



**SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**



23/06/2014

PRESS RELEASE

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) issued a Press Statement on *23 June 2014 Addis Ababa*, in which they blamed the SPLM/SPLA of having failed “to attend the multi-stakeholder roundtable negotiations”, the statement goes on to say that “...This is in contradiction to the 9 May 2014 Agreement as well as the 10 June 2014 Communiqué which provides for the inclusion and participation of other stakeholders in the negotiations for a new political dispensation in South Sudan including arrangements for a transitional government of national unity.”

The Press Release by IGAD concludes by urging the “political leaders of South Sudan to assume their responsibilities with the same resolve that their neighbors and the international community attach to this tragic situation.” These statements by the IGAD Office of the Special Envoys for South Sudan erroneously give the impression that the SPLM/SPLA is an obstacle to the South Sudan Peace Talks.

In light of this, the SPLM/SPLA would like to inform the people of South Sudan, the region and the world about the reasons the SPLM/SPLA has found it difficult to participate in *Phase II Session IV* of the IGAD mediated peace talks. It looks as if the mediation has backtracked from the April 28th Agenda and Framework, and a new Framework, not agreed upon is being imposed on the warring parties.

The SPLM/SPLA has officially expressed its dissatisfaction to the Office of the Special Envoys on South Sudan, regarding the flawed nature of selection of stakeholders. The process did not take into account those displaced by the conflict in the UNMISS Camps, the neighboring countries and in Diaspora. The SPLM/SPLA fears that the mediation undermined inclusivity by presenting government sponsored institutions as credible South Sudanese Civil Society Organizations.

The 9 May 2014 Agreement and the 10 June 2014 Communiqué recognize negotiations between the two warring parties and the need for inclusivity of other stakeholders in the negotiations. However, contrary to the claims made by the IGAD Office for the Special Envoys to South Sudan, the 9 May 2014 Agreement and the 10 June 2014 Communiqué do not mention anything about a roundtable format for negotiations.

The SPLM/SPLA believes that direct negotiations between the two warring parties will bring a swift end to the war and will provide a more conducive environment for the continuation of peace building in South Sudan. The SPLM/SPLA does not reject the participation of other stakeholders in the peace talks, however it should be on a consultative basis. It is unfortunate that the mediation has decided to adjourn the

mediation indefinitely as this will unnecessarily prolong the war and the suffering of our people.

The SPLM/SPLA reaffirms committed to the IGAD mediated peace process, and is committed to a swift end to the war and to ending the unnecessary suffering of our people. The SPLM/SPLA is willing to continue direct negotiations with the government despite the IGAD mediation refusal to this offer, while the Stakeholders are involved in a consultative manner

The SPLM/SPLA finds this position taken by the IGAD mediation as unfortunate and derailing the peace process that we have painstakingly evolved up to this point. The SPLM/SPLA has officially raised its concerns regarding the peace process with the IGAD Office of the Special Envoys for South Sudan, and yet these concerns have been turned down.

The SPLM/SPLA would like to assure the people of South Sudan, the region and the world that it is committed to the peace process and strongly believes that the only solution to the current crisis in South Sudan is political and not a military one.



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