don't buy such propositions because I read too much hot air and nothing more. First of all, there is nothing like one person pocketing \$30 million. To give one person huge sum of money even to wire it to his personal bank account is unheard of by any financial institution. Where on earth could such a thing happen before the watch of the sitting government? That allegation must be a cooked one, it has to be supported by substantive evidences to pin the truth home, and otherwise we will hold our breath for more concrete facts behind the pronouncements.

Mr. Arthur could have been fairer to say he had sent the money to SPLM Bank Account than give a blanket charge against an individual. May be the money was for the party activities and this was missing in the Minister allegation. I saw him busy to nail Mr. Amum and that was too bad. I hear now that Mr. Amum has threatened to sue the ex-minister, and if that happened things would be nasty for all!

On allegations against the Vice President I still find it ridiculous at best to attempt to in dignify such a personality. True, the man isn't an angel, but for him to engage in car deals is insulting. The reality is this: the ministry of Finance has some elements either within Procurement or around corridor of finance that used the big man name to advance such a scandal. But for the sake of the truth, nothing can twist the arms of the minister to go by any 'order from above', even if the story is true. The ex-minister should apologize to the big man!

Mr. Arthur should have known better than anyone else that to run away from responsibility isn't the solution. He failed to admit that he had signed away too much money and he should have own that blunder outright. Whether that money ended up in the pockets of a few or not, the point is that the minister has failed the people of South Sudan. Who is Mr. Pagan for a tall minister to send money into his personal account? Let's not be fooled to jump to sacrifice Dr. Machar or Mr. Amum; the truth lies somewhere not on what Hon. Akuien allegations.

I reckoned that it is healthier to put to notice anyone who is on the wrong side of the law, whoever he may be, but in this particular issue at hand, let's not be carried away by Hon. Arthur reckless revelation. It is prudence again not to dump key liberation leaders under such cloudy allegations. Comrade Riek Machar or Ustaz Pagan Amum to my best judgment can't associate with such public scams. Mr. Arthur isn't talking, he could be under pressure from some spoilers to damage the reputation of people like Dr. Machar or Mr. Amum, a few hard working personalities under President Kiir.

But if it turns out that indeed there have been some elements of truth about such allegations against the four, our people are advice to leave these people alone to carry their own crosses. May be there is 'fire' in the 'smoke'; they must clear their names before the law and the court of the public. This is a serious matter! Their image has been dented; they must do something to prove to the people that they aren't corrupt.

I look forward for an end to corruption because it is evil, but if the matter becomes a pure lie, the SPLM must apply discipline to people that are engaging others in defamation. Excuse me, I still doubt whether the story is entire true. If Mr. Arthur want to be taken serious, he shouldn't have come public instead he could have used his party channels to sort out what has been leveled against him. He's an experienced civil servant and knows everything related to accountability and politics, such utterances are not good for a party that is still basking in laurels.

I hereby humbly request the public to go slow against our public figures. Besides, there is need to understand the period they were operating in. Remember the government of Southern Sudan was emerging from the ashes of war and ruins; nothing really could be a deal given the level of capacity for the people that formed the government. A financial mess yes could have been the case, but not to the extent of the said corrupt magnitude by two or three. I tend to be corrected anyway!

In everything we said earlier, nobody is encouraging impunity for theft or immunity for prosecution to anyone found guilty, but let's be foot pussy on such matters as it is so humiliating and embarrassing to our government and the people of South Sudan.

The incentive though is that our leaders are becoming open about issues surrounding governance- what they didn't right, it is proper hence to acknowledge the effort made by the National House and wish them success in their drive to stamp out corruption in our society once and for all. Our leaders shouldn't fear anything if their consciences are clear. I take this opportunity to ask our beloved leaders adversely mentioned by Arthur to cool down their nerves and approach such situations on the perspective of maturity and levelheadedness. They have nothing to hide.

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KIIR MUST NOT GIVE UP TALKING TO BASHIR

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Oil disputes between Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has now taken an ugly turn when both regions turned against one another in a vicious war of words. Each side blames another for the break down of the oil negotiations in the Ethiopian's Capital-Addis Ababa. Media and foot soldiers furore of the two camps have done the needed damage against either side.

But the remarks made by the Sudanese President (Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir) in his Cabinet Meeting on Thursday 2nd February 2012 sparked the deep-seated row of words between the two countries. President Al Bashir was reported to have said that his people should prepare for 'worse' against the South, in light of the South refusal to use it pipelines and refineries. Juba was infuriated.

President Kiir and his Assistant are both heard and in records responding negatively against the Sudanese President's remarks. The former in his briefing to the army top brass on Monday 6, February 2012 fired salvos, some of which were unnecessary. He was emphatically satirical and uncontrolled; the head of state lost his composure and that was a wrong.

The issue of oil and the matters attached therein require tentative engagement not belligerency or chest thumping. The South doesn't need to show that they are capable of fighting back the North and the North on the other hand should understand that it needs the South for its political and economic stability. We still have people out there and other interests. The two sides need each another, and hence sacrificial to work out something even if the going is tough. There will always be a way!

The two leaders (Al Bashir and Kiir) must cease from publicizing their sentiments and frustration against one another. The African Union High-Implementation Panel (AUHIP) under President Thabo Mbeki is trying its best to bridge the gap, as the round of talk is due this weekend, why should the leaders in question spoil their diplomatic environment before the talk started? I don't think it is in place to undo one another in public.

Granted, the South must be bitter and impatience due to intransigency by Khartoum to let Abyei go, and their encroachment into Southern territories along the border, as well as the stealing of oil, but the truth is that we need negotiation to sort out the oil and many other outstanding issues, not through war.

President Kiir has avoided confronting the North many times and his fears were justified. He was right! Warriors don't sing the war, though they propagate it all times. War by the way comes automatically like in the case of Jaw in Western Upper Nile State. As we speak however, I don't think the two sides are going into warfare, hence uncalled for to go against the grain.

If that is the case, then I see no reason for anyone to shout the loudest when he will not 'take anyone to war'. President Kiir should do one thing at a time: if to go to war, he need not drama it, but declares it. But our people want peace. Since he has chosen the path of negotiation over war, I find President askance against President Al Bashir as conflicting. His stand must be colorless! Remember again, the two are poise to meet in few days' times (as I mentioned above), why raise temperatures?

Also I had expected least on his remarks about the International Criminal Court (ICC) thing. He is against the principle of collective responsibility as to the position of the African Union. Though there were problems in the region of Darfur, no African man can support the biased Court that doesn't have space for appeal. It is A Western clobber for Africans and other developing world.

On our today's crisis, I humbly look forward for an end to issues through peaceful means. The current status of no war no peace or lingering bickering between the South and the North hurt the two countries, and eventually it can lead to war. We need peace not war! Our President must not give up on his pursuance of peace through dialogue. Khartoum shouldn't response to Kiir's clumsy remarks. Let's talk, and talk but not for the sake of talking to buy time.

The release of Abyei to the South through a presidential decree is an important item that should be cleared off the table. Then there is the need to endorse the ABC Border Reports. After that the logical charges per barrel of crude oil should be \$1 no more. Khartoum ought to quickly refund the people of South Sudan the amount of \$3.6 billion for oil taken without consent and the arrears. Where is Ustaz Ali Osman Mohamed Taha? God bless the people of South Sudan!

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GARANG DEATH: A NEED FOR FRESH PROBE

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JANUARY 17, 2012

The circumstances which led to the untimely death of the South Sudanese leader Dr. John Garang de Mabior in a tragic helicopter crash will never be fully known. Dr. Garang was returning to Sudan after a brief visit to Uganda where he met president Yoweri Museveni when the helicopter disappeared in the mountain ranges of South Sudan on 30th July 2005, while returning to his base at Kamotho (New Site) in Eastern Equatoria Region. The Ugandan President hosted late Garang and four other dignitaries in his rural area of Rwakitura in Mabarara District..

The then Government of the Sudan rushed to form an Investigation Committee to look into exact causes of the crash, and the official finding point to human error on the side of the pilot. That is to say that the helicopter came down due to bad weather. But speculations persist even after the official pronouncement that point to an opposite direction, that there could be someone or groups who were on the sabotage.

Who killed Garang?

For instance there have been speculations that Khartoum was much involved in Garang disappearance because to them the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) could be easily crippled once Garang is out of the picture. People then talked of big shots (NIF politicians) shuttling between Kampala and Khartoum before, during and after the tragedy on the same mission.

Other speculations were that perhaps there could be involvement of some Southern Sudanese politicians in the plot since at a time there was a political scene- rivalry within the SPLA that was squarely suppressed or handled by Rev. Canon Clement Janda. In the SPLA, by the way, we were never taught anything terrorism or anything similar to that school. So it was impossible to give a damp ear to this wild speculation. Our leaders differed, locked themselves up, but not to an extreme thinking (assassination).

The other speculation still points a finger to the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) elements within the Ugandan Defense Force. Yet there is another group that thought that the work could be that of the CIA of the United States because of the Garang overbearing political stardom. But also there is another group that never spared the current Ugandan President.

But that isn't a point to go after who actually killed Garang. The issue here however is the relationship between facts surrounding his death. Once things becomes clear the next thing is who did it and why.

There may have been powerful influential forces vying for influence in the oil rich country of Sudan, and that was a living fact, could they be one behind the assassination? I don't know and no way to pin a blame when there is no substantive evidence proving anything in white and black. Sometime I feel like leaving everything in the hand of the Creator, and just pray for the soul of our great man and founding father of our nation Gen. Dr. John Garang de Mabior, but that does help me either. Despite pieces here and there the truth will never be late!

That is what am seeking for. Once thing go terribly wrong as was the case during the Interim Period under amateurish leader called Kiir, I ran to curse the invisible hands behind the disappearance of the big father and a leader. Garang was more than ready for any challenge; that is a living truth about him. His lost is irreparable!

Just to repeat myself as came above: while there exists speculations tied to the vested interested of certain governments and groups to silence Garang the reality is that no evidence has been reported to the outside world that would substantiate any claim of foul play, but am suspicious only because of the unusual episodes surrounding the matter at hand.

Causes of the crash not convincing

My suspicion stems from the following cases- am not going to prolong any discussion on each case anyway. Now let us get started: there is this fateful helicopter named as MY 72; there are contradictions about its worth or worth not. The chopper was reported to be in a "good health" according to the then Russian Director for Interstate Aviation Committee, Mr. Rudolf Temurazov, the very person that overhauled it. This dispels an earlier circulation that the chopper was blindly flying at night or that it was a junk chopper.

Rudolf sentiment was echoed by non other the Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in Yei South Sudan during one of the mourning occasions. His part of the statement reads thus:

"... the chopper was overhauled executive and has some instruments upgrade before the crash. .. the helicopter was equipped with ability to show the pilot the altitude

using both radio altimeter that shows how far are you from the ground as well as a barometer altimeter that shows you how high are you from sea level; a weather radar that shows you bad clouds ahead as well as mountain ranges up to 100 KMS away, Advanced Moving Map System (A MMS) that shows you where you are at any particular time and the terrain features such as mountains; a powerful flood light system to avoid hitting trees and other landing site obstacles; an audio warning in case you are approaching a mountain ahead”.

If you take each piece and then put everything together you will find that there was no question about the helicopter defect or malfunctioning of the engine. The chopper was in good health. The question then is how did the crash occur on this state of the art kind of a machine that ‘sees’ and detect danger before it actually occurred. If this chopper had radar that could ‘show mountain up to 100 kilometers away’, how did this particular accident happen? If the helicopter was in good condition, then there must an external factor because the bad weather thing doesn’t matter much in the report. This is where we are coming and no one knows that factor yet.

The second suspicious is about the loud silence related to the purported meeting between President Museveni and Garang. It appeared that there was a special meeting for the Ugandan President with five important foreigners (3 Europeans, an American and Garang), and no single media was invited, why? How about the identity of the Europeans and the American? Is anyone aware of their profile and the topic of their discussion with the two African leaders (Museveni and Garang).

The third one is about the wreckage of the chopper; whether or why charred when the bodies were identifiable and not much signs of burns were visible. In another word, the chopper either caught fire before it crashes otherwise if it was after the crash, the bodies of the victim could have all charred. This brings another theory that perhaps an explosion happened within the machine without affecting the passengers. Who then had planted the explosive?

The forth suspicion that the crash wasn’t normal is that there was no single photograph of the crash that was published, or released despite immense coverage by credible international media houses. Garang disappearance was covered widely by Atlanta base Cable News Network (CNN), the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), both for radio and the television, Radio France International, the Voice of America, the South African Broadcasting Corporation and all the major wire news services: the Associated Press and United Press International of the United States, Agency France Presse (AFP) of France, Reuters of United Kingdom (Britain) and Xinhua of China yet no reports published or any sketch of the helicopter on its wrecked state during the first few days of the incidence. The question is why?

Fifth, why did the Ugandan government block fresh investigation by an American Insurance Company associated with late Garang. Recall, the company before attempting to compensate requested in vain to find causes of the crash. This

company could have hired independent minded team that could have helped allay fears that indeed there were no invisible hands that went for an assassination target. Was the Ugandan government part of the conspiracy to eliminate Garang? I don't know, time will tell.

Sixth, the black boxes for the helicopter were recovered but content weren't made public why? The Flight Data Recorder (FDR) popularly known as 'black box' preserves the records of what happened in an event of a crash. The box is made of nearly indestructible materials that even if the plane is destroyed the box can be found and retrieved. This is done to help during the investigation because the box contains recording of the status of the plane, measurement of altitude, air pressure as well as mechanical status among others.

In our case then the box was said to have been taken to Russia and there you find inconsistencies about what was recorded. If bodies were found and almost anything else, how could anyone suggest that black boxes of that chopper were destroyed or that they don't give enough details of what transpired there during the crash. There is something that is unclear and hence a suspicion!

Seven, if the turbulent weather was the cause of the crash, why didn't Colonel Peter Nyakairu (the captain of the helicopter) press for a distress call to Entebbe Control Center for possible courses of action. This suggests that all the aircraft's parameters were performing normally until impact. Therefore Entebbe was not telling the truth and something terrible happened someone doesn't want us to know it.

Eight, we are told that according to Control Aviation Authority (CAA) there, no plane including of course helicopters is allowed from Entebbe to leave after 5 PM for a period more than one hour, how did the authorities float this rule? Perhaps someone prevailed up on the Aviation to twist the rule, but intellect has it that Garang wasn't an easy man to put his life and that of his men at risk. He couldn't have guided a serious guerrilla liberation war against powerful Khartoum, if he were a pliable as others would want us to believe him differently in death. He was assured of the reliability of the plane, and was confidence that he will reach. The helicopter factor comes in again and that is why the element theory never leaves our minds.

Ninth, we have had an abnormal crack down of anything associated with opening up of another investigation on matters surrounding Garang death. A case in point is that of Hon. Aleu Ayieny Aleu, a veteran SPLA man who fought selflessly for his country and people was uncharacteristically kicked out of the National Cabinet and was threaten of eviction from the SPLM if he doesn't stop prodding on Garang death circumstances. This came about after he openly questioned the so-called official position that the plane came down because of human error due to bad weather.

Re-call Mr. Aleu was one of the members of the Investigation Committee sent to the scene of the crash. He accompanied the black box down to Russia and he returned

suspicious like this little author. He didn't access anything or made to know what was actually there in the FDR. Now brethren, by just expressing a doubt on an anomaly does that require a punishment? Was Garang a burden to SPLM leaders and by him gone, everything would just be fine? This brings to mind that perhaps there could be people around here who are trying to protect their skin and if yes then we must be afraid!

Then there is this query (ten): the actual identification number for the chopper was in contradiction. One time the report says the MY 72 chopper that killed Garang was carrying registration number 605 and the other from the presidential rotor burp is 8-1930-0008221-5387; so which is which? Why provided different numbers on the same chopper. It seemed though that the true helicopter in question could be different from what was actually in use for the Ugandan President. Did Entebbe give Capt. Peter helicopter that is detonated? If yes who did it.

Needless to mention why was the statement on the exact feet of the helicopter different; the experts talked of 7000 while the exact flying feet was recorded at 500.4 feet, the true distance between the plane and the earth.

In short I don't care whether Garang was a villain to you, but for the sake of the truth, and given the stature of that man, someone will have to clear the air about the grey areas mentioned above. Garang can't just die like that and the entire nation, especially his colleagues keep on burying their heads in the denial. By knowing the truth, the nation will start with a clear conscience that nothing was awry but natural like any other tragedy. To die is inevitable but to go under cloudy grounds is a snarl of reality about death itself.

South National Parliament over to you; you have started these days very well on accountability (read Wondu Auditing Report).

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KHARTOUM AND JUBA NEED TO DIALOGUE

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MARCH 28, 2012

Events along the border between Sudan and its southern neighbor are a pointer for another renewal of violence between the two countries. The armies of the two countries are reported to be on the offensive along Jau and Panthou in Unity, a development that has been confounded by an already oil crisis when the later (South Sudan) stopped using the Sudan pipelines and refineries. The Sudanese leaders and their foot lieutenants are complicating things further, something that should have been left to activists to do it.

The Sudanese President, Field Marsha Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir has gone to the Islamic drawing board by announcing popular jihad against the people of South Sudan. The theatrics are all about protecting the Islam and the Arabs, and not anymore the power under the National Congress Party (NCP). President Salva Kiir of South Sudan stroke a reconciliatory tone however, as his Information Minister still hopes for a Summit to take place on the 3rd of April 2012. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement generally is hoping against any hope that the two leaders can still meet agree on matters related to border and security.

Unfortunately, Khartoum media houses have already proclaimed the suspension of the slated Summit, and the question is: what next from here if the two leaders aren't meeting according to the African Union mediation efforts? Well, this author is optimist that the two leaders of the Sudan have leadership obligation to find amicable solution to their outstanding differences. Violence is a means and not an end, and must be avoided by any cost.

I see Juba as ready to negotiate, but somewhere Khartoum has their own hidden agenda, probably the problem of insurgents, where South Sudan becomes a scapegoat. Mr. Philip Aguer of South Sudan army echoed the same lines the other day. There is no justification therefore to fight your dissidents in the territory of another republic; it is a violation and unacceptable. The people of South Sudan will not sit back and watch their territories curb away by another army through the barrel of the gun. Khartoum should have known better that through dialogue, Juba could help them sought out their internal political problems with areas of Kordofan, Darfur and Blue Nile.

It is an act of aggression therefore to bomb and freely move soldiers into another country without the consent of that country. It is another aggression to renaming areas belonging to other nation. Chanting and invoking using the name of Allah is another provocation, and isn't time to do just that. Give us a break from belligerency. We know it, because we have been there.

The Republic of the Sudan must slow down against the people of South Sudan and allow peace a chance. War is the last thing to do, and as things stand there is room to talk and dialogue. What is a hurry of declaring war against the people of South Sudan? President Al Bashir is a good man and must not allow himself to be deceived by Islamic bigots around his seat. These people are not going to help the two countries to stable and move on from anarchy of yester years. They have tried before to wipe the people South Sudan off the face of the earth, and that never happened. We urge strongly that it is time to talk and talk, not war.

Differently, I have read an apologist claiming that the Secretary General of the SPLM Party should be maligned, not to be listened by court on defamation case against former Minister Mr. Arthur Akuein. That friend or critic (author) ought to revisit facts before jumping to shout for any sacrifice of his imaginary foe. He must be

careful when dealing with matters related to justice this time around. Politics (activism) aside, this is a law ya pretender! Justice has been served and God bless the High Court presiding judge and Comrade Pagan Amum Okiech!

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PANTHOU: KIIR HAS BETRAYED THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

APRIL 23, 2012

Though Khartoum was to go for extra futile military mile to fight the people of South Sudan over Panthou, our big brother President Salva Kiir has made a reckless decision to pull out our troops from that land. The defeated Khartoum forces return singing when they should have been weeping throughout their lives, after we tied them down when we control every piece that rightfully belongs to us right there in Panthou and its surroundings.

It is a shame we just left that land without any provisions from those who called themselves world leaders. They must be enjoying now that Khartoum is bombing Rubkhona and Bentiu targeting unarmed innocent civilians.

On the issue of Panthou, everyone thought that the case should have been pursued first, before thinking of pulling out, but alas, the president of our Republic ordered out Southern Army with no single guarantee that the disputed land shall remain under certain arrangement, be it demilitarization or United Nations forces to occupy it until the owner of that land becomes clearer. Now that we are out of Panthou, and Khartoum entered it peacefully under claims of pressure by someone, what will the ordinary Southern soldier say, the very one who was earlier told to defend it?

Kiir must resign; he failed our people at a crucial time when we badly need his leadership. He did the same thing by not protecting Abyei from Khartoum and all lucrative areas along South-North borders are firmly taken over by Khartoum, what does our Chief Executive (Mr. President) want to do first before he defend the territorial integrity of the people of South Sudan? Relying on the world leaders to come for our aid has proven illusive and will never happen.

People are sick and tired of lame duck (Kiir) that only roar once, and never bite. He echoed first well that 'he will not order the withdrawal of SPLA and from nowhere beat an about turn to the surprise of many people on our streets who were ready to go for anything against the NCP in Khartoum. Kiir must pack and go home. What he has done to withdraw our men unconditionally in Panthou is a betrayal of the cause of the people of South Sudan. Pulling out of SPLA troops was a mistake!

The enemy is following us up as you can see how they become so bolstered and enliven to bomb deep inside our towns at will. Where is the so-called international community Dr. Marial was talking about?

Kiir talked of attacks by Sudan Armed Forces as one of his main reasons for capturing Panthou, but the people of South Sudan were for the ownership of the Panthou. They died, and are maimed to protect that land, and the president should have been conscious of what is popular. Nagging of Arabs was too much, and something could have been done and sustained no matter what.

How come he could easily bowed to New York or Addis Ababa people who never lifted a finger to stop Khartoum from raining fire on our people day and night despite our cry? Mr. President, the interest of our people comes first. Ban Ki-moon (known then in Korea as Ban-jusa) is a letdown and an enemy of our people. Our land can't be ruled from New York, we are own masters. Our voice was loud, but you kept personalizing the matter, who do you think you are?

The issue of Panthou is larger than the president, rather is about South Sudan pride and dignity. If the people of Southern Sudan were ready, even to contribute their own lives and money, why stand own their way Mr. Kiir? You have been inconsistency through out, and you got to give way. Sir you are one of the leaders that will be remembered for allowing his land to go (Chief Deng Majok was one) because someone who sits in New York or Washington rules over this land. You are a disgraced.

If it was a defeat we would have taken it head high, and regroup and return there. What is wrong if we had stood the ground and be defeated, (an impossible thing anyway for our men against Khartoum)? Armies retreat but the war would be on. Our people are very agitated including this author for the decision to pull out troops from Panthou, the 100% South Sudan land. Juba has failed our people big way this time around. Mr. Kiir Mayardit low self-esteem personality has made him one of the worse leaders our people have ever had.

Men died once, and Khartoum shouldn't have been allowed to follow us up again after all that lost during the liberation of our land (from 1955-2005). Who will lead the people of South Sudan if the likes of brother Kiir could easily change colors in the face of challenges? Parliament therefore must impeach this man called Kiir for his betrayal of his people for Abyei case and now Panthou.

It would have been better for Khartoum to capture Panthou by force, rather than to run away cowardly because of Obama or Ki-moon? I must repeat myself there. It would have been a good case if they did just that, something we could followed up through other means, even that of The Hague for Arbitration. Kiir has snuffed lives of our men only to give in to outsiders. Shame on Kiir, he resigns!

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***KHARTOUM SHOULD ABIDE BY THE UNSC
RESOLUTION TO END HOSTILITY WITH SOUTH
SUDAN***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 8, 2012

The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council passed a resolution that calls for the halt of hostilities between Sudan and South Sudan within 48 hours, that there has to be unconditional withdrawal of troops from disputed areas as well as a deal (s) signed within three months. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously backed the resolution immediately after. It Chapter Seven Charter informs that where there will be failure by either side the body can apply diplomatic and economic sanctions or military intervention.

Khartoum has since ridiculed it and everyone knows what had happened on the ground and in their media waves. Juba on their side never recovered from the shock of world indifference when it comes to its claim and still fighting anxiety whether to go it alone or just absorb the battering and blows from Khartoum day in day out. However, the two sides shared this denominator that none will cede its position or give in on what they claim, whether there will be sanction or no sanction. They would rather play 'jerry' and 'tom' now to buy time, but the truth is that there is deep socio-political animosity in the blood and nothing from the outside will erase that feeling.

But issues of contentions between Sudan and South Sudan are clear. One is the border demarcation where an attempt to resolve it was made, but one side (Khartoum) rejected it outright before the ink dried. They have been good at agreeing but slippery when it comes to implementation.

Boundaries are associated with wealth, where the economies of the two countries hang. 1956 boundaries are no longer there, as the rulers in Khartoum manipulated things in the seventies, eighties and nineties due to oil strewn along the borders. Each district has a clear-cut boundary with others then. That is not the case at the moment. Khartoum has a large land, and shouldn't meddle in the land of the people of South Sudan. The West and the European Union in particular shouldn't fear Khartoum when it comes to serving justice. I'm seeing them shying from confronting Khartoum for no reasons at all. Khartoum isn't serious about international rules, they are troublemakers.

The other issue is the Abyei where an agreement was signed, but disagreement in the process of implementation forced the two sides to go to The Hague on the borders of

that land. A decision was passed, but Khartoum again refused and no one dared asking them why they did just that before the internationally acceptable institutions. The people of Dinka are still waiting for their plebiscite to take place. The problem now is that world keeps groping on what to do to the Sudan; and this is unfair when the big boys mistreat the younger. I want Khartoum to be punished, not Juba as the UN and AU think. In a case or a dispute not all are punish. What the bodies in Europe or Africa decide Khartoum will always find ways of getting away, and no one follows.

How many times did they tell Khartoum to stop attacking South Sudanese, Darfuris, Nuba people and the people of Funj in the East? Hundred times! If they threw away Darfur Peace Agreement what guarantee that they might not do the same for any agreement or deal imposed on them by New York or Addis Ababa? I doubt hence whether the resolution will have an impact on the ground as intended by the UNSC and the AU. Just the other day, after 48 hours dateline, they sent a convoy of over 20 vehicles to attack the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Paloch-Maluth County in Upper Nile. They were persuaded and willingly the attackers surrendered to the SPLA with no shot of a bullet.

Khartoum has violated the said resolution by simple arming of South Sudanese dissidents, and bombing deep inside South Sudan territories. They never stopped shelling areas East of Panthou where SPLA based since the day they were allowed to enter the town Panthou. There are so belligerent activities in Khartoum aimed at paralyzing the Southern State, one of which is the trade embargo they have imposed on the Republic of South Sudan. There is harassment of the Southern Sudanese living the Republic of the Sudan; some of them are arrested & tortured. The condition of South Sudanese refugees and returnees around Khartoum and White Nile States is deplorable. No jobs to these people and their legal status are withdrawn with transport by air or by the river stopped. What does the United Nations think the Sudan is doing to the people of the Republic of South Sudan?

The United Nations is doing a poor job in this country, so bias that they cite often with Khartoum against the people of South Sudan. Versions of things go against the new republic with no justification. Abyei incident that sparked the Abyei crisis was twisted against the Republic of South Sudan. The same people (UN) around here have been telling New York that Panthou is in the territory of the Republic of the Sudan. Ban Jusa (Ban Ki-moon) of the United Nations became annoying because of ill advice given by the iron lady heading the Unit around here.

Khartoum was made to lie and deny before the watchful eyes of the so-called International Community and no one stood up and challenge them; why are they bombing displaced persons and why are they violating the air space of another country? Khartoum is aware of toothless UN. No one came to question them when they massacre innocent Masaliit and Zangawa tribes in the Western Darfur Region. None was there when they roam havoc to the people of South Sudan and the Nuba

Mountain in the 1990s. What do the people in this world really wait to happen to stop Khartoum exporting troubles others around the globe?

I therefore request my people to stand up and fight for their rights. No one from the West and anywhere cares about the wellbeing of the people in this part of the planet. We must return to Panthou since no one bothers to look into the disputed land. We can even go to Abyei and see that sanction whether it will have an impact. Let these people bring their threats; they don't know the pain we have from these people North of our land. They will understand us in the process, but the business of liberating and securing our territory must continue.

See, our oil is being pump back to the National Congress Party when even the land is in dispute. That resolution in fact didn't go far enough otherwise it would have asked Khartoum to hold back, and then deploy neutral units (troops) until the disputed land issue is sorted out through arbitration. We hear them talk of Abyei troops withdrawal, but mum on Panthou occupation by the Northern Sudan. Down! Down! Down! With Ban Ki-moon! God bless the people of South Sudan!

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***SOUTH SUDAN FINANCE MINISTRY REJECTS
RESTORATION OF ALLOWANCES,
JUSTIFICATION AND IMPLICATION***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

South Sudan like any other country with cash strapped in time will have to fight for survival until things improve. The tie isn't always entirely about the lack of cash but about limitation of the cash, compounded by management financial indiscipline against little public resources. That is the situation this country is in. We have a huge government at the top with many mouths to feed but with few resources to meet the extravagant government financial spells, after the shut down of oil production.

The country might be rich and potentially so, but experience has shown time and again that resources alone cannot bring out the quality of life to the people who own such resources but management. Inequality as to wealth will make social development uneven. We have heard that song all around. We may find ourselves fighting for financial resources when money is back but unless management mentality changes chances are that the wealth will go to few hands on the expense of the majority. Politicians and apparatchiks will go exponentially up while the rest will continue to wallow in poverty. The president was on a noble mission to clip his arms of government (Executive) to a sizeable and affordable service agent, and by the

passage of time people are still waiting for the downsizing as it would be one way of reducing current huge government expenditure of this government.

Moving on. After the country shut down its main resource of revenue (oil), an austerity practice was introduced earlier this year and the government operates under austere financial scripts for most part of the period, but there are still loopholes that should have been sealed to avoid waste. Finance had hard time to juggle between what is legal and financial. The man in charge (Hon. Kosti Manibe) has a tough job in his hands! Last month however, especially after September Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan that was signed in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa the man was about to breath a sigh of relieve, but somewhere he has another trouble to avert when the Executive suggested that he should relax some of the austerity measures particularly cut on allowances.

His response was a resounding no. He thought it would be premature to go for allowances since the country is still in the financial wood besides legal implications after the Austerity Budget. This came about after Public Service received a directive to restore allowances in full to some civil servants and regular/armed forces. The adjustment was expected to have been made this month for October, but signs are that it might not happen per the argument above. Even if the Treasury was to shot itself in the arm legally, there is this unconfirmed sources at the Treasury that the check to effect payment change will go few millions pounds, and hence unrealistic/cash crisis. To Treasury the government will have to eat a humble pie after announcing that it will restore some allowances; the government will have to continue with the austerity policy until financial things become clearer, they seemed to suggest

But the moral element in this case matters most than the argument itself. Who could be this person that embarrasses the government to propose the restoration of half allowances cut (for lower grades) or restore cut for specific job allowances without counting the cost of the same? Another related question: how does the Republic of South Sudan manage communication, consultation and coordination of its decision? Was the Treasury out side the decision to propose the restoration of allowances cuts? If not who exactly represented Finance? Generally who then call the shot after all if the matters are stake? How about the Council of Ministers, is it above the Legislature, or what is really going on in our system between the two bodies?

I have no answers to the above questions and would like to be enlightened about Republic of South Sudan governance operations. My laymanship intuition tells me that the sole job of the Executive as the term indicates is to execute policies, but somewhere they are now arrogating themselves the mandate of making policies and legalize them. This should not have been the case. The Treasury has every reason to object a move done outside the law. Budget once debated and passed by Parliament it becomes a law. No one besides the Legislature has any mandate to make changes without burning his/her fingers. 2012/2013 remains legal until it's amended by the

House. But as normal in our situation, the Executive made the said changes and proposals and passed them immediately to the Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development (MOLPS&HRD) for implementation.

On this particular situation we have a brewed problem of confidence and credibility. This is so: the MOLP&HRD there wasted no time after receiving instruction from the Executive that such scales are exempted from financial cuts. When the policy was coming down to be operational zed now we have a U-turn from the same Executive after Treasury cried that it is broke and won't afford paying additional few millions, who is this to blame? Of course the Executive for not being consistence or credible. A leaked letter to effect the U-turn was on sloppy and dodgy lane, with intentional fraud and diversionary at the top and falsification of things at the bottom. I was perplexed for the alchemy of the wordings and argument that the payment could be backdated.

The big question is why on earth should one government be playing Tom and Jerry game against its own people? One time for information impairs and the other for scapegoat exit. Let me go straight to un-package what this piece all about. Remember I write not as an official member of the Workers Union (if that body really exists), but as a writer, and writers are mostly no affiliatory. There is this issue of Country civil servants salary delay and looming confusion about whether to relax and restore the previous cuts per austerity dictates or delay it a little further until financial situation improves. The former has already been circulated as narrated above and civil servants have been waiting for that adjustment. However the thing is stalling at the Ministry of Finance because of cash. The Treasury might be right. The question though is what would that means to the government if the implementation of the widely circulated changes isn't done? Think through! The ball is with South Sudan Legislative Assembly to restore the confidence.

I have always admired this body called Parliament because of the team that is in today, but am getting cussed and somewhat agitated when on the same breath they have requested the Treasury to serving them alongside lower grades. In another word they have asked for the restoration of their allowances together with grade 10 -17 and lower ranks in the army and other forces, something un-phenomenon and absurd for people who are call representatives of the people. The house is joining buccaneers we all know, and this country is heading nowhere. Please don't backtrack on that decision to restore the house allowance for civil servants especially for lower grades, even that in our army and regular force. Mr. Manibe, go by your heart and not by the law!

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SOUTH SUDAN PRESIDENCY, LIFT A BAN ON FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 25, 2012

Foreign newspapers, especially the ones from East African countries are banned from operating in the Republic of South Sudan. Nearly six months now no single paper is allowed into the country. Security is hard on them. A word has it that the presidency ordered the banning of all newspapers coming from anywhere on the ground that Ugandan's and Kenyan's newspapers have gone too far and were critical of Kiir regime in Juba. The presidency is reported to have been irked by some stories touching its performances. Whether that story was true or not we have this situation of foreign newspapers prohibited from entering into the land. That simple act has caused unnecessary relations damage with our friends from East Africa.

When a country closes its doors to others, it shows belligerency and in fact it is an act of war. We aren't at war with anyone from East Africa so for our government to stop reporting from this region. People in the region of East Africa are our real brothers and sisters in the true sense of the world. They have shown that relation during our trying times, and no right minded man/woman could have this short memory to forget what Uganda and Kenya has done during the time of our liberation. In fact we could have allowed them the Four Freedoms not the North alone.

We can't close them out from informing the world about us. Information is power, they say; it would be good for someone to say something about us, than us doing it for ourselves. Our local newspapers aren't at the standard, at least at the moment. We would have benefited from media fraternity of our brothers from East Africa. An outsider who is established is better a novice. In fact the East Africa media is fairer and judicious in many way. It is a mirror for someone to write about your progress, and our leadership should not have gone out of the way to do just that.

Six months down the line is a long time indeed; our sister countries are exercising patience against the republic of South Sudan ill calculated decision to ban newspapers operating in the country. This clearly shows our immaturity to international cooperation we have heard about. Even China with her wide circulated and alleged hostility against external media has no problem with newspapers from the West. What do we think we are doing by banning the newspapers from entering our country? East African media houses in fact have played an important role throughout our liberation period. Ugandan media is doing a professional job for the East African Community and this is true with Kenyan media houses. Each country reports anything from either side; but no furor has been reported, such as what our presidency has done to East African media operations.

If the intention of banning foreign newspapers was to protect the Government of the Republic of South Sudan from deserved criticism, then we have missed it wide. Republic of South Sudan administrative and political ills are well documented, no amount of futile information shield would keep them from anyone out there. Kiir Regime has failed his people and this is not any secret anymore. He continues to embarrass his own people and even the region; one miscalculation after another. People are tired of this regime and would have loved it expose much clearer to those who are still hanging on to Kiir-Machar Government. Even the East African newspapers did their job cautiously and responsibly against Juba worse performance for the past seven years. There is no incentive therefore for Juba regime to panic by attempting to gag voice of the voiceless.

Whoever that decided to stand between the people and the information is an enemy of the people. I doubt whether advisors have anything concrete to offer our people if they keep quiet at this point in time. I personally pursued this matter through visits to one of the senior Government officials whom we shared a lot in this field of information, and we were all in disbelief as to why should the presidency do such a primitive thing in the name of protection. In Zimbabwe president Robert Gabriel Mugabe tried to do the same by stopping any Western reporters including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), but his action backfired soon after against his regime. Isolation is what our presidency leading our country into. We can't operate without others. You wonder what country is this that is waging war against media.

Our country has become so intolerable. Security is hard with vendors who are trying to smuggle newspapers inside the country. My eyes caught a foreigner running for her life with car behind in hot pursue. Stop it! Please this is a twenty so century where the whole world has become a village. Anything done on one side of the world will be radiated immediately to any other part of this 'village'. If the issue is with the security, someone must intervene and tell us what specific crime did these vendors or newspapers do against the state. It doesn't work like. Media reports issues so long as this is for the people and about people. I humbly request the personality of our president to lift the ban on the newspapers from Kenya and Uganda. Mr. Kiir is a good man, but he is equally a bad manager!

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SOUTH SUDAN SKEPTICISM ON SECURITY DEAL WITH SUDAN IS REAL

BY ISAAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 19, 2012

Juba leadership on the Cooperation Agreement has started to be dismissive and abusive to those questioning some pieces in the agreement. Some of our lawmakers have joined the prey and are out to criticize whoever criticizes the agreement. They have even cracked as there are calling some section of our society 'Northern Bahr El Ghazal' people verses others. Legislators everywhere have moral duty to protect the larger interest of the nation and not just their local constituents.

Constituent bigger like South Sudan is what binds us all. It was uncharacteristic, just unfair therefore for lawmakers to localize national pressing matters to specific individuals or groups to fight it out. Why leave the border matters to states affected, I have asked such question many times? MPs for the areas of Mile 14, Abyei and Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas and Kaka are like any other MPs in Western Equatoria, Jonglei, and Lakes etc whose lands have no dispute with the Northern Sudan.

I found it cruel when the matters in question were left to people affected to sort it out, while the rest of the country goes indifference. This should not have been the case. The issue of Mile 14, Abyei, Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas is for the entire nation called South Sudan not for Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Western Upper Nile or Northern Upper Nile.

People everywhere aren't happy that the negotiators allowed Khartoum a foothold on these lands. We have made a mistake to sign away Mile 14 just to repeat ourselves, under the pretext of a buffer zone. We have allowed our lands to be occupied and expect others from outside to help us out. No amount of explanation will extinguish the fire of anger against the President and his team on this matter of Mile 14, Panthou and Hofra Al Nahas. Abyei, Mile 14, Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas and others are becoming disputed because someone has entered them by force, and we never responded earlier on the ground or diplomatically.

These places are 100% South Sudan lands. Our negotiators succumbed to pressure from unknown, and hence a failed test for our leadership. President Kiir is to be blamed on this occupied South lands by Arabs, and now he has gone further to be offensive against anyone who questions his judgment. His statement that he fought the war and should be left alone rub salt to injuries. Again that he 'won't cede an inch of land to the North' came too late too little. We aren't buying this belated chest thumping statement from the man we all know his previous promises. We know him better. No one has faith in Arbitration Court courses either.

Who is this that wants to fool us that the argument isn't about land but military disengagement? Remember someone argued that it is just a temporarily arrangement to allow forces to disengage and later on the border demarcation will determine the real owners of the land. That is a lie. Why apply disengagement partially? Buffer Zone practice is applied when the two sides lay claim on an area. All disputed areas could have been demilitarized. That is exactly the trend. Mile 14 moreover has never been one. Why didn't the AU call for the demilitarization of all disputed lands? There is a sinister, and hence a problem.

The same way mediators avoided Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas and other lands that are disputed, where Sudanese Armed Forces are embedded, should have been the case for Mile 14. Mile 14 is used by Rezeigat Arabs during the summer, demilitarizing it after Sudan Army was chased away from there makes it an automatic disputed land. Allowing Khartoum to talk about another claim is too far an aggression. They will return to Mile 14 that now people are talking of it being a disputed land; they are immune to condemnation. Forget about International Community, we should have learned by now how the world out there works.

Badme a disputed territory at the heart of conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea was awarded in 2002 to Eritrea by UN backed Commission but to date the Ethiopians troops are firmly on the ground. Is that scenario not going to repeat itself in our case for Mile 14, Pantou, Hofra Al Nahas and other disputed areas? I do think so. Majority of our people are stricken with fear that someone hasn't articulate well to protect the right of people on our land; we have lost out our rightful lands to Sudan through cowardly and ignorant or both.

Why is it that our leaders want to play politics in the face of an anomaly? This is arrogance at best and a skullduggery! Our leaders know where the truth is, but aren't telling it. The issue of Mile 14 and other disputed lands isn't small thing for the head of state to dare sarcastically that people who oppose the deal are to go to war. Sir, people will go to war with you first if you don't stop your clumsy approach to such critical matters of our existence! Khartoum has found a weak character they can manipulate. In the face of challenges our president has clearly become another challenge to our people. Our people didn't elect Kiir to give away our land, and then spew disparage at his disgruntle people.

Mr. President has sharpened his derogative remarks against those opposed to the agreement during his address to security officers on Tuesday that those who are unhappy with the agreement 'are people who were with the Jalaba/Diaspora, and never had time to fight with him in the bush'. How about me sir, I was with you in one of the battalions (Tiger/Tumsah) you led, what will you say about me? I participated in the demonstration on Monday in Juba, all the way to parliament, to denounce the buffer zone dog for Mile 14; I went there for reasons known to all- land, land, land. We had expected our lawmakers to reverse the arrangement on Mile 14 and go with the rest of the agreement.

People have started to believe that someone has given away our land in exchange for an oil deal with Khartoum. The document should not have gone like that, people. Unfortunately, we have people who aren't standing up for their rights. Shame them! Kiir must go! He has proven disrespectful to his people. His foul mouthing isn't tolerable anymore.

Get it right and just to emphasize the matter we are trying to say, we are not rejecting the Cooperation Agreement with the Sudan, especially for an agreement that will last for a few years. But if the matter touches land, it becomes so complex to clear even after the expiry time. The agreement isn't all bad. People became happy that at least the oil production will flow again for the economy to resuscitate and that there will be relative harmony between Sudan and South Sudan once belligerent countries. But look, there are eight (8) agreements for the intended cooperation, but one known as the security agreement has spoiled the rest. The agreement has no meaning if the issues of Panthou, Kaka, Abyei, Hofra El Nahas and Mile 14 aren't resolved. The security agreement should have been thrown out of the window by the lawmakers until grievances or grey areas surrounding these matters are resolved. This is where we are coming; the issues of land are so grave for anyone to dip his/her fingers.

Our president should own it up. This is what we are saying and he got to fix it. He failed to show leadership, so do the lawmakers in our land. Our legislators could have gone to the document and made amendments before ratifying them. What is this argument that if the president signs it the document can't be challenged. Who is this god in South Sudan that when he does something it can't be reversed? Whether Kiir or Garang sign it, people are supreme; they can redo what has been botched for the good of all. Mile 14 and Panthou are sold out for no reasons at all. Oil or no oil, we have been cheated by a ruthless clique in Juba. To them the agreement is 'excellent', the agreement 'hasn't been understood', the 'media has failed' to articulate it to the people, 'reactionary forces' are behind rejection of the agreement, 'insignificant number' in our society, people who objected to the agreement are 'diaspora' and that they also 'opposed CPA but' later cheered it when the flag was raised. That is utter nonsense!

Majority of our people are not opposing the agreement for the sake of it but had hoped that the leadership in Juba would do the necessary changes before going for a law. Bad deals create more troubles than solutions and hence uncalled for under the face of realities surrounding our rights.

My people have suffered under President Kiir and his heartless clique; I have no kind words again against these people. The demonstration we made as people of South Sudan on Monday- not as Northern Bahr El Ghazal people- will go to history as the beginning of things to come. Mr. President isn't apologetic and this is worrying. The people of this country deserve a leader that respects their views; we have never had problems with him since he accidentally ascended to power in 2005, because the situation dictated that people exercise patience.

For the past eight years we have learned bitterly that Mr. Kiir is the problem and should be removed. He has failed us in many fronts, and on this matter of land he must not be forgiven. Our men in uniform in Mile 14 therefore are to remain in their places and let Mulana Makuei, Mbeki or Pagan come and dislodge them by force. AU must deploy any troops around Mile 14. We will see how to go about Panthou and Abyei now that someone is selling our lands to Arabs.

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I FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF ABYEI AND OTHER DISPUTED AREAS

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 13, 2012

Sudan and South Sudan have agreed on oil production fees, freedoms for their nationals, buffer zones for their two countries, certain economic matters, banking, trade, post service benefits and security. But the future of Abyei and the status of the disputed areas of Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas, Kofi Kingi, Mile 14 and Kaka remain uncertain. Though there have been ballyhoos from stakeholders that a chapter has been opened between Sudan and South Sudan, the absence of will to put to rest disputes in the aforesaid areas is a reminiscence of trouble ahead as far as the relations between the two countries is concern.

To begin with, there can never be peace on the border between Sudan and South Sudan if the issue of Abyei and other disputed areas isn't resolved. Khartoum and Juba have no choice but to confront this fact and agree. Whether modalities are the problem or not, it seems as if one side is dragging its feet and won't like these questions to go away. The agreements were just conspicuous of the situation on Abyei, Panthou and others, and that was just not right. South Sudan in particular should not be excited about the signed agreements. The agreements to this author are just bad. They only serve short term goals,, even if they are for three and half years. That period is long and will dire repercussion in many years thereafter.

I know the negotiators on the side of South Sudan would want to save faces after their disastrous approaches to issues on our streets. They are also avoiding international claustrophobia but the truth is that we have negotiated as weak partners, and ended up with nothing concrete. Abyei future really bothers me after this agreement. I hear the Chief Negotiator on the Southern side upbeat that someone somewhere will use a stick to force Khartoum to accept the African Union Road Map. I doubt! Khartoum will never be moved with sanctions or otherwise. Where does the confidence brother Amum is exuding coming from? Realistically we could have accepted the idea of a referendum Chair coming from the North, and

then get our acts together to let our people (Ngok Dinka) who are still hanging in the Northern Sudan come home and vote.

There will be no Misseriya single soul to vote of course, but Ngok alone can make history to vote 100% for South Sudan. We can do it if the likes of Dr. Francis Mading Deng are serious. We have stake in Abyei not just people but the land; this is South Sudan piece and shouldn't be left to Northern Sudan that way. Dr. Barnaba Marial (South Sudan Information Minister) has become another Iragi Mohammed Al Sahhaf. He says we shouldn't be alarm, even if it takes years. He cited the United States vs Canada border disputes, North Korea vs South Korea etc, and the question is: can we wait indefinitely for Abyei and Panthou status? You wrong sir! We can't wait.

Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas, Kofi Kingi and Kaka town, the Sudanese Armed Forces are firmly there, and if that is the case, what does South Sudan have as an option after the failure of talks over these areas? I'm not buying any threat from UN, AU and Mr. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki against Khartoum. The talks to me have failed. I call them failed talks because they never addressed real pressing issues of land ownership and political destiny for Abyei. The give given (dead line) given for soul searching is already approaching. The next round of talk after twenties is likely to yield nothing since the principles leaders of Al Bashir and Kiir won't be there. There is still too much bad blood as hard liners are digging in. Doubts hover over the said freedoms, banking and trade agreements.

Khartoum hates South Sudan and want it die. We sometime back predicted that peaceful resolutions of land in favor of South Sudan would be remote. We are at it, and time will justify us again that we have achieved basically nothing. Viability beta chunu are these people talking about when one side is superior, established and grounded. South Sudan is disadvantaged. It has been compounded by poor judgment and bad governance on the side of these leaders. They are giving up Abyei slowly unfortunately.

The Abyei matter can't be treated like that and expect the public to keep quiet. The negotiators are blowing hot and cold at the same time. Somewhere they thought the case will end up in the court, and in another they are for a political decision from Khartoum. This is a risky business and I suggest that our people follow this matter to the end without giving it up. We can do the same to Panthou and areas in Western Bahr El Ghazal. We must not leave our small piece to Northern Sudan. It wasn't in place to leave Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas and Abyei behind and expect Khartoum to accept peaceful negotiations of these areas. Stakes are high, and look forward for our leaders to go to the drawing board.

But now that there are different voices against and for on the said agreements, what do you make of the whole lot as a concern citizen or observer of the Sudanese affairs. Well, I for one don't want to reinvent the wheel, the agreement was sanctioned by

our leader Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit; it was also negotiated and passed by people we are confidence of their ability. The Council of Minister on Friday moreover passed the text in toto; the ball has moved to its irreversible stage with Parliament on its way. Who cares again here if there are questions hanging over the so-called 'excellent' agreements?

My query however what our leaders should doing in the next phase especially on Abyei, Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas and Kofi Kingi. I want our leaders to know that people are not happy that the negotiators have succumbed to so-called to internal and external pressures to accept a bad deal. Economic issues yeah, are necessary but political. People had high hope that the Addis Ababa Summit will yield final resolutions of the pending issues of Abyei and Panthou. Our people will one day go it alone on the ground without the knowledge of the Juba. Nothing is easy; they got to pursue the issues above with the vigor it needed to ensure acceptable solution for all.

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SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN COOPERATION AGREEMENT ARE BAD BUT

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

OCTOBER 10, 2012

On September 27, 2012, the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan signed several bilateral agreements in the Ethiopian's capital Addis Ababa. Both countries have had series of political engagements on the same matters of disagreement for the past three years. The matters in contention were border demarcation, security along their common borders, Abyei status, debts as well as the oil production fees disagreement. But other matters have overshadowed these areas for reason best known to stakeholders in the talks. These talks were under the auspices of the African Union. Former South African president Mr. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki led an AU High-Level Implementation Panel on the same, with full backing from the United Nations Security Council particularly Resolution 2046 of May 2, 2012.

For many years after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of the 2005, there have been different levels of talks on unresolved matters of the same. Last year especially after independence of South Sudan negotiations were heading nowhere until December the same year when both sides couldn't talk good terms anymore. Earlier this year, talks broke down on oil charges and security incursions on both ends deteriorated. Each accuses the other for the break down of peaceful resolutions of disputes. On oil for instance, Khartoum confiscated South Sudan oil ships destined for the overseas markets, and issued threats of doing more unless their suggested oil transit fees are accepted. Earlier on and within the Interim Period there have been

negative voices about lack of transparency in the oil production. Issues of trust override anything else, and there a stalemate.

Oil status triggered everything. The leaders in the South in January this year decided to close down oil production to avoid Khartoum pipe lines charges. They did it in protest and many people supported the decision including this little author. Though we then cheered up our leaders for closing the oil production, consequences are felt everywhere. Our banks dried up and so-called friends ran away when we badly needed their help. Majority of the people have different views against those in power. That is them, but this author will close with a lament line against leadership of this country.

Let's move on to our discussion. We are hearing the signing of many agreements between the two countries of the former Sudan, majority of them are economic materials, what do you make of the whole lot as a concern citizen or observer of the Sudanese affairs. Well, I for one don't want to reinvent the wheel, the agreements are sanctioned by our leader Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit; it was also negotiated and passed by people we are confident of their ability. The Council of Minister on Friday moreover passed the text in toto; the ball has moved to its irreversible stage with Parliament on its way. Who cares again here if there are questions hanging over the so-called 'excellent' agreements? Remember Dr. Barmaba (South Sudan Information Minister) has become another Mohammed Said Al Sahhaf of this country; Mr. Al Sahhaf was the last Saddam's Information man in Iraq.

I wish this man goes away from that docket and Professor Dhieu Mathok Diing takes over. Dr. Dhieu is the man to watch, highly learned, civilized and humane. He could have been used more there or Labor Ministry than Dr. Marial whose sole purpose to divert, divert, deny, deny, defend, defend.

So, what agreements are we talking about so to speak? Just to refresh your memory, we are told that the agreements are: oil, certain financial matters, banking, trade, post service benefits and annex known as cooperation agreement. There are also national and security agreements. If you piece each agreement, you will find that 90% of its favors the Republic of the Sudan against South Sudan and hence a problem. Though it is too earlier to celebrate, as the agreements are still 'work in progress', signs are that Khartoum and Juba are bound to make a rush and end up disadvantage one another. South Sudan will be disadvantaged!

Its not any secret that we still have long way to go or mediators of the Sudanese Peace Talks were virtually ambiguous about what concrete course of action to take on hot matters of Abyei, Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas, Kofi Kingi, Kaka and 14 Mile.

If the world is fair and if at all there was good faith on the side of Khartoum, why should anyone settle for soft parts of dispute leaving behind grave matters that are

important to the two sides? No one was interested in economic matter before political settlement of the aforesaid real issues besetting the minds of our two nations.

Conspicuously, President Omar Al Bashir has got away once again before the watchful eyes of the so-called International Community? Didn't I hear them saying that anyone whom the African Union find guilty of rejecting the AU proposal shall be held accountable? Why don't these people go by their threats we have heard them propping then? What do the UN and the AU think they will be doing when one party violates its principle every now and then? May be the date line is still ahead for the UN and AU to react, but as usual there will be no action against President Omar Al Bashir!

Look, Khartoum was asked to stop bombing South Sudan, and they never stop it. No action was taken. The UN in South Sudan even 2 weeks confirmed airdropping of military supplies to their militiamen deep inside South Sudan in Pibor County (Jongelei State), and with all glaring facts around, no one bothers to probe who is this Al Bashir that doesn't respect international engagements? To be exact, someone must keep watch against President Omar Al Bashir hawks to torpedo the process, especially security.

On Abyei however President Al Bashir was right on two points; the issue of an external Chair for Abyei Referendum and another law to repeal the current Abyei Legal Status. Re-called also that in Kadugli on June 20, 2011, there was some sort of an agreement for peace and administration of Abyei Area that reinforces the Abyei Peace and Administrative status. It would have been unfair to overlook previous arrangements, temporary, as they may seem. To have a foreign Chairperson to oversee the Abyei Referendum would have been weird. Chair should be from within, either from the North or from the South.

I suggest that before the 20/10/2012, let's accept the Chairperson to be from the North surely that person will not interfere with the result. If framework is right, everything will be alright. The Abyei Referendum exercise will not be like the South Kordofan gubernatorial election, this But Misseriya tribe eligibility is out of the question. They aren't residence of Abyei and therefore have no any legal right to vote in that crucial. This is an international exercise and with this era of dotcom Ngok Dinka shall vote fairly though it might not be free.

On freedoms for nationals of Sudan and South, they are to be unpackaged. There is too much ambiguity. Northerners are allowed by this agreement for employment, because if they are to own and dispose property, what does that tell you about his/her employability rights. How could he/she get a property when unemployed? Employment isn't all about employers; one can employ himself/herself, right/wrong? The same is true with issues related to buffer zones or security arrangement as a whole. More work needs done. I didn't see any reason why should our forces be moving back from certain disputed areas, while Sudan Armed Forces

are left untouched in some key strategic areas. Our forces on Mile 14 therefore must stay put! It is unfair if today we are forced to leave this place when Arabs are firmly in Panthou, Hofra Al Nahas and others.

Though the agreement is generally not fair, let's not throw it away altogether. Our situation at the moment requires that we go by the agreement. To reverse it will worsen the situation. We earlier made some mistakes in our economic judgment. If the intention is to keep the viability and peace for the two nations, then let's go for it. That is what happens in negotiation when you are in a weaker position. However, our leaders must understand clearly here that our people aren't happy with all the agreements except post service benefit agreement and oil production agreement.

But overall, I fear for the country under our current leadership status. Even if people talk of aspired successes, I see nothing coming out from our men at the top. Government with such myopic mentality will certainly not deliver. The same people, the same brains! There is daily miasma news every turn you go in our land, and anytime South Sudan Al Sahhaf (Dr. Marial) comes out and opens his mouth, you feel like cursing yourself. Mr. Marial, the agreements your government signs with the Sudan are bad, they aren't 'excellent'. For a short while yes, but in the long run, you will remember why they aren't nice. Sir, they rob me and you of our own mastery and the promise we made to own our affairs. Economy isn't anything small. If someone controls it, forget about any future for your own. Viability beta chunu? How did we get there in the first place? But for the sake of socio-economic meltdown, the very creation of our own, let's give a benefit of doubt and see what's next in 2013 about Kiir and his men. I want them out!

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SOUTH SUDANESE LEADER WILL NOT BE RE-ELECTED

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

Mr. Ateny Wek Ateny, a columnist with the Citizen Newspaper, Juba wrote a spirited piece challenging Mr. Mabior Garang Mabior, the son of the founding father of this nation about the later dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs. Mr. Ateny called Mr. Garang junior names including that of a 'prodigal' son. He fumed and argued until he gets to why this author couldn't take it anymore.

I had picked three enigmatic lines from his article written on Citizen Newspaper dated September 4th 2012, Vol. 7, Issue No. 234. One line reads thus: "Garang boys still control everything...". I will be open and general though because the author in question has attacked Mr. Garang unfairly when it shouldn't be the case.

Before we argue much as to why such a statement (s) is/are terrible and uncalled for, allow me to briefly rehearse your memory about key words from Alan Boswell of the McClatchy Newspaper publicized and politicized interview with Mr. Mabior Garang outside the country the country couple of weeks ago. Mr. Garang was reported to have said that the government is doing little about corruption drive/fight. Recall we have had that situation of 75 people adversely mentioned by the president to be his prime suspects, people who are responsible for the lost of 4 billion United States dollars. So far, no arrest was made or investigation done despite Parliament request on the same.

Mr. Garang again was allegedly heard to have said that the current leadership has abandoned the path charted forward by his father. He was referring to services to the people. He was further quoted to have thought the need for a change through people and not through the army. Lastly Mr. Garang quizzed and squared Mr. Kiir's security for the death of a Kenyan worker on a bus related to Mama Rebecca Nyandeng, the mother of Mabior Garang Mabior.

As natural as everything else opinions are subject to different interpretations; each of us will slice part of Garang argument differently. Some will go by his statements the way they appear to the public, while others will go beyond it before jumping to anything concrete; yet there are people who would opt to dismiss him and take the matter personal or apply association to anybody around Garang. The big deal to all remembers is that the said jabs are from the mouth of the son of a great man call John Garang de Mabior.

There is confusing for many about Kiir and Garang. To this author the father of Mabior and Kiir are one and the same thing. The two in fact are joined at the hip; one is the other. The two have come a long way and no point should the two be separated because one is dead. It is death that has separated the two leaders, and hence sinister for anyone to go between the two.

In that particular case, Mr. Ateny finds himself on the category of those who see Kiir and Garang as different and distinct. Kiir to them isn't Garang and the opposite is true. I agree. But their past and present has shown no difference. Going over therefore to stretch Kiir on the expense of his colleague Garang is benightedly unnecessary. Majority of Kiir homeboys are pushing hard to anoint Kiir that way, but Mr. Kiir has kept away from such a school, at least publicly. That is another argument another day, but the extension of that argument has spilled over to this topic, and I shall reference it as we go along.

Anyway, we still have a long way to go given our patronage tendencies and allegiance that must not be wished away overnight. The strings are being pulled and normally it goes that way until at a certain time when chicken comes home to roast. To this author it will be callous to give undue credit to Kiir when he is struggling to get near what was laid down by Garang. It would be unfair for my colleague from Aweil to

downplay the current pathetic state of affairs, and blame the young Garang for voicing them. As things stand, Mr. Kiir is responsible for our mess. Garang was in charge and after him is Kiir, thus the two shared failures and successes of the SPLM. But SPLM has rotten further under Kiir, the excuse shouldn't be that it was first bad under Garang and therefore must not be corrected or change under Kiir.

Garang boys vs Kiir boys

Now let's look briefly the sentence above "Garang boys are still controlling everything", especially the word "still". What was it this author wanted to convey when he used the word 'still'? To him it seems as if the continuation of "Garang boys" in the system was a mistake after Kiir ascension to power. "Garang boys" have no business being again there after Garang death, he has reasoned. This is Kiir government why should "Garang boys" be allowed to hold positions, Mr. Ateny argued. Well, I have no problem with anyone instinctive understanding of who was who then and now; whether it is in place to have "boys" here and there. It is his business and I respect him. The trouble is the girth from which my brother Ateny is taking us. I fear him now than any other time before.

What about "Garang boys" vs "Kiir boys". His choice of these words didn't just come out while he was writing, the man had earlier consulted his conscience and concluded that for him to raise the bar, he must dredge something up to settle a score against people whom he sees are anti-Kiir. Remember we have been hearing these maundering statements every now and then, specifically during Kiir's time. At Garang there were no 'boys' or 'girls' of anyone, but 'boys' of South Sudan. The coined thing was designed by people who were/are interested in separating Kiir from Garang. Please Ateny, there are no Garang or Kiir boys. Kiir himself was one the boys under Garang if you want it said that way. He made him who he is, wrong/right? But Kiir and whoever else after Garang are leaders on their own right, and we must respect them, and not to insult them.

"SPLM rooted in the way it was designed"

I find the second enigmatic statement from Ateny more confusing; It partly reads like this: " the culture of the SPLM rooted in the way it was designed. If Mabior sees the failure of the SPLM led government, which is system with its fluctuating political culture from communist to capitalist"

The composition of this passage was wrong, the intent was also wrong as do the phrasing. If the culture of the SPLM was faulty, then what does that do with Mabior reminding you and me about them? You one moment attempted to say failure of the system to push the bug to someone else, yet in another split second you put a blanket on the face of Mabior as if he was Kiir/Garang. If there are failures from that time to date, because of that 'design' who has stopped Kiir from correcting the wrong 'design'?

How about changing ideology from communism to capitalism, what relevance does the author wants to attach to Mabior's expression to the state of our affairs? If Mr. Ateny intention was to charge Garang Sr of having erected a wrong foundation, then his attempt to exonerate Kiir is off the mark. Corruption, mismanagement and lack of vision aren't ideological, but methodological or means under poor governance. Ideology isn't responsible for failures; it is the policing of these ideas and how they are translated that make a difference.

Therefore, it is just rude to try to gag Garang junior because he is the son of Dr. John Garang. Mr. Mabior openness is good for us all; this is self-criticism and shouldn't be thrown out of the window. After all he is a South Sudanese like everyone else in this land, and has every right to express himself. If he says things aren't going people's way, who is this Ateny to say that they are? Majority of our people are dissatisfied, save for a few around the corridor of power. What will he say about Kiir hands on glove in addressing corrupt practices in his government? Is that not a concern? I think it is so! To me there is a huge concern and a weakness from the top man in our land. He must do things differently to prove to many his worth being there. People might conclude that perhaps he wasn't serious in the first place to fight corruption when he mentioned 75 government officials in the graft.

Second, Mr. Garang has voiced what we all know, very alarming trend indeed and not anymore a secret, this is it: there is total leadership deficit and this must be corrected sooner or later, probably next year during party Convention, otherwise the country what head to unstoppable abyss-failed state. I must be open to everyone here; if it goaded anyone then he/she got to bear. That is our job to say things the way they look. There are manageable crisis such as insecurity in some part of the country, lack of basic services, insecurity menace, lack of infrastructures as well as the diplomatic dirt for not being proactive and visional. The list however goes on.

The so-called post outstanding differences between the Sudan and South Sudan are by products of our failure to appreciate situations before they actually occur. The government acts haphazardly and impromptus and not on a laid out one, two and three strategic plans. No guidance, no supervision and no evaluation, and thereby no nothing. That is exactly what Mr. Garang Junior lamented about. We must not burry our heads in fear because security people will torture us, people of this land are to be free from ineptitude and poor guidance from Kiir camp.

Soon after the visit of the United States Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton earlier last month, one of her envoys (Ms Hala Faustino Roro) summed everything up in the following lines:

"...You can't just do things on your own accord and leave the multitude of your people suffer. This is not politics, this not human, this is not wise. You might have a fantastic long term option but no long term option is achievable without the short term option paving the way for that".

Piecing everything there, you will find that Mabior wasn't alone or wrong as do any elsewhere who actually cares about our situation. That sounds pessimism, yeah? But the dynamic of things is against us; there is no assurance that our government and the leadership of Mr. Kiir will indeed deliver. It stumbles from one area to another with nothing insight to hope for. As things stand our social and economic situations are getting worse each passing day. Short-term remedies from the government aren't at everyone sight, that is the crux of why this pessimism and an open outcry from Mabior.

Simple things matter a lot to the people. The government must engage people when there are concerns. Khartoum is doing it better than us, and you wonder why. For example the enemy sent our own brothers to kill soldier in Lukuangulei in Pibor-Jonglei State few weeks ago, and no press statement was made by anyone including the Chief of Staff or Commander in Chief or our army. How safe are we if our men are killed by Khartoum agents and the government keeps quiet? The men in uniform expected their moral to be boasted; alas those in charge decide to go mum. What amnesty are these people talking about when the country is under threat from Lam's militiamen. May be we have people within the system who are saints in suits but devils in another dresses.

How about shortage of fuel; who cares that there are no more fuel available to the people? Mr. Stephen Dieu of the Petroleum must swallow his pride and be counted for his ministerial mess. It is not about fuel shortage in Kenya but about his long and short-term services to the people of South Sudan as to fuel. Fuel is own by foreign, a dangerous group by way, and no one thought about such an anomaly. How do one give such an important service to such group. If we had capital problem we would have try it out through Petroleum Association of South Sudan. They are organized and could have allowed foreigners limited space when the group gradually prepare our own to manage fuel in the country.

The National Legislative Assembly on the other hand isn't any longer an oversight body, but rubber stamp from the Executive. They allowed salary cuts for civil servants and made no explanation as to what will that mean to an inflated ridden country. Salaries are delayed and no clear word from anyone. Aliens are everywhere with their accompanied crimes. Kenyans are becoming horrible in that field and now they have the face to call us monkeys. Silly! The list goes on and you wonder where does all this lead the country? Is that not a concern Mr. Ateny? I belief so sir! The bug stops with Kiir. He must own it.

Garang was undisputed leader

Ateny if Garang was alive we won't have been at this state, I must say this with certitude! That man was gifted; he knew what step to take, why to take and what it would take to take it. Of course he wasn't god, but his developmental agenda fit our fertile grounds. May be you don't know him, and only heard from FORUM

instigative and negative onslaught against him in London. Of course we know the turncoats that are becoming hard cores and inner circles of the system currently in Juba. Time is coming when you will be accounted for the mess you have done against the people of this country. South Sudan can't be led like that and someone step up to try to hush anyone.

Garang junior wasn't whistleblower but truth teller-change is inevitable

The third enigmatic statement from Mr. Ateny Wek Ateny on his dying line goes like this: "the prodigal son of the former leader is a whistleblower for something yet designed to come". Mr. Ateny, Mr. Mabior wasn't a whistleblower about any impending coup de tat or anything similar to that school. Look, no one will remove President Kiir through any violent means. He is an elected leader and our people are law abiding ones. The army you see are disciplined; they were brought up by descent man. Kiir will be president until election time in 2015, be assure of that. But take this from this little author; Mr. Kiir will not be the president of this republic beyond 2015.

The man has lost his base, and has since resigned to that situation. He still holds on the skeleton anyway, but the reality is that the SPLM, which should have been his very base, is infiltrated and not anymore standing united the way we came in-2005. The true cadres of the party have no courage to market Kiir the same way they did it few years ago. They aren't closer to where the national matters are discussed. Some people have already found their way, and are running the show.

But to be exact, the trouble started when Kiir formed his first cabinet after election in 2010. The party should have been on the fore front to nominate who should be the Minister, Deputy Minister, Undersecretary and so on. Mr. Kiir sat in his villa house in Juba and called his two men (Machar and Wani) and the trio divided the seats among their cronies from their respective three regions. This has alienated so many able people. You see, the party regionalize its own regional slots and not the executive. Executive is about specialists, a group of people with specific and technical knowhow.

The Magayas, the Agnes of the NCP and the Betty are the like that should not have been in the Cabinet in the first place. Their political backgrounds are murkier and shoddier than one could imagine. Can anyone dream of appointing turn coats, straight to the heart of the system, as if SPLM has no men/women from the bush who could run the government? If we had managed then to run the movement for many years without anything and under difficult challenges circumstances, how about now when we have everything in place to manage things? Gen. Obote could have been the right man in Interior not the Magaya if the position was the preserve of the Equatorians.

I cease this opportunity to request His Excellency the President to return Ms Awut Deng Achuil to the Cabinet. She was in the bush and knows the pain of the people.

She wasn't with Arabs in Khartoum. Madame Awut is an achiever and shouldn't be left in the cool. His problem was with some busybodies in the Council of Ministers who were resisting her ghost names fights in the payrolls. She a fighter, has a character and not corrupt. Please sir, make use of this lady talent; don't listen lies, overturn her resignation letter and reappoint her in another production ministry such as Commerce. I'm talking about people who actually been in the fire who are now the rejects of President Kiir.

Kiir should consult his party on grave national matters

Kiir had no time consulting his party secretariat on serious national decisions. Yes once the president is elected he ceases becoming partisans, but policies are always generated by the party. The party initiates and forms any part of his move. Our President casually connects with his party and that shouldn't be the case. He made all his big decision around Council of Ministers and in his house. Take for example the shut down of the oil production; the decision was made elsewhere or by a few without careful study about its economic repercussions. Literally exerts weren't consulted and here we are in an economic quagmire, whom do we blame? Of course the Chief Executive who felt short of making use of his base.

People thought there are plans after that, but to date they are in distance future or in pipe dream/nowhere. The President and his small kitchen cabinet emotionally made so many decisions on behalf of everyone else, even that of a party. Though the decision to shut down oil production has become a blessing in disguise and Khartoum was wrong to have stolen our money at gunpoint, it wasn't careful thought out. That is exactly what the young Garang was trying to say. We should have learned by now how the work works!

Kiir will not be re-elected again

Mr. Ateny must be reminded that Kiir re-election bid will be a daunting task. If it happens it will be with a price. In essence the party will divide into pieces. Some people are quiet now because time hasn't yet come, but once that time arrives, you will hear power struggle issue coming up everywhere; that is if Kiir insists of running again for another term. If he cares for the party he will have to give others the chance. The big has tried and must rest. The SPLM Chairman is walking under tied rope, very exposed and must be left to retire. Dr. Machar moreover is angling around and will not wait longer until 2020. Then he will be 68 or so years, an age bracket not suitable for this generation. I love him! Others are also coming up. It is good to go when people still love you than to go down through a push.

Unity and the Promised Land

I hear elsewhere that Mr. Ateny erroneously beat a confidence chord that Mr. Kiir will be re-elected president for few more years, because he has united the people of

South Sudan and had actually brought about independence of the country. Well, Ateny shouldn't be carried out. We all know his achievement and everyone is proud of him being there. Everyone appreciates our leader patience and humility in the face of problems, but you are overstated things for nothing. Kiir is the first president of the Republic of South Sudan period, nothing will erase this accolade for anytime to come, but for him to go Ghanaian first president way won't be nice. Dignity is critical. The earlier he retires the better for him and for the country. He has failed.

Unity of South Sudan is faulty

Mr. Ateny, we are not yet united, we are not near there; instead we are closer to polarization. In which way did he unite the people of this republic brother? His unity with militiamen in 2006 and in between was bound to happen regardless and irrespective of who/what approach he uses; they had no choice after the CPA was signed. But what we now see as unity of our people is faulty; it is on sand ground and likely to crumble anytime. Mr. Mabior didn't mention it, but this is my generalization about Kiir poor records.

True, sharing of national cake is one of the elements that bring about unity, but that arrangement is ephemeral in substance and in nature. Representation is materialist, unrealistic and cannot bring the real unity. That arrangement isn't sustenance and lasts for a short period of time. The unity we truly yearn for therefore is the very one that would be in our minds.

Today we have a government with almost all the faces, but still we didn't reach the unity of our people. The question is why? Unity goes beyond inclusiveness; it has to be in our behavior towards one another. Someone does it in Rwanda and in few centuries to come, the issue of Tutsi vs Hutu will be history. He cleverly crafted a system where anyone is anyone, anywhere and everywhere in the 20 or so provinces of the Republic of Rwanda. He isn't yet there however but on a right course for his people.

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania did it two centuries ago, and it is paying off today; he did it for his diverse ethnic groups, and now he must be a proud man on heaven. Once a leader finds himself in such situations, the best way to go is to carefully erect a short term foundation for a longer term solution. If we are united we won't have people running away from one another-federation quest or people crying for autonomous. We would have been comfortable with who is our neighbor irrespective of his tribe. We won't have sniff over our shoulder as to who is in power, because power to us is short cut means to wealth.

I still hope that time will come when we shall have a Juba Commissioner from Murle, or a Toposa becoming a governor in Upper Nile State. I long for a situation where our people shall embrace one another and not in lens of tribes, classes or groups. Kiir didn't do enough there, and will leave it that way. Garang Sr was on the

way to mould us into something. He started well but Kiir and Machar threw it out immediately after his death. Wani was appointed governor in Upper Nile, Machar was appointed governor in Western Equatoria, Lam was in Western Bahr El Ghazal etc, that was clear manifestation of a vision. That is a difference. There would have been election yes, but it would have been done in 2010 after some strides. Kiir missed it, because those who were after power never gave him time to do things right.

On the journey to the Promised Land, no single person can brag about having brought us freedom. Even Garang with all his extraordinary efforts couldn't say he had singlehanded freed this country. But also under the CPA foundation it was possible for anyone to bring people out of the bondage. That agreement was too grounded on rocks. Kiir had even failed to use it properly. He has been reclusive and never stayed longer in the presidency in Khartoum. He shied from making himself heard. The today issues such as the Disputed Areas or the problem in two areas of South Korfofan and Blue Nile would have been heard. People were surprised when Panthou became a disputed land. No one said it, if Kiir didn't say who else could have said it?

Mr. Ateny must not make mistake that Mabior family is jealous about Kiir presidency. Dr. John Garang family is hardworking family. They are doing it for their self-reliance. Mama Rebecca is a woman of steel heart, so tough. She is building her own live like everyone else and this is encouraging. The young Garang moreover has been careful, quiet and his timing is right. If he isn't talking who will voice the concern of the people of this republic. We must be accommodative to constructive criticism. This author is an SPLM member who is not leaving the party yet but is not happy that Khartoum is allowed to laugh last that we are becoming a failed state. I love this party because of its history; I love him as a person but not anymore as the president, and our big brother John Garang de Mabior, and many more who participated in the struggle of the people of South Sudan. The SPLM must reform; the Chairman must listen and do what is best for his people.

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***SUDANESE OPPOSITION FORCES MUST UNITE
OR PERISH!***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

The political classes in the Republic of Sudan have missed a rare political opportunity to topple the government in Khartoum during students' uprisings. The then economic conditions faced by the government there could have been used as a good ground to forge an alternative, and bring down the system peacefully. Alas, Northern political forces have wasted golden chance to unite and bring about the

change every Sudanese has been yearning for. They had difficulty trusting one another or group trusting another on power. The dogged problem has always been who should be who first; they did it before the 'animal' was finally killed. The Umma Party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Popular Congress Party, the Communist, the SPLM-N has a daunting task now to change the system in Khartoum. Unity for the opposition forces is paramount, if the threat of removing the current government in Khartoum is to become real.

By unity they could form a formidable force that would be reckoned with against the long worn out party called the National Congress Party (NCP). The NCP fortunately or unfortunately is regrouping, and so long as they will be again in partnership with South Sudan's Sudan People's Liberation

Movement in the South, the lot has already been cast in favor of them. Sooner or later the economy of the Sudan will pick up, as there will be billions of dollars flowing into their Central Bank from South Sudan. Sudanese as they are known have short memory. They will resume their lives, despite irreparable socio-political damage brought about by ruthless regime in power (Khartoum).

The Sudanese people have paid the brunt of Khartoum brutal policies and it is time the country move away. The clique in power has no intention of leaving power under any circumstances unless the opposition extraordinary to change tact. South Sudan has escaped narrowly, but Western Region of Darfur, Nuba Mountains and South Blue Nile have become next targets for the regime in Khartoum. Time and again, the world was warned that Khartoum bends to shed more blood of innocent human beings in the country, but the powerful nations were indifference and still like that. It becomes worse under President Barack Hussien Obama of the United States of America. I pray he loses the election in November! People thought that the world is moving closer, and if there is an outcry at a certain corner, others shouldn't be indifference, but hurry to put off that fire. There is no hope under President Obama; rhetoric alone isn't enough, rogue regimes will finish others.

Sudan needs world attention, especially now that it is more incline to clear any living being off the land of the Nuba. The Main Opposition forces haven't lives up to the expectation of the people of the Sudan. Their sectarian orientation goes against new order. It has alienated many, and somewhat work in favor of the dying regime in power. Why don't these people unite or seek genuine intercourses and alliances among themselves. For Khartoum to go therefore, the main traditional opposition forces must make unity attractive to other political forces. They got to join hands with the Sudan Liberation Movement factions, and the SPLA-North so to quickly bring down the government. There is chance to do just that.

Alliance is the way to go! Political marriage for all is overdue, so to squeeze life out of the NCP. Time to do it is now. The leadership issue must not be given much attention at the moment. Imam Sadiq El Mahdi has proven to me that he is a

nationalist figure and should be respected. He came up with a clear-cut strategy that could have helped had it not that his idea of uniting all forces under certain project was shot down in its infancy. Other prominent groups rejected outright, and no consultation and communication made to those with arms in the bushes. Great ideas are conceived by a few and later to many. I don't think it was right to throw away the baby along with the water, simply because the messenger was a wrong one. Opposition Groups are becoming weaker and irrelevant unless they try something new.

I urge Imam El Mahdi to continue to be on the front line for change in the Sudan. He must define problems face by the Nuba Mountain and the Blue Nile, and fight for their rights. The same must be true with the region Darfur. They too deserve peace and political consideration. Dr. Abdallah Al Turabi was vocal, and has since gone underground.

The underlying issues are well documented and differences on prospective shouldn't divert attention away from forging for unified front. The Ansars and Ketimiya are still forces to be beat on the political field; they got to set national agenda for the small Sudanese political parties to follow. Islamic extremism slows down the country shift; Sudan has to settle down after ages of strife and war. Compromise is a necessity if President Al Bashir is to be retired. He was a good man, but somewhere lost his stamina and should be removed. There is time for anyone, and Sudanese deserves more.

Northern Opposition Forces have no any excuse not to topple the government in Khartoum. They have experiences, shared practices/policies; they have one objective, and are in fact the majority. What stands between them and that goal is lack of trust as to power struggle. Once they put that behind and move towards their main goal, the smooth will be their going.

But why unity? Well, unity of the opposition parties will lead to peaceful removal of the regime, and this in turn will relieve the country from external and internal pressures. We all know all that don't us? Externally, the country will regain its lost glory among world powers, and dignity of the country will be restored. Internally the current map of the Sudan won't temper with. Agenda for areas under trouble politically will be crafted. The government will stop fighting its people. Regionally, there will be bilateral relationship between the two former Sudans (South & North). The two people of the two countries have many in common; as the border will be reopen for social and economic activities. There will be peace and then development for both countries. Northern Opposition must unite or perish!

If change is effected in Khartoum, the dangerous man on earth will have no place to lay his head. Dr. Lam Akol sanctuary will end; he is fighting a losing war, a misguided man who thrives through treacherous schemes in the name of being intelligent. His militias under him will be subdued by the mighty SPLA. Renegade

Major, David Yau Yau will be a past tense in few weeks or days to come after his grisly attacks against civilians and the SPLA forces. No one has ever escaped SPLA hands after spill their blood. Juba shall forge a different approach, and dissidents from both sides will have no ground to fight from either North or the South.

You must wonder what makes this author so nosy to Sudanese affairs when there are plenty of matters to write about in his home country called South Sudan. In another word someone is confused what makes Southern based writers jumped to the affairs of another country. Like everyone else, I have an interest and my interest is peace and stability. Stability of the Sudan is our stability in the South. Remember the iconic sayings that 'injustice somewhere is injustice everywhere', and 'war is contagious'. So the writer isn't campaigning for anything closer to unity between the countries, the Sudan and the Azania/Nile Republic (Uncle Lagu and the group love to call it South Sudan). Our divorce was mutual and definite or forever.

On the side of South Sudan therefore there is need to search soul and take serious Hon. Dr. Luka Biong Deng premonition about the country's relations with traditional allies in the North. Our leaders are becoming lukewarm these days of issues beyond the borders, something so strange and unacceptable. South Sudan must not shy or make any mistake to abandon these people under any pressure. We must not be ashamed to support Nubians and the Funj people in their hour of need. They are under threat socially and politically. Darfur case came late into equation. Let the United States of America or any other group talk, we have a duty to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in these areas. The NCP is merciless; the white man will realize things when they are too late about these.

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***COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH SUDAN ARE
IGNORING THEIR CORPORATE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 23, 2012

Many credible companies and organizations around the globe have heavily invested in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to put human face in their socioeconomic engagement with consumers of their products and services. This is not the case in South Sudan for reasons best known to those companies. There are few organizations and companies operating in the country before and after independence that ignored this specific responsibility to the people they are purported to be serving.

It is one thing for the government to sign the memorandum of understanding with investors and organizations, but it is another for the companies/organizations to define their social responsibility toward the population they are serving. Given, companies assist the government through fees and taxes; they must also go a little bit further to compliment the work of the government. CSR therefore comes in different forms some of which are roads, schools, health centers, water points, capacity building or skills transfers, employment of local people in that particular organization or company etc

This is critical because companies aren't operating in islands, but around people, and people have enormous needs the government might not cater for them all. If companies and organizations failed to work closely with the government or fill up gaps left behind by the government, there will tendency of tension and resentment that might develop between companies operating in the country and the people. We have seen this in many countries around the world.

We were about to see this situation (tension) in Malut in Upper Nile State against the Chinese Companies operating around there. The oil extractors in that county did a wanting job when it comes to CSR during their many years of oil extractions. They didn't build a single classroom, or empower people for oil work; and even power was paid for by the population around production facilities. Though there was three-kilometer tarmac road that lead to their offices, the companies have done virtually nothing. They have even damage the environment around Malut, future oil operators must be told to avoid tampering with environmental issues during production.

Khartoum of course wasn't serious about services to South Sudan, the government of South Sudan hence must not allow that mistake to happen again when the oil production come to being again- anytime to next year. That sad situation in Malut should be an eye opener for a foreign investor to play by the books of CSR, otherwise it has no business stepping foot on our land. Government like human being has limitation; it can't be everywhere (omnipresence), hence it is incumbent upon our leaders to go against Hotel Industry, few industries to abide by rules of serving the people besides their own moneymaking schemes. Investors are partners in development.

This argument then brings us to another important question: how are policies and projects selected in this republic? In another word, who made policies for the companies and how are they selected? Of course companies have their own plans or series of goals. Majority of them are money-oriented goals, while others are charity organizations. The former are notorious and formed 85% of group that largely ignored their social responsibilities to the people. They must be directed. Even Acts of Parliament will not be enough; some ministerial policies should be there to fine-tune the bigger regulatory frameworks. CSR will feature in the details and this is necessary, for people to benefits indirectly, the same way owners of the companies benefit.

Selection of companies also forms an area where the government needs to pay attention. It should not be always Juba deciding unilaterally about the kind of investment the country needs. People through whom the companies operate are to be widely consulted first, so for them to prioritize their needs. If Lobonok Payam people (Juba South-Bari) were asked, they won't have accepted White Bull Company (Beer Company) to fix a tent in their land before water projects. But because of vested interest by some scrupulous personalities around power in Juba such decision are made. Thus, selection of which projects or company must undertake should be jointly made and not government alone to leak it on the throats of the street man willy-nilly. I don't know how much money does the Central Equatoria State levied from that company.

Again we have this element of measurement or monitoring missing on the side of the government. Some projects came to being since 2005, and to date the government isn't in full picture of the breadth and length of the companies in terms of capital they have invested or generated, the successes and challenges faced by the same companies or even the progress. To day we have companies on the moon with huge capital, and nothing is trickling to the population. We are talking here about CSR.

Some companies are becoming tough to the few people they have employed. They are paying peanuts literally, under poor employment conditions. After Austerity situation in the country, people had expected the companies to increase salaries of their workers, since they have also raised prices. There is exploitation going on, and someone must help the people of South Sudan. The government however is detached from how people are struggling with their daily living. Living conditions of the people have worsened. The government is in denial sadly, that is why they are introducing salary cuts for their civil servants and the forces, and have now move to questionable projects.

I'm hearing that the government is bringing in Chinese to man South Sudan Aviation. Hon. Mayom Kuoch talked of Aviation as another source of national income, and I agree, but the matter at hand needs scrap and dump. Why give such important to a foreigner to man it. The minister got it wrong. Aviation is where the money is, and if to allow Chinese to own 40% of shares, and staggering percentage of 18 to the government, the rest to so-called 'private sector', then something is wrong. What is going on really in the Government of Kiir-Machar?

Such huge investment by the way and even that of a loan requires Parliamentary approval. I want our Law Makers to smack it on the face of the Minister of Road (Mayom Kuoch). No investment with Chinese at the moment, please! Chinese brings along their cooks and cleaners and this is unfair. Malut thing was an ominous experience, and shouldn't be repeated. The minister's project must be thrown out of the window. Council of Ministers has run out of ideas to be exact. Ministry of Road team shouldn't go to China. This is another Dura scam in the making. May be we

have ministers with an interest of becoming share holders on the so-called 'private' allotment. The idea must be stillborn!

Moving on, the CSR has become a culture for many international, regional and local able companies, and I for one don't know why South Sudanese companies are running away from their social responsibilities. This is puzzling! The government squarely must be held accountable for failing to follow up the work of the companies. Imagine, the government, say Ministry of Commerce, industry and Investment (RSS) for the past seven years has had neither operation policies for anyone or companies, nor regulatory; companies go through few details, and there is hardly ever any feedback and complaint handling mechanism.

I look forward that stakeholders in our society be it government or private investors or organizations help citizens of this country, people they aim support through their products and services. United Nations agencies aren't also spared, some of them could have led by example to start constructing their houses permanently rather than live in prefabs structures. Private schools aren't sponsoring local students or open few vacancies for free. The same is true with health centers; they should have a day to go to Kondokoro around Juba or just village if in state and help people there, even children

Telecom, water and beverage companies aren't making efforts in that direction and the question is why. The government must step on their toes and demand quality services to our civil population. Look, great delivery doesn't just happen- it has to be led and managed. People don't just behave themselves for common good- they have to be made to. That is where this author got it wrong about the kind of a leader this country has. Mr. Kiir might be homely, humble, reasonable and caring, but these aren't enough for me to waste my vote electing him there again come 2015. His hand off or lay back, empty promises, lack of clarity when making serious decisions, protective, credulous, clueless and meann. SPLM party will have to go back to the drawing board and give us fresh minds. People demand no less from the companies.

On another note, the South Sudan UN Radio (Miraya FM) yesterday launched one of its programs for inmates in Juba, and the stories there were touching if not alarming. The government, especially the Judiciary, Justice Ministry and the Presidency must rescue the status of our prisoners. Prisoners have raised serious cases, and someone must come to their help. If one goes their stories, some of them are unfairly sentenced, while others have short cases, but are languishing in the cell for decades. Women especially those with small kids are under difficult prison conditions.

Some of children 'accompanied' to the cells while toddlers and now they can sign our national anthem. Please great people of South Sudan empty Juba prison for God sake, and then put in place proper services for inmates. The president should have pardoned these people during independence celebrations, but the man sees or hears

nothing anywhere down here. It is time the head of state empty Juba prisons through clemency. This is another “CSR’ work, yeah? Thanks my daughter (Evano of the Miraya FM) for a superb job!

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FEARS FOR COLLAPSE OF THE SUDANESE TALKS IN ETHIOPIA

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

AUGUST 1, 2012

The Sudanese delegations from the Republic of the Sudan and that of its Southern counter part, the Republic of South Sudan are meeting for the past few weeks in the Federal Republic of Ethiopian city of Bhar El Dar. The African Union/United Nations road map, in one of its resolution for the conflict between the two countries, called for unconditional resumption of peace negotiations. There have been diplomatic furors for the past three months after border skirmishes between the two countries in June 2012. But signs are that we might arrive at half-baked or no agreement at all.

Everyone has done everything for peace talks to produce anything. President Thabo Mbeki of the African Union High Implementation Penal has done a commendable job to shuttle between the two countries on the same. The United States of America, Britain, France, China, the East African leaders, Ethiopia of course and Eritrea have all played an important role to bring the two warring sides to the table. May their efforts be rewarded!

Internally, the two leaders for the two countries of Sudan and South Sudan, President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir and President Salva Kiir Mayardit , met on the sideline of the 9th Session African Union Security Council Meeting in Addis Ababa on June 17, 2012 to shore up support for peaceful settlement of disputes between their two countries. It was a bold step on the side of the two leaders to come face to face. The two presidents discussed no details however about what they have proposed to be agreed, but President Kiir appeared to have gone a bit further to show commitment of his team to find amicable solutions to each pending issue. Kiir was specific and President Al Bashir seemed to have acknowledged and appreciate their role in pushing forward for an agreement.

But as it has always been the case with the Sudan, there is no need for much optimism about that intention to agree or honoring agreement. Khartoum problem about agreements is their slow pace of agreeing and then lack of implementation of the agreements they have agreed to apply. Even if they agreed with Juba today, they will drag their feet later for no clear reasons at all. The International Community and

peace brokers at the moment for Sudans must exert pressure, and ensure that there are clear mechanisms to force Khartoum to abide by the work of their own hands (agreement).

The current round of peace talks at Bahr El Dar (Ethiopia) might produce a compromise agreement especially on oil production, but agreement on others such demarcation of the border for status of the disputed areas and Abyei will pose a challenge. Look, Khartoum isn't at this point interested in discussing in good faith the border demarcation issue. They go around through what they called security. They will prefer sanction than give in to any pressure. To them they are right that the said areas (Hofra Al Nahas, Kafia Kingi, Panthou, South of Joda, Jau, Abyei and Kiir) belong to the North.

Diplomatically, the majority of international bodies are behind Khartoum and that militarily they are holding these areas, chances are that the National Congress Party (NCP) will stick out their necks not to budge whether the threat of sanction is real or not. The world hasn't understood the South on the areas in dispute. On the side of South Sudan, there is no question about these areas not belonging to it, but there is this question about international community bias when the later accepted Khartoum side of the story on face value, about these areas. These lands are 100% Southern, historically or otherwise.

When South Sudan took over its occupied territory at Panthou, the world was breath deaths on our leader as if he was an aggressor.

President Kiir accepted world opinion on the ground that he will be listened to. He is shock, as do his people. The fact that Khartoum illegally has been on another territory after forcefully entered the place in 2008 speaks volumes about the world body's (UN) double standard.

This unfair treatment of South Sudan by the white men is unbecoming and unacceptable! South Sudan has every right to finish the job to returning its territories with or without the blessing of the so-called international community, once the diplomatic processes are heading nowhere. People of South Sudan will not give an inch to the North under any circumstance.

The two sides therefore are likely going to stick to their guns on this matter of the disputed areas. By extension, chances for oil resumption through the Republic of the Sudan are getting narrower unless Khartoum drops it claim over the territories they have occupied through the barrel of the guns.

Look at this: if the current rounds of talks failed as they likely going to be so, Khartoum not Juba will be hard hit by unrest and springs such as that in the Arab World. Khartoum wish to see South Sudan gone to the wind or failed will not happen. People here are behind stories and are aware about Khartoum policies or

failing South Sudan. They are less bothered about Khartoum lies that this group is better and this or that will happen. South Sudanese are behind their president in every way and will not be intimidated by any short-term economic hardship. Dr. Lam and the group waiting for the collapse of the Juba system shall have a long wait. It is not about Kiir but about South Sudan.

Interestingly, South Sudan looks more focus, contrary to what the SPLM-DC is painting out there. Remember these people have defied conventional wisdom to accept the National Congress Party lies that the system in Juba must be changed. Juba in this situation should not bank on the Ethiopian talks alone. The country should device other plans, and happy the country is heading that way. If peace talks faltered we must not be caught unprepared. That is the nature of things, it always either ways!

Let us assume also the possibilities of peace settlement delayed. If that scenario happened, the current economic status will worsen but let's not be despair. Our leader (Kiir) put it then that the 'day' will surely come. The Security Council hopefully might extend the deadline, and but that is just hope, they might since the body don't care these days about South Sudan welfare. Sudan will not be affected much, but South Sudan. It is important here that the leaders in the South Sudan start lobby hard now; sanction is deadly.

Our president ought to establish a slim government; he promised to cut government expenditure through downsizing his huge government. The president must honor his own words. Measures to trim the government are overdue. Time to walk the talk is here. The country is under siege from myriad socio- economic challenges imposed largely by Khartoum on our people. Khartoum doesn't want the people of the Republic of South Sudan to pick up pieces of their shattered lives unfortunately, but such a tendency isn't new. People of South Sudan must rise up and challenge Khartoum under these circumstances. President Omar Al Bahsir is a good man, but his hawks are doing everything in the book to wipe off our people on the face of the earth. Let's stand solid behind our leadership, shortcoming not withstanding.

People of South Sudan must not let allow Khartoum to laugh last or fulfill its then remark that the South would be a failed State. If we care not be name of a failed state, we got to response firmly; we must be responsible government and people. I have lectured much and would love now to pray: Allah, stop the enemies of peace from failing peace agreement in Ethiopia! Deliver peace to the North and the South of the Sudan! Amen!

Separately, this author was pleased the way the organizers (Gen. J. Juma in particular) of the Martyr Day did their part. Our leaders did an excellent show of care through arts, and the show of solidarity to the widows and orphans of our right cause. God bless President Kiir, His able Assistant and everyone in leadership.

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***MARTYR DAY ISN'T AN ORDINARY DAY SOUTH
SUDANESE LEADERS***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JULY 24, 2012

I happened to watch some leaders, and especially South Sudan President Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit on Martyr Day couple of years ago. One thing that fouled my mood was his casual representation of the Day, and on some cases his insensitive about the significance of that day itself. The President of the Republic concept about that day has agitated me to put this piece across. The President is our hero like Garang, no doubt and people wish him well. But here he needs to give that Day a flavor, and not to assume that the Day is like any other special days of the Republic. This isn't the case. He must spare the victims of the struggle from self-inflicting indignity when someone who supposed to look after them disingenuously shows no feeling about those demised Southerners.

This is how: the day has lost its salt to the president in that it wasn't celebrated like others, save for a break from work. The Martr Day should be given its damn deserved respect and be celebrated like the rest of the national occasions (independence Day and SPLA Day). Last year, no single soul came near the Freedom Square/Garang Mausoleum. No speeches or speech from the president over the radio on that day about the importance of Martyr Day. At that time people celebrated the occasion in their bars and in their homes as if it was just like any other small Public Holiday. The same is the likeable scenario in few days to come (on the July 30, 2012). No one or group will gather to celebrate the Day in a more formal way, and the question is why would the living beings do such a thing to their departed comrades and martyrs of our struggle?

Let's converge and listen to songs of the war, and then hear stories from the people who are affected by the war. It is a moment of our reflection and our leaders must not wish it away so soon. It was the sacrifices made by our martyrs that brought us peace and a country. Without them we won't have arrived safely here. The Day should remain celebratory now and forever. We had brave men in Jamus, Tumsah, Tiger, Koryom, Muor Muor etc; we must remember them in that day. People like Mamur, Oyai, Oath, Pieng, Mabil, Bior, Majak, Abraham Wani who spent most of their times then with soldiers on the battle fields can tell you how many lives we have lost and how many comrades that are still nursing wounds of cut limbs.

How can such people forget easily, this is disrespect at best to our heroes. Imagine this: on July 2010 on that Day last year (Martyr Day), the president and the speaker soiled it when they appeared donned like people invited for a party. The head of state

and Honorable Speaker graced the occasion/Martyr Day like a men attending a wedding. They dressed to kill with new found flowered West African outfits. Their mood was that of politicians attending victory political rally. This author has to squeeze himself out of the occasion at that time, embarrassed from that callous appearance. Can such a thing happen in our African context, and if yes, how safe was ttheir message they had planned to deliver soon after they appear that strolling that way? Someone must respect our departed, I protested. However this isn't about dressing in mourning pieces, but dress decently and responsibly before the victims of the war.

For starters, Martyr Day is a very important day for the people of this republic, and let's remembers this important man called John Garang de Mabior. May his soul rest in eternal peace! We can light candles and quietly pray for our martrs on the eve of the Day and then in the morning sing songs of our struggle. Our cultures and value could bring out that remembrance. The Minister there isn't doing enough about our culture by the way.

If it wasn't Dr. John Garang and his men, my people, who could have been around here stealing money, then stashed it to the outside banks. We would have been under Khartoum slaved or outside the country as refugees. Garang and his loyal comrades did it singlehandedly when apologists conspire day and night to betray the cause in the name of reform. Reform about what and in what ya jama? Many martyr died in the hands of the callous and traitors and this is their day.

When the traitors were left alone to manage their rebellion couldn't do what they thought wasn't done under Garang. When Garang left them alone, like the case now, they couldn't produce the 'reform' they have been passionate about during the bush, hypocrites!

It pains when some Southerners couldn't help the widows and orphans and only concentrate about welfare of their families. Others who stayed on the fence moreover have are conspiring secretly to wreck the boat in the name of change. It starts with change and later degenerated into deaths for our people. They habitually have no other business but to listen to lies from Khartoum that the liberation struggle and people like Garang, Kiir, Machar and Wani were the problem. Even if we know they are, are agents of Khartoum the right change agents for our country? A big no! They have surrounded our president and are everywhere advising the head of state to abandon Martyr Day.

Most of them claim that they are champions of self-determination; and that they brought on a silver plate to the SPLM Leaders. That without them, the issue of martyr couldn't be anything. This is insulting. Self-determination or self-rule is a political term awarded when it is earned and not when it is requested. The Garang and his men earned it. His vision is a lope that makes it easier, and if there were no such a political cry, belief me/not, we would have been still fighting for separation

today like others in any other part of the world. This is a bitter truth! Separatists aren't fashionable around the world; and no short cut whether you shouted the loudest or write some many essays and history about your cause. You can agree like Western Saharans and still not separate. It takes such a high thinking to make to arrive at it.

You may agree or not agree (that is the nature of our people these days) with this author, but the reality is not about Garang or his team, because we are all stakeholders, but about his tentative thoughts and realistic approach to issues that affected the whole country. That man was an achiever; losers must find other things to fight another day not now. It was a combination of well cut out agenda coupled with sacrifices of our people that made.

But also to repeat myself, our leadership is to take care of the victims of our struggle, this is very importance. Our heroes' dependents have every right like us to live decently like the living. I have squarely blame Kiir and Machar for failing to live up to that dream of helping our families of our martyrs.

To me it is no longer a doubt, and it will be just a matter of time for these men to go if they continue like that. If Kiir is weak, how Dr. Machar, his Assistant, why neglect these families all around? Dr. Machar was made to stay low, and has accepted that status, but the tide will spare him not; there is no way the two could be separated. If Kiir goes he goes. He hasn't been himself like before and this is too bad.

All are branded failed and are corrupt. I shockingly heard funny stories about the two as to land. Why a tall leader would take over a chunk of land around Juba and then employed his own people around it. This is unbecoming for tomorrow leaders to behave that way. They have moreover shown no leadership by example, stop short of correcting mistake one year in and one year out. The rivalry between Kiir and Machar perhaps has made the country to slip up for jackals to perch it. Dr. Machar has succumbed and if to save anything he must detach himself from how things are done by corrupt barons. I have started to think twice now about the person that could have been the hope for the people of this republic in months or few years to come.

May be we have strayed to another topic, but the point about Martyr Day is missed by Kiir, Machar and Wani. The trio is becoming problematic to our gains. What makes them thing that the blood of our people is nothing compares to their luxuries and assets? If they care they could have given the chunk land written in their names to our widows and orphans. The wife of William Nyuon is now begging for bread while the rich are basking in ill-gotten wealth as if William did nothing substantive to our struggle?

Ms Nyuon has no land to put her hand on and her daughters/sons aren't being settled in education or a house built in Ayod County in honor of their father. The

same could have been applied to all notable contributors of our struggle. What does this tell you about Kiir/Machar/Wani? Martyr Day therefore should have been a day to show kindness to our widows and orphans through gifts and words of encouragement.

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SOUTH SUDAN MOMENT IN HISTORY

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JULY 12, 2012

The Republic of South Sudan celebrated its first Anniversary this week with pops, performances and joy across the faces of the people of this republic; a clear manifestation of defiance against all odds that bedevil this nation, right from day one when a semi autonomous government was established in 2005. The people of South Sudan therefore have spoken loudly that their decision to go separate remains no small thing. To them, no amount of challenge could go between them and their newfound friend called freedom. Granted, despites crisis everywhere in the country, the achievement of independence by the people of South Sudan wasn't a mean one.

During the celebration on Monday 9 July 2012, our people celebrated the 1st Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of South Sudan as if it was their last and final celebration ever. People truly enjoyed the feisty, and were encouraged for the country that would call after their names. They are also satisfied moreover with the performance of their men in uniform- the SPLA. Political freedom to them was everything. Everywhere you go, the level of excitement was immediate, spontaneous and defining. People started to forget their current governance bad status and move to dance away fears, as if nothing serious is happening in the government. Though neighbors shunned our occasion and only sent juniors, we had a moment in our history to celebrate, and we cherish leaders that brought us thus far.

Millions of congratulations to my people wherever they may be! It is our freedom and not everyone else. People of South Sudan should keep up that spirit and move forward. It is high time they put aside petty political difference and unite for the sake of generation. Dr. Lam should come from Khartoum and fight for his space around. He is sharp and sagacious. It isn't any longer about the Sudan People's Liberation Movement or an individual or certain tribe anymore but about the entire 29 or so tribes living in this beautiful land called Azania/South Sudan. The gift of independence, my people, was made from heaven. The people of this country have every reason to celebrate this occasion in that manner, given the long bitter struggle that snuffed millions of lives.

The future for the people of this republic is bright, only if we continue to work together side-by-side, during tough/hard times or easy ones. President Salva Kiir philosophically called our tough time 'darkness'; to him the 'night' will go and the 'day' will surely come! He couldn't be more right. What a phrase! That was the situation exactly in the nineties when our leaders waded through challenging moments of the struggle.

The people of South Sudan should seize this opportunity by working together, the same way they have celebrated the Day. The destiny is here, only if the people make use of each other talents for the development of our resources. South Sudan has the resource, capital and human and it's about time to harness such resources. The current leadership must wake up and stop wasting the people of this republic.

Suggestions

Maybe it is time to import Kenyan debate about the need to enlist only graduates in parliament. The condition is important and not discriminatory. We must use education to develop this land. The semi-literate and illiterates are part of our society. We can't all be graduates. But leaders such as members of parliament need knowledge.

Parliament is where laws are made and interpreted; there is an urged need to have graduates in there. The thing should be extended to presidency. The head of state must be a graduate, not just 'educated'. I see our Transitional Constitution connived to overlook this matter. Of course degree isn't an end or a ticket for politicians or leadership, some leaders made it without colleges and examples are ample. The same is true with people with so many papers only to find their populace mendicants running after the white men for help.

Let's quickly turn now to issues we all know, the matters the president of our republic struggled to give answers. He never gave a single answer but fumbled and left a huge disappointment. First there is this matter called austerity, a situation brought about by lack of cash. The president suggested he might work with other bodies to downsize his government so to save more money. He reserved because the matter will take few steps before he jumped to 'decrees'.

The proposal was received with mixed reaction, and I for one stand with the president but. The government is huge and must be clipped! The money that goes to our mouths is enough to provide services this country need. 10 to 15 ministries at the national level and then five at the state are enough. Parliament should have only elected members and appointees to go home. Time for accommodation has long gone. The real work has begun if the moment in our history is anything important for generation after us. But the downsizing shouldn't be during the austerity, it has to go beyond even when we have oil flowing.

Secondly, the way out from the current economic strangulation, the government of South Sudan should resume oil production through the republic of the Sudan. An American Envoy has echoed the same lines the other day. This will ease economic burden and make this country called South Sudan start constructing a new pipeline to Djibouti or Kenya. The situation looks bleak and leaders must swallow their pride and look for what works. The people of this land can't afford to wait for more than a year in this situation when the same government had squandered resources meant to build this land.

Third, the government must regulate the market, and this is critical unless scrupulous traders exploit the pathetic economic condition of this country and abuse it for their selfish gains. The idea of leaving the market to its forces of demand and supply must be replaced with robust plans and policies that could help the people endure economic hardship. Prices in particular are to be trimmed since operations costs are well known to all East Africans. This is a job for parliamentarians and not the Ministry concerned alone. Lawmakers should not just wait until it becomes too late, they ought to go out and look one out there.

Also the government needs to monitor activities of private services and see how this could enhance national priorities. We are talking here about money; there is money out there, only if the government could tax highly. Foreigners have fleeced this land of resources without the authority's knowledge. Banks and exchange centres aren't monitored. The Bank Governor is sleeping on his job. I hear requesting the Board to increase his allowances and that of his deputies to something unimaginable, even during this period of economic hardship.

Corruption has become middle name for Mr. Kiir and if he wants to save his face and not to waste time writing letters, and issued threats, he must take moral responsibility and dissolve his government, reconstitute his government and give himself term limit (2015). He tried and tried and that is the farthest he could go. He has done great things to guide his people to the Promised Land; the job of what to do next must be given to somebody else. There is life after presidency retirement. Parliament can lure this man out of the seat; he must not think him doing much than what he has achieved.

At the moment he must not fear anyone, but God. Those implicated in the graft are to give ways to others, and suggest this time that a soldier be appointed as head in the Anti-Corruption Unit. Dr. Lual Deng on the other hand should go to the Central Bank. Such times like these we must look inward and see who does the job well for all. Mr. Cornelio Koryom besides his age, he has old age economic basics, the very things that are unfashionable and outdated.

South Sudan wants a good custodian to take care of the money and a stone pusher (anti corruption tsar) so for development to take off. Corruption will not go away under President Kiir, but it will be reduced if he employed the people who are

fearless and creative. However we still have difficulty in that our current president shouted the loudest and never take any action. He made so many promises and never honours a single one. SPLM as a party must not sleep on the laurels; things are changing fast against them. Either Kiir is the problem or the party, as a whole has no space to check and balance things.

But Imperial presidency again is where the problem of this country lies. Mr. Kiir has too many powers; he splashes powers left and right like a king. He feels like one anyway. People kiss the ground for him and no one questions him when he's on the wrong. I fear this country that is how dictators are groomed. Signs are on the wall that this man is growing with that mentality as his decrees rule the land. Constitutional drafters hence are advised to help this country if the moment we have created for ourselves will have meaningful, for us and generations beyond this age. Our founding father (Garang) would be restive if we throw away principles of justice, equality and prosperity for the people of South Sudan. Long live the people of South Sudan.

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***SOUTH SUDAN & SUDAN TALKS SHOULD
DISCUSS OIL TRANSIT ARRANGEMENT ONLY***

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

JUNE 14, 2012

South Sudan is negotiating with the Republic of the Sudan on post independence unresolved issues such as border demarcation - disputed areas, oil transit arrangement, Abyei status, citizenship and now security. The talks are sponsored by the African Union with the backing of the United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/2046 (2012) of May 2, 2012. Before then the two countries (Sudan and South Sudan) were on the verge of full-scale war.

A southern land called Panthou in Western Upper Nile State, occupied illegally by Khartoum in 2008 was retaken by the Southern Army (the SPLA), and some powerful people and countries around the globe roundly (but unjustifiably) condemned South Sudan and asked it to immediately withdraw its troops unconditionally. The President of South Sudan bowed, and Khartoum forces entered it. There is lull on the ground as things stand, an equilibrium moment generated by hope and only hope on the negotiation table in Ethiopia.

Ten days ago the two sides broke up talks because there was no head way or progress in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The two sides might resume their negotiations on the 19/6/2012, but analysts have already inauspiciously predicted gloom as one side is bent to frustrate the entire efforts through its intransigence and blackmailing.

Border Demarcation impasse, security and violations

The United Nations Resolution or African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) roadmap would have helped, alas, its tight schedules and lack of clear methodology to monitor violations makes it an exploitable and weak project that failed to deliver. There is also that element of politicking by key Security Council Members, a scenario that is used perfectly by Khartoum to ignore resolutions issued by the same.

Otherwise, the roadmap by (AUIP) was cyst ally clear as it called for immediate cessation of hostilities, including aerial bombardment, unconditional withdrawal of protagonists forces to their respective known borders, stop harboring of each side dissidents, scale down of propaganda against one another, and resumption of unconditional talks between the two countries.

Khartoum never accepted any of the above-cited resolutions, as it continuous to bomb and rain fire unto the territories of the Republic of South Sudan (until last week). They are still in areas deeply inside the territory of the Republic of South Sudan, they are much on the sabotage mission to destabilize the government of the people of South Sudan, they are, they are...

The question that poses itself is that when will Juba stop becoming impressionable before the guile of the so-called International Community? The UN is a terrible body that is badly structured, and will continue to be selective and discriminative as ever. On the ground, they have caused us problem due to the map they have crafted without any authorization from the authority. Khartoum and the outside world are misled to believe that the territories in disputes are for the Northern Sudan. UN did it. I see them (UN field staff) consume too much money, without protecting peace or people. Abyei massacre by marauding Misseriya in 2008 was a case in point. It was before the watchful eyes of the UN.

UN is biased

The UN and the African Union owe our people answers, when they deceive us to withdraw from Panthou, and allowed our people to be killed thereafter. After UN resolution 2046, Khartoum shouldn't have been allowed to bomb and shell innocent civilians in the republic of South Sudan. To offer lip service and empty threats without an action is too bad indeed. South Sudan must be protected from this rogue country called the Sudan. If UN or the AU can't do, we can protect our territories and ourselves. Sudan doesn't care about anything and the UN shouldn't make mistake again to interfere with facts regarding South Sudan or the Sudan. They have for long ignored our cry for help from powerful and elder brother called the Sudan.

Time has come for our people to stand up and defend their land. Governors are doing excellent job in that regards; our army under Gen. Mamur, Gen. Oath, Gen. Dr. Majak and the group will not disappoint! Khartoum will be forced out of Abyei, Panthou, Kafia Kingi, Joda and Hafra Al Nahas sooner. There is no hope in The Hague for any arbitration, the same bodies will follow the case up there and foiled the wish of our people through their biased lens. We want our stolen lands back, not an inch give to the North! Sudan doesn't want us to live and enjoy peace.

Please discuss oil transit deal only

Khartoum will not budge or accept any deal on the territories they have occupied. They thought since the international community is with them and are firmly on the ground, there is no hurry to discuss such matters. So if that is the case, the South shouldn't waste time talking about territories stolen. Nothing is coming out there. Our men will do it on the ground one day! The only agenda in the next round of talks should be about oil transit arrangement.

The two countries economies are in real trouble and both sides are ready to compromise. As Africans we have an obligation to help our brothers in the Sudan with our 'food'. We must share with the Sudanese on a reasonable agreement not the exorbitant and wild charges of over \$30 a barrel. No one will go for a loss like that. Time line is also needed (2 years is enough) and more robust control mechanism, internationally supervised. A deal is possible there.

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WHY SPLM-DC MUST BE BANNED

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 29, 2012

South Sudan like any other emerging democratic country enjoys political pluralism where individual or groups are allowed to express themselves freely on issues to do with democracy, human rights, governance etc. Sudan People's Liberation Movement- Democratic Change (DC) became a beneficiary of that right.

That party (DC) was formed in Khartoum in 2009 by a controversial politician called Lam Akol Ajawin. He contested election in 2010 against the current president of South Sudan and was beaten hand down. He lost every parliamentary seat in 9 states except four in his home state of Upper Nile.

But why did the DC suffer that heavy defeat after all the hullabaloo about 'change', 'change'? Well, since its formation, the party appeal has fallen on deaf ears of our people; because there was nothing substantive these people were asking to be

changed in the current establishment of government. Virtually, there was nothing in hand to advocate for, except personal vendetta against leaders in Juba. There were little inroads into political imagination of the people of this republic due to lack of issue-based program of action. Literally there were no clear-cut matters of governance they had wanted to 'change'.

There was too much air about none, as one 'good governance', 'good governance' when in fact the party failed to demonstrate it how the good governance is to be achieved. In between though we are reading hate strategies, even that of parochial intents, and tribal overtone throughout the entire piece. The entire so-called document of the DC is a whitewash for someone obsessed with power and only power. Those ideas are whims for another world not for land called South Sudan. Every matter they have raised has an answer indirectly or directly in the SPLM Books. There were no new ideas to be exact. Sadly the DC document was a flip flop of the SPLM Programs, a misguided duplicate piece that tend to divert people attention from larger pictures of governance.

SPLM Policies

For starters, the SPLM Party with all its shortcomings like any other guerrilla organization that turned political party must be credited for adapting to realities of governance. There SPLM has tried to identify some pressing priorities/policies for development. DC knew them well. These are in the areas of a) accountability and public administration, b) infrastructural, economic and national resources, c) education, health and water as well as d) rule of the law and security. These are some of the policies the current government has been grappling with since 2005. Given, these are real issues facing this land.

On the first priority of accountability for example, the current government has made some progress, and credit should be given where it is due; there has been improvement! The government introduced budget-planning system and there is electronic payroll practice all over the land. There is discipline today in finance management system and auditing has become a natural practice. The system has checks and balances as no single pound goes away without passing through series of hands. Is that not accountability and if not what is it?

On poverty, health, education and corruption the data is there at the Statistical Center. There are strides in these areas, though much need done, and this is encouraging. Why should anyone dwell on the past and not do something about today and for tomorrow. If we can't believe in ourselves and only think that unless Mundukuru does it on our behalf, then we have wasted the teaching of our late leader Dr. John Garang. Traitors didn't learn one or so lessons from that smart man called Garang. We must start from small and not expect this land to leap in one go. DC is a mole and a disaster to our political life. Reasons for that are briefly discuss below

NCP factor

The architect of the DC party (Dr. Lam Akol) has largely ignored voices of reason and was bent on harming the people of this republic every step all the way to freedom and stability. The party is known to have a long-standing relationship with the National Congress Party (NCP), and the later party has become a problem to the larger Sudan, let alone the people of this republic. No single Southern Political Party still enjoys support the same way the DC is. Lam and his DC are linked to militia groups fighting the Juba Government; these militia groups are directly on the bankroll of the NCP. There is no secret about that link, and this treacherous act hasn't been done by any other political party in the South Sudan.

Imagine this: during referendum exercise, the majority of DC members never participated in the voting including this person called Lam Akol. If anyone didn't vote for the future of this country, how will this man claim to be championing the cause and welfare of these people? If one could stay away during crucial vote like referendum what business does this man has with the republic of South Sudan? Remember it is the same man who proposed (in record) earlier before referendum that the exercise for referendum should be pushed for years because the South isn't ready to be governed unless through the North. Dr. James Okuk Solomon, a pretender, from that party (DC) amplified it more vividly.

Even after January 2011, the DC as a party never ceased from subversive activities against this republic. The fact that this man refused to attend Independence declaration speaks volumes about the negativity of the character. If Northern Political Parties leaders were all here, who stopped Lam from attending the big event? Don't buy the lie that he was about to be arrested. Lam could have been locked up if Juba was interested in isolating him.

Incitement

Again, it will be wise to ban DC because it has all along tried to incite our people, one against another. We have heard and read inflammatory statements from the same group that called for elimination of Dinka and Nuer communities. How come that one of us should advance such a school of thought and still stay comfortably among our society? Freedom has limit and any party calling for one group among us to be eliminated is an enemy and must be kick out. We need Dinka and Nuer the same way we need others. Doing away with one or two doesn't solve any problem.

Punishing communities moreover on the basis of their sons/daughters in power isn't the right thing to do. Kiir and Machar are nothing compare to their tribes. Dinka isn't Kiir and Machar on the other hand isn't Nuer. There are other noble and innocent people between these tribes who have nothing do to with power in Juba from Nuer and Dinka. Political party that calls for such an act isn't fit to have an

office in Juba or in our ten cities. To divide people so to rule practice was left to Khartoum and no right-minded politician could try this policy to his people.

But what domination is this man talking about? In which way do the two tribes becoming dominant? But is this man called Lam the right man to call the shot? What moral ground to show our people so to be believed? Someone should have check out facts surrounding this allegation before jumping to conclusion. The charge is fabricated to score a political point, even if we don't deny element of the same.

The two tribes aren't dominating; they have their share of their rights from their respective constituencies. The nepotism is different thing and all tribes aren't spared, including the DC. Dr. Lam appointments from day are one are disgraced at best. His latest list of so-called diplomats in 2006, left many in total confusion about the wrong footing of the leaders of South Sudan. He was first confronted by non other than his own people Chollo, right in his residence in Khartoum. We must be wary of the DC, it has to boot out of our land! If its leader steps on this soil, he got to be arrested, so left to rot there, on charges of treason against this nation.

Sabotage activities

Look, during the current crisis between South Sudan and the Sudan over border areas and oil, the leader of the DC was busy moving to Iran and elsewhere seeking military and money assistance to violently topple the Juba government. He had added insult to injury by stating that Panthou wasn't part of the disputed areas between Sudan and South Sudan. Areas such as Abyei, Balbala, Hofra El Nahas, Kafia Kingi, Joda, Panthou, Yabus etc, belong to Southern Sudan 100%.

DC people including the leader were spotted organizing forums and meetings in Khartoum during the crisis for people opposing to Juba. Imagine, all political parties in the South Sudan have all sent their moral or otherwise support to our army, saved for an open minded person leading the opposition groups in the Southern Parliament, a guy who sometimes don't prescribe to Lam's wily games.

Documents are abounds about his secrets talks with wealthy world leaders opposing any financial assistance after oil shut down. The air is full of Dr. Lam treason activities are on many fronts, and this should worry every Southerner not the government alone or ruling political party. People need to rid this land from an enemy from within that is what I mean. During multiple problems such as this crisis, our people expect nothing less than unity of purpose against internal and external threats. Anyone who doesn't join his people is doing damage to our land.

99% members of the DC are those who never experienced bush lives. They left their brothers and sisters to the mercy of the enemy for 21 good years, and have now gather an aura to come from the back door and insult the establishment they

never participated in its organization. Worst, they are trying to discredit an awesome and magnificent job done by our heroes such Garang, Kerubino, William, Kiir, Arok, Machar, and Galario etc. These people have no shame to themselves about their misgiving for a poor work they had resigned themselves during the struggle.

To go to school at that time, leaving your land to Arabs occupiers to attack and pillage isn't forgivable. To organize armed groups to attack your own brothers and sisters is also unpardonable. Even after the job is done, these people should have given us a break, and not to return this beautiful land to the 'wilderness'. What do these know about South Sudan, the place they betrayed more than once?

If it wasn't the SPLA/SPLM who would have been here today? If it wasn't SPLM leader Kiir who guided our people tenderly into independence, where will our future be before the merciless Khartoum regime? Khartoum would have abrogated the agreement and trash it before everyone watch. It is the SPLA/M Leader that stood his ground in the face of establishment challenge. Mr. Kiir with his big heart managed to appoint Lam as a foreign affairs minister, a surprise move indeed. It is this party and this army that created this country; the men there did it singlehandedly when pretenders converged to stab it at the back.

Dr. Lam spent most of his political life in conspiracy, and he must be stopped. After all, he never contributed anything positive but one destructive theory after another. His party in fact has inherited hate and machinations and such a party is dangerous for our coexistence. Where this man goes, he leaves behind trails of crisis. The 'know it all' man has no place in our fragile democracy; he will botch it for our dawn fall. We don't need such Judas in our midst at critical times such as these.

Lies about corruption

He charges that the SPLM party is corrupt. He repeated this song again and again everywhere anytime. Now if he were a real nationalist (as he claim it), why didn't he go to the Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission or approach the president or Dr. Machar and give his thoughts on the way forward to that vice. As a leader of one of the political parties in the country he has access to anyone and his view could have been valued. Instead he used that sad situation to paint the entire government and the party that leads it as corrupt.

The problem everyone misses here about corruption in this land is that it is not easy to pin down corrupt individuals engaged in the matter as all major cases are all in the form of kickbacks. Kickback is difficult and smart form of corruption. In another word, most reported cases of corruption in our land are in the form of contracts where individual concerned hide behind contractors. That fight will remain mysterious! If so, does that need shouting or instigating? I don't think! Lam and his cahoots must go and go now!

He can't hold the entire nation at ransom every year. Who is he to disrupt peace and development for our people? If there are people who are shy of acting against Lam party then our people must watch out that they too are 'Tabuur el khamis' within an established system in Juba. Their color must be known earlier. An agent of rebel within the government is too bad!

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SOUTH SUDAN MUST NOT PUT ALL 'EGG' ON THE UN & AU BASKETS

BY ISAIAH ABRAHAM

MAY 17, 2012

The African Union backed talks between Sudan and South Sudan was about to begin this week, but signs are that one party in the conflict (Khartoum), is still dragging its feet, whether to attend the much publicized talks with the Republic of the South Sudan or stay out altogether. They have started to blow hot and cold at the same time. This is how: they have introduced another element called security, an indicator that the issues of boundary demarcation and Abyei are to wait until the question of security for Sudan is addressed. They have asked the AU to stop requesting their troop withdrawal from Abyei. They are relentless in the air bombing South Sudan movable or unmovable targets, and the list is long

The AU mediation cases at hand, as we all know, have no reference about security though this matter could have been handled once the borders of the two nations are known. By borders, the two countries could have embarked on patrolling the area, and somewhere the cooperation needed to arrest military tension along international borders would have been easier -brought under control. The boundary issue therefore represents key factor when it comes to security. It can be done in isolation.

South Sudan has no interest to topple Khartoum, as claim by Khartoum. That is the job for the Sudanese people out there, and Khartoum must understand this position very clearly. Whatever differences Khartoum has with other regions affiliated to South Sudan are purely problems of the Sudanese themselves. They will find their own way of resolving their own differences. But for Khartoum to harass Juba on the basis of accusation is not acceptable. If Juba were really keen on toppling Khartoum, our people would have done it.

About Abyei, it becomes apparent that Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) is withdrawing as dictated by the AU Resolution. Khartoum to my best knowledge is leaving. No pressure has moved these people away anywhere since 2005. The AU will continue to issue ultimatum but the crackpots in Khartoum will continue to play around with the truth. They are staying there unless a miracle happens! If so, this brings us closer

to the topic, in which this little author wants our people to prepare once the diplomatic efforts are exhausted.

We must go to the military training or pick up anything so to retrieve by force any piece of land the Arabs has occupied illegally since 1956. Let's not be like Palestinians whose land remains occupied since 1960s; UN will hear but will not return our lands. In fact they have their own thinking and conclusions about Panthou and other areas occupied by the Northern Arabs. There is no time to waste! Talking has its limit, and once that is done, the other option is to sort things out militarily. Let the UN bring on their sanctions once we secured our land. Sanctions can't persuade Khartoum to leave Panthou and Hufra Nahas etc.

We are united than in any other in any other time before. President Kiir isn't leading and he must take that we are seeing him doing a good job. South Sudanese wants peace, but not on the expense of our land. His tired song that 'he can't go to war' must be overlooked. We are in crisis and a leader must stand in front and lead his people. If he thinks Khartoum will voluntarily leave Panthou, Abyei, Koda, Kingi etc he is cheating himself. Khartoum understands things differently.

However this note isn't entirely about herald on war; war isn't nice! Sudanese people in the North and the in the South are tired of it, and they were yearning for a break from war. They wish that there be long-term bilateral relations between Sudan and South Sudan. We have a lot in common. We shared a heritage, and our people were ready to swallow the past and move on to live peacefully with our brothers on the other side of the borders. More than fifty years of fighting among us was enough, and none was ready to push for an all out war. There are dividends when the two nations are at peace. A sensible leader in Khartoum would have loved to see the two countries move away quickly from another round of war. President was a good man, until somewhere last year when he lost his head.

South Sudan will wait for an outcome from Addis Ababa, but chances are that nothing will changes things on the ground. Some people around President Al Bashir have spoiled him and no longer a man who stood up to challenge successive rulers about problems facing the people of the South. Mistakenly everyone around here thought that President Al Bashir will do everything to preserve the good work he has started long time ago in the Kenyan Capital. By claiming our lands and move to bomb anything, he has lost the confidence of our people and must be fought nail and toe. He has turned ugly! We must return to the business of liberating our occupied lands (including Abyei and Panthou) soon after the doomed talks. There is nothing actually is coming out from AU Addis Ababa Mediation Talks. SPLA will win!

On a separate note, where did Mr. Yen Matthew of the SPLM go? At this critical time, Mr. Secretary General (SPLM) could have use this political rising star (Yen), and not the Mr. Bol Makeng (SPLM Secretary for Information) who's struggling.

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