



SOUTH SUDAN

Restoring Unity & Dignity of the People

National Salvation Front/Army

3rd August, 2017

Press Release

The National Salvation Front (NAS) is profoundly disturbed by the recent attack carried out by SPLM-IO on its forces under Lt. Gen. John Kenyi Lo Buron. The irresponsible and reckless attack by a segment of SPLM-IO forces was triggered by Lt. Gen. Lo Buron's exercise of his inalienable right of choice to join NAS. In utter disregard of the core principle that "each human being is free to determine his or her political destiny or military affiliation", the SPLM-IO leadership ordered the attack on Lt. Gen. Kenyi's General Headquarters with the intention of eliminating him – where he successfully repulsed two attacks.

Unfortunate though this development is, the leadership of NAS hopes that its SPLM-IO partners in opposition to the Juba regime, can learn something from it. NAS views the transgression of the principle of the right of every human being to determine his or her political destiny and affiliation by the SPLM-IO as a colossal error that should not be repeated under any circumstances.

We presume that the SPLM-IO is still in concert with us as committed opponents of the regime in Juba. We expected the SPLM-IO scarce resources to be devoted to fighting Kiir's forces, not fighting each other! Nothing would please the Juba regime more than seeing opposition forces exterminating each other.

NAS would like to urge and remind the SPLM-IO leadership that no political or military organization owns the people or the land of South Sudan. The people own any such organizations and the land.

Most comical and tragic, is the SPLM-IO statement that "NAS should stop *grabbing (sic)* our commanders"! Sadly, the statements sees soldiers and senior generals like Lt. Gen. John Kenyi as objects that can be "grabbed" – rather than human beings of sound mind, who can make rational decisions of their own accord, and in their own best interests and the interests of the people of South Sudan.

NAS would like to inform and assure all South Sudanese and supporters of NAS that, Lt. Gen. John Kenyi is in control of all his areas of command in Central Equatoria and is in direct contact with the NAS Military command and leadership.

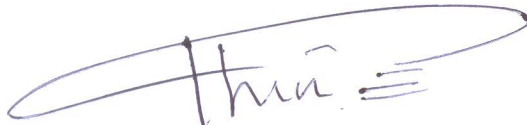
The claims by Matata and Lam Paul Gabriel are mere propaganda. NAS has high regards to the SPLM-IO forces fighting the regime in Juba, and encourages its leadership and commanders to responsibly handle misunderstandings as they may arise, if we are to face Juba as credible opposition forces

NAS remains committed to the core principle of freedom of choice and would hope that the SPLM-IO leadership will join us in placing greater emphasis on cooperation. If ever any citizen of South Sudan makes a political choice that we disagree with, we are better off, as a matter of principle, to respect their rights.

Long live NAS!

Long live South Sudan!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murtada', enclosed within a large, horizontal oval stroke.

Murtada Jalal Edin Baballa

Acting / Spokesperson