



SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

SPLM LEADERS (FPD)

Nairobi, 22nd August, 2016

PRESS STATEMENT

On

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2304

1. As we enter the second month of conflict since the eruption of renewed conflict in South Sudan, we, the SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees) wish to convey sincere appreciation and commend the strenuous and selfless investment that our neighbours and the international community at large continue to make for the cause of peace in South Sudan. In this connection we welcome the United Nations Security Council (UNSC Res/2304/2016) Resolution 2304 passed on 12th August, 2016 and the previous resolution of the African Union (AU) of Kigali, the IGAD Heads of State and Government resolution of Addis Ababa, the recommendations of the IGAD Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Nairobi) and the recommendations of IGAD chiefs of Defence Forces of Addis Ababa, Kigali and Kampala. In our view, the decision to provide a Protection Force, if effected, will stabilize the security situation in the country, protect civilians, pacify the spoilers and provide an enabling environment for implementation of the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS).
2. We welcome the visit of Secretary John Kerry to the Region, noting that South Sudan is high on his agenda. The critical role of the United States and President Barak Obama in the birth of South Sudan is not only recognized but appreciated by the overwhelming majority of the people of South Sudan. It is our hope that President Obama and the people of the United States will not give up on South Sudan as a hopeless case that is beyond redemption. South Sudan can still be rescued through proactive assistance that puts the **people first** rather than the mighty and the powerful.
3. In this connection, we urge all parties and stakeholders, especially the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU), the other parties to ARCISS, civil society groups and the general South Sudanese populace to unreservedly give their support and appreciation for these regional and international initiatives; to embrace and fully support UNSC Resolution 2304; and to cooperate with the Regional Protection Force. We further urge the Region to effect deployment of the Force with speed. It is our considered view that any delay in deploying the Force runs the risk of its being undermined by new dynamics in a rapidly changing context. Given the plethora of warlords and gunmen roaming the country, it is quite conceivable that such spoilers might wish to bluff and bluster, and test the will of the international community through procrastination, non-cooperation, and violent resistance. Therefore, it is important that the Protection Force, IGAD and the international community act with

resolve and take appropriate punitive action when and if faced with such situations. Spoilers must be deterred, for the success of this mission may hinge on the test of will.

4. We reiterate our earlier position that besides stabilizing security, protecting civilians and creating an enabling environment for implementation of ARCISS, we are convinced that this initiative, if effected, will create an environment conducive for healthy political dialogue free of fear or intimidation. These, in turn, will enable the South Sudanese stakeholders to craft the roadmap and the mechanisms for pulling us out of the hole we have dug ourselves into.
5. While welcoming regional intervention for the purpose of protection, we wish to reiterate our previous position that intervention for the purpose of protection, by and in itself, is not sufficient condition to put ARCISS back on track. The military aspects of intervention, in case of resistance by the spoilers, need to be taken into account. The Protection Force has to ensure that all local forces are cantoned in their camps and barracks in their localities and outside the main urban centres, pending screening and It is our considered opinion that a political programme that provides a roadmap for sustainable peace in the country should be the end-state of the regional initiative to assist South Sudan to stand on its feet again. Such political programme and roadmap is understandably missing from the recommendations and resolutions regarding the Protection Force. For this is primarily the responsibility of the South Sudanese, assisted by friends and the international community. In our view, such a political roadmap can be achieved by an all-party roundtable. The roundtable should be convened as soon as the Protection Force has stabilized the situation in Juba. The roundtable or All Party National Consensus Building Conference should be tasked to revise ARCISS in areas that have been severely fractured and trim it to the essentials that are feasible and can be meaningfully implemented during the transitional period. This could be preceded by a series of national dialogue conferences to tackle national security and strategic policy, security sector transformation, economy and production, infrastructure, nation building and society cohesion, state-building and institutional reforms, peace consolidation and peace building, justice and accountability, constitution making, women and children affairs, education and literacy, etc.
6. In connection with No. 5 above, we urge IGAD to authorize JMEC to call for a roundtable conference of all the ARCISS' stakeholders in Juba once the security situation has stabilized, to chart the political roadmap for the remaining part of the transition.
7. Finally, we acknowledge and commend the efforts of all the organizations and individuals who have helped and continue to help the people of South Sudan achieve stability and sustainable peace. Lastly but not least, we urge IGAD Plus, AU, UN and Troika to remain seized of the situation in South Sudan



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For SPLM Leaders (Former Political Detainees - FDs)
Nairobi, Kenya, 22nd August 2016