



SOUTH SUDAN OPPOSITION ALLIANCE (SSOA)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Statement

SSOA delegation Meets Dr. Riek Machar in Addis Ababa

A delegation of the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) met today, the 20th of June, Dr. Riek Machar, the Chairman of SPLM-IO, in the presence of some members of his delegation at the peace talks taking place in Addis Ababa. The meeting took place on his request.

SSOA delegation expressed its pleasure that he was allowed to come to Addis Ababa so as to take part in the peace process and expressed its hope that he has been fully released from detention. After that, Dr. Riek Machar took the floor thanking SSOA for its stand calling for his release since December 2017 and requested to be briefed by the Alliance on its position at the peace talks and the possible course of action should the peace process fail to deliver the desired result of a negotiated peace agreement acceptable to all Parties. He concluded by stating that up to that moment he was unaware of the agenda for his two meetings with both the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Salva Kiir.

The delegation of SSOA explained its position in the HLRF talks mediated by IGAD pointing out that the Mediators were biased towards the regime in Juba and thinks that it can strike a bilateral deal between the Government in Juba and the SPLM-IO and that, in the view of SSOA, was the main reason why he was called to Addis Ababa. SSOA delegation stressed that any bilateral deal can never bring a just and sustainable peace to our masses that have suffered immensely because of war. They concluded that SSOA has made it clear to IGAD that it will never be part of an



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agreement that does not address the root causes of the conflict. On the possible course of action should the talks fail to deliver a just and sustainable peace to our people, SSOA delegation affirmed that, for sure, the people of South Sudan will continue to exercise their right of self-defence against injustice, oppression, violations of human rights and the looting of their resources, while continuing to search for a just and sustainable peace.

In his comments, Dr Riek Machar informed the delegation that he will enquire from the Prime Minister about his status, whether he was now free or the situation has not changed. He then assured the delegation that he will never sign a bilateral deal whatever the enticements of power sharing could be and reaffirmed that he is with SSOA on its call for radical reforms in all government sectors in the country. He added that the 2016 events were an eye-opener for the need to secure an agreement that stands on firm ground. He promised to brief the delegation about his two expected meetings with both the Prime Minister and Salva Kiir.

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