

Ottawa

Sunday, February-16-14

Article 16 on South Sudan

Developments in South Sudan Conflict: Uganda, IDPs, The talks in Bishufto (Debre Zeit) and who is really ruling South Sudan.

Our Articles 1 to 3 and 5 to 15 were situation analysis of the conflict in South Sudan. Our article 4 (A) and 4 (B) were the first of our series on “Who is Who”. This short article (16) is dedicated to Uganda, IDPs in Nimule, military recruitment in Eastern Equatoria, and the staggering talks in Debre Zeit,

Uganda’s worry about South Sudan is not all love!

For the last 10 days no international TV or Radio Station has headed South Sudan unless we missed the odd ones. Total neglect!

Then all of a sudden: Bingo! The BBC itself is “mentioning” South Sudan; but “not talking” about it. Please open the link, ignore the ads and listen to the 2:50 minutes clip. If you cannot open it from the article, copy and paste the link and you will get there

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-26191079>

What is this link saying?

1. There is conflict in South Sudan
2. The conflict has affected Uganda economically to the extent that some factories may shut down.
3. Transit goods are now going but slowly
4. Infrastructural goods and consumer commodities are no going
5. Ugandans have felt the pinch

Is there a reason?

Of course!

1. Who is buying goods now?
2. Who is constructing homes to use building materials?
3. The road from Gulu-Nimule-Juba (The only tarmac road in South Sudan)is not totally open

Refugees in East Equatoria are to be forcibly removed to Kapoeta

The Government of Eastern Equatoria has decided to relocate 35,000 IDPs from Malijo to Kapoeta. Yes Sir! IDPs who have been walking and traumatised are to be relocated; I beg your pardon: **They are to relocate themselves 450 Km!**

But first let us ask: which Kapoeta?

Kapoeta North on the border with Jonglei from where most of the IDPs originally came?

Kapoeta South on the borders with Uganda and Kenya?

Or Central (Township) Kapoeta?

Why move them from Madi and Achuli land around Nimule to Toposa land 450Km away?

Move or die

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article49961>

What is this link saying?

Just read:

“The South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) has instructed international and local NGOs to halt food distribution until the IDPs agree to move to Kapoeta, a local official said on Thursday”.

"We are under the state [government], so there is restriction that no distribution will be allowed until further notice," said Salva Ben, the head of the SSRRC in Magwi county”

Can you believe your eyes? How callas and inhumane can anyone be?

But that is not all from Eastern Equatoria

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article49964>

What is this link saying?

1. That recruitment to add to the 210,000 SPLA is on the rise
2. From Non-Nuer tribes
3. Instead of 5000 target recruits, the *catch* is now 7000
4. They have now raised the mark to 10,000: To be recruited to protect Wani Iga and Salva Kiir

Bear with us to Understand why the 35,000 (Southern Sudanese) IDPs are being moves:

Nimule-Kapoeta is 450 KM (Every IDP of the 35,000 needs to truck or walk 450 KM after the hundreds of Kilometers they have already walked last month).

Add to that the 19 KM between Malijo and Nimule-Both in Magwi Country of East Equatoria (The IDPs are not in Nimule! But 19 KM South of Nimule). Mostly under trees.

Nimule is 190 KM to Juba. Nimule to Gulu in Uganda is 120 KM.
Gulu Kampala is 320 KM.

Hence Kampala Juba is 630 KM all on tarmac and the ONLY tarmac in South Sudan. The old distance was 830 KM

Now what is the other route that is feeding South Sudan east of the Nile?

Lokichokio (Kenya)-Kapoeta is 125 KM
Nairobi-Loki is 1230 KM
Juba Kapoeta is 260 KM

Total is 1615 KM. Other records say 1488 KM. NO Tarmac when in South Sudan!

More information:

Magwi Payam is 80% Acholi
LRA are all Acholi
Those who died in South Sudan from the UPDF are mostly Acholi

Do you get the picture? The IDPs must be moved from the Madi and Acholi land.
They must be moved away from the tarmac road.

Does anyone want to get those IDPs out of the way? Any linkage to the BBC clip?

Every possible thing, humane or inhumane, needs to be done so that the BBC Business Africa does not have to do another clip like the one above!

Let us go to some of the 30 articles of the “Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement”

Ironically, they were drafted by Dr. Francis Deng. What makes us wonder: Did he raise those principles with Kiir and company when he was in Juba last month?

We will choose only 4 principles, but please read the rest in the webs

Principle 1

Internally displaced persons shall enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country. They shall not be discriminated against in the enjoyment of any rights and freedoms on the ground that they are internally displaced.

Principle 3

National authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction.

Principle 4

These Principles shall be applied without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, legal or social status, age, disability, property, birth, or on any other similar criteria.

Principle 7

Prior to any decision requiring the displacement of persons, the authorities concerned shall ensure that all feasible alternatives are explored in order to avoid displacement altogether. Where no alternatives exist, all measures shall be taken to minimize displacement and its adverse effects.

If you read them all, you would wonder if the 35,000 IDPs in Malijo came from the moon!

Is there anyone really working for peace in South Sudan? Or are they all playing games?

Who are helping South Sudan?

1. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the UN
2. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). This is the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the EU.
3. The USAID
4. Then the “peanuts” donors!

You see big figures for 2013 from several organizations. But we are in 2014! There is no cash on the table now. No communiqués except “condemnations”. But those are words! The IDPs and Refugees had enough words from Kiir.

Those of us who worked so hard to help the people of South Sudan, have been failed by the abominable rulers (Not Leaders) of South Sudan. But the “People” are now suffering more than during the North-South civil war. There is no enemy from without to blame. The enemy is from within.

James Hoth

He was in Kampala from Monday 03/02 to Thursday 06/02. He agreed with the Ugandan Minister of defence that Juba will bear all the running expenses of the war, but the dead and wounded are to be taken back to Uganda.

But this was already in the Status of Forces Agreement signed by his Minister of Defence on January 10th 2014. Kuol Manyang came out yesterday confirming it all after it became impossible to lie about it any longer.

Total Ugandans dead and wounded in the fighting are:

635 confirmed dead. About 1300 are claimed as wounded. Museveni does not want to air that. The White Army had 680 Nuers killed by 6 Chopper Gunships in one battle south of Bor.

Is Kiir really in control?

The 4+1 ruling are:

Kuol Manyang

Wani Iga

Daniel Awet Akot

Paul Malong

And then: Tilar Deng. Tilar is no match to any of them.

Kiir has lost his bearings.

One day he will not allow Machar to run for presidency in the 2015 elections.

Another day “he” will forgive all.

Another day he will try 7 for high treason

One day he massacres Nuers in Juba.

Another day he “Warns” against killing in a Dinka dominated youth rally

What does he want?

Malakal

News has it that the rebel forces are closing in on Malakal from three directions. Simon Kun, Governor of UN is in Ethiopia with the 3 run away commissioners. He is expected to fly back to Juba this week. It is unclear if he will go to Malakal or not

Political Blindness

Dr. Barnaba Marial, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation flies to London to try and convince the world that there was indeed a coup and that the group of 7+4 should not be called “Political detainees” but "suspected coup makers". This was not conciliatory and not his nature that we know to utter such harsh and unnecessary terminology. Even if they are coup plotters they are still political detainees. He delivered talks at Chatham House, London School of Economics and the International Institute for Strategic Studies among others. The world is no longer interested in “If” it were a coup or not. We all know it was not a coup, what the world is interested in is: How to react to and stop further foolishness and shooting in the foot of the South Sudan politicians? And how to save lives of innocent people?

We also understand that Wani Iga (The VP) will lead a delegation to the US giving 5 days to DC and 5 days to NY. It will be the same objective: To try and convince the Americans that it was indeed a coup attempt and that the devil in disguise lies with the group 11 and Machar and

company. This bending back twice will not work. There is nothing that the Americans do not know and are awaiting Iga to come and explain.

The wisdom and irony of Debre Zeit (Debre Zeit or Bishoftu)

The talks have moved there. ALL of them. It is on the way to Sodore Resort. It is in the Misaq Shewa Zone. 48 KM South East from Addis on tarmac road. Its “Current Name” is the old Oromo name of Bishotu which was changed in 1955. It is also a “Warada” or County.

It is inhabited by mainly Amhara, Oromo and Gurage tribes.

The name “Debre Zeit” means “Mount of Olives”. May be it shall offer an olive branch to the negotiating teams (Now three and not two).

It is built around 5 crater lakes of immense beauty. In 1946 it was chosen as the base for the Ethiopian Air force that was established by the Swedes. It was also used as a detention centre for the detainees of Mengistu Regimes after the fall of Addis in 1991.

Those engaged in the peace talks have all moved from Addis to Debre Zeit. Communication in the new location is very bad. Those we contacted by mobile phones had to go to high places of the town to get a signal. The town has changed since the late eighties and there is more physical development. The last time we saw Debre Zeit and had coffee and a meal in it was in 2005 for a contract we had with the Forum of Federations which is based in Canada.

The big irony is:

During the struggle of South Sudan for independence, and hosted by Col Mengistu, Debre Zeit was the living quarters of the leaders of the SPLM/A when in Ethiopia. We visited late Joseph Uduho and late Capt Caesar Madut and their families (among others still living) in Debre Zeit.

After 25 years, the leaders of the SPLM/A come as bitter enemies to try and reconcile in Debre Zeit!

A senior member of the delegations in the talks told us last night : “ No one knows what is going to happen next”

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