



Federal Democratic  
Republic of South Sudan  
SPLA GHQS



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**Sudan People's Liberation Army**  
**Deputy Chief of General Staff for Operations**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**WE DENOUNCE AND DISOWN DR. RIEK MACHAR AS SPLM/A-IO CHAIRMAN  
AND C-IN-C**

Members of the SPLM/A-IO

The African Union,

The IGAD- Plus Mediators and International Community,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now two years since the conflict in South Sudan erupted in Juba on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2013. While IGAD and IGAD PLUS continue to exert tireless and tremendous efforts to mediate peace talks between the warring parties, fighting is spreading and innocent lives continue to be lost. Humanitarian work is being hampered by both parties to the conflict. Despite the signing of Cessation of Hostilities (COH) by both parties, the COH continues to be violated with untold devastation of lives and property.

Since the eruption of hostilities in 2013 several rounds of IGAD Mediated Peace Talks were conducted but no significant progress towards peace made.

We refer to the Proposed Compromise Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and our letter to the Chairman of IGAD





PLUS Peace Talks dated 7th July 2015, in which we the generals that are in the battlefield stated that:

We reject any peace agreement that includes President Kiir and Dr. Riek Machar in the leadership of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU). The two leaders have become symbols of hate and conflict and are obstacles to peace as both leaders wrangle over who should lead. Similarly the two communities of Nuer and Dinka have become so polarized and divided to the extent that one community will reject the leadership of the other. Other sons and daughters of South Sudan should be allowed to lead during the transitional period and both President Kiir and Dr. Riek should wait for the next coming elections and contest for the presidency if they so desire. If this should not be the case then we suggest that a military led Transitional government comprising officers from both parties be formed until next elections are conducted.

We strongly oppose and reject the SPLM re-unification signed by President Kiir and Riek Machar in Arusha, Tanzania on 21th January 2015. This re-unification has a number of shortcomings that could not make the Country to prosper.

- (i) It confirms a return to status quo that plunged the Country to the current civil war triggered off by Juba December 2013 massacres.
  
- (ii) It takes the Country back to the dictatorial rule of SPLM as witnessed from 2005 up to date. This means that there will be no political space for other political actors in South Sudan.





- (iii) The SPLM/SPLA-IO is a multi party resistance movement comprising of political and military forces that are opposed to Juba regime which has turned its guns against innocent citizens.
- (iv) The reunification of the SPLM/A may compromise democratic transformation, reforms and federal system and will encourage one party dictatorship.

### SPLM/A-IO Leadership Crisis

The SPLM/A-IO has a leadership crisis over the management of the movement. Dr. Riek has mismanaged and failed to unite the movement. He has turned the movement into a family enterprise that resulted to unilateral decision making and which led to the summary dismissal of General Peter Gatdet and General Gathoth Gatkuoth. It is to be recalled that the two generals played a crucial role in rescuing the life of Dr. Riek. Dr. Riek and his in-law Taban Deng Gai have engaged in trade and have forgotten the main purpose for which we took up arms.

WE the Generals of the SPLM/A in Opposition have lost confidence in the leadership of Dr. Riek Machar Teny, and from today he ceases to be the Chairman and Commander in Chief of SPLM/A-IO. Therefore, any peace that he signs with the Government of South Sudan will not be legitimate and will not be respected by SPLM/A-IO led by Generals.

Our objective is to bring about a regime change through elections in South Sudan in order to bring a sustainable peace and development to our people. We therefore





appeal to all people of South Sudan, all political parties, regional leaders and international community to support us in this political move.

We call upon our gallant forces and the white army to remain united wherever they are in our areas of control and repulse any aggressors.

We are also fully committed to addressing the concerns and grievances of our fighting forces. We assure you that no agreement will be signed without your genuine representatives.

To all political forces in SPLM/A and beyond, we call upon you to join us as people who have the Country and its people at heart. Together we can bring back our nation from the brink of collapse.

Dr. Riek Machar has already accepted to work with Salva Kiir as his Vice President in the Transitional Government of National Unity. These leaders have become symbols of hate, division and failed Leadership. Both leaders were responsible for igniting the current crisis. We strongly reject IGAD proposal that gives leadership of the transitional Government of National Unity to both President Kiir and Dr. Riek Machar. The Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) should be led by South Sudanese who have the country and its people at heart.



We will soon give the way forward on this matter!

God bless South Sudan

Thank you,



**General Peter Gatdet Yaka,  
Deputy Chief of General Staff for Operations  
SPLA in Opposition**

Cc: IGAD Mediators

Cc: African Union

Cc: International Community

Cc: Trioka Countries

Cc: USA, President

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