

Ottawa

Thursday, February-20-14

Article 19 on South Sudan

Developments in South Sudan Conflict: Updates, Possible parallel Government to that of Juba in the 3 states? Bahr el Ghazal on Equalization, \$\$ again! and the lack of professionalism of the IGAD team.

Our Articles 1 to 3 and 5 to 18 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 article (19) is dedicated to Bah El Ghazal Province, Possible Structural Changes to Governance and IGAD Talks.

Greater Bahr El Ghazal has no Resources

Our lead consultant worked in Greater Bahr El Ghazal for 3 years building the first factory after Addis Ababa Agreement in March 1972. He then worked on and off in Greater Bahr El Ghazal for 25 years mainly on Nile Waters.

Greater Bahr El Ghazal is made up Northern Bahr El Ghazal (NBG), Western Bahr El Ghazal (WBG) and Warrap State (WS). They have cattle and they have water. But they have no other resources. They are a liability on the “equalization” process of apportioning oil funds by the federal government in Juba. 98% of the treasury income comes from WUN and UN States.

Kiir’s limited and localized vision is not new. He cannot think beyond Bahr El Ghazal. On Nov 29th-Dec 1st 2004 in Rumbek and with all the mess and confusion that the SPLM/A had then, Kiir said NOTHING in his opening speech except on Bahr Elkhazin. Listen to (then) Cdr. Oyai Deng. Quote *“I am shocked to hear Cdr. Salva talk here only about Bahr El Ghazal and not the South in general give (n) he is a leader for all.”* Unquote. Oyai is still behind bard as one of the Unfortunate 4.

The railway line connecting Sudan and South Sudan via Babanousa (South Kordofan) and Wau is 444Km built between 1959 and 1962. 248 Km of that are inside South Sudan. It crosses Sudan’s border into South at Samaha (Mile 14). The MDTF-N gave the Sudan Railways \$120 million (Blank Cheque-Yes) to rehabilitate the railway line from Babanousa to Wau. The work was not completed and the line is not operating. With the current violence it shall be “knackered” as the original line was knackered.

Only if there is peace in the region and cross border agreements with Sudan are operational can that rail line service Bahr El Ghazal and help revive its economy.

Until then, Bahr El Ghazal (Kiir’s home region) is a net receiver of funds in the equalization process.

Where is the currency reserve of South Sudan?

In the process of Dinkanization, all the money of South Sudan is in the South Sudan Security Service (NISS) and not in the Bank of South Sudan. Kiir is accessing funds without due process.

The 350,000 BPD production of South Sudan dropped down to 245,000 after the oil resumed flowing through Sudan. This week it had dropped down to 170,000 BPD or 50% of the maximum daily production. This is not imputable to the fighting, but to the mass flight of almost ALL the oil workers.

And the spending on war goes on!

Do you remember Tennessee Ford in George Davis's immortal song "I Load Sixteen Tons"?
"What do I get?
Another day older and deeper in debt"

That is exactly what is happening to South Sudan

Gelweng!

New recruits in the Tiger Brigade are called (Gelweng). That is a term in Dinka which means (Cowboys). Those are the 15,000 of Kiir who are all from Bahr El Ghazal and most of them speak no other language than Dinka. The Private Army that is being fed and paid "extra-judicial" to borrow the term!

Anything brewing internationally?

This is not the time for pre-packaged interventions by the WB or the USAID or the EU without carefully studying and doing Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) or similar. We understand there was a meeting at the World Bank in Washington DC yesterday, but no news seems to be coming out yet.

It will be indecent to prey on the misery and suffering of the people of South Sudan and then recycle the tax-payers funds into fat salaries and benefits with poor outputs and poorer outcomes. Acceptable "Cost Effectiveness" needs to be preset.

Can we possibly have a parallel Government in the three States of WUN, Jonglei and Upper Nile? Take a look:

There are currently three main regional groupings in South Sudan, namely:
Greater Upper Nile states: Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile

Greater Bahr Al Ghazal: Lake, Western Bahr Al Ghazal, Northern Bahr Al Ghazal and Warrap

Greater Equatoria: Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria.

The “rebels” are in control of most of the territory of Greater Upper Nile and some ghost town as the civilians have fled the city, fearing attacks either by the ill-disciplined soldiers loyal to Gadet and armed Nuer militiamen, or the SPLA. Make no mistake: There are ethnic Dinkas from Bor that are also fighting alongside Major General Gadet . Kiir is not popular there. Keeping Majak Agoot in jail is one of Kiir’s foolish mistakes.

Vengeance is in the very blood of the Nuers. The split between the Eastern Nuers (Luo, Gaawar Bar, Gaawar Nyang, Gaajok, Gajiok...) and Western Nuers (Bul, Lek, Jangai, Jikany, Adok.....) is a dimension that we need to follow. It was mainly Bul Nuers who took back Bentiu for Machar Forces

If Kiir gets time to do what he wants (Dinkanize South Sudan Institutions), we will have two countries in South Sudan. Follow David Deshan’s analysis on February 19th 2014! He is the President of the South Sudan Democratic Front (SSDF)

Excerpt in Arabic

وأكد بروف ديشان بأنه خلال الأيام القليلة القادمة أن ولايات أعالي النيل الكبرى ستصبح خالية تماما من جيش الحركة الشعبية وبذلك ستكون مدينة ملكال الاستراتيجية تحت السيطرة الكاملة لقوات د. ريباك مشار وثار دول جنوب السودان ومن ثم سيتم الشروع فوراً في تكوين حكومة انتقالية لأن حكومة سلفاكير تكون قد فقدت الشرعية في ولايات أعالي النيل الكبرى وبالتالي لا يمكن أن تكون هذه الولايات بدون حكومة

Though he is very pro Khartoum, he is not to be totally ignored.

The free translation reads: Quote ...Soon all the states of Greater Upper Nile will be free of the SPLA. This will put the strategic town of Malakal under the control of Riek Machar and the rebels of South Sudan. Hence work shall start promptly to form a transitional government as that of Kiir will have lost legitimacy in Greater Upper Nile. Consequently, these states cannot remain without a government” Unquote.

Why doesn’t IGAD respect the Delegates?

Just look at the mess of venue: Sheraton Hotel, then Saro Mara Hotel, then Debre Zeit and now back to Radisson near the UN Conference Centre. The SPLM-N delegation is still there in the same hotel. The idea of the “retreat” was defeated basically for the lack of communication and facilities in Debre Zeit. Why take delegates who need to be in contact all the day with their basis to a location where they have to walk to high grounds to get a signal? A V-Sat costs \$12,000 and takes 2 hours to install!

Primary Stakeholders delegated to the talks are leaving the “talks”, now back in Addis, going to the “battlefield”-YES! And then coming back to the talks.

Are there White Elephants?

Subsahara Centre
Ottawa Canada