

Ottawa

Friday, February-28-14

Article 21 on South Sudan

Developments in South Sudan Conflict: Conference at the University of Ottawa, helping Canadians of South Sudan origin to work together and train on prevention, Riek is not a fool to leave South Sudan, Can Khartoum really stand at the fence?

Our Articles 1 to 3 and 5 to 20 were situation analysis of the conflict in South Sudan. Our articles 4 (A), 4 (B) and 4 (C) were the first of our series on “Who is Who”. This article (21) is dedicated to the Conference organised by the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS) and Sub Sahara Centre, emerging efforts to help South Sudan Diaspora in Canada to work together, and a detour to Khartoum.

Outcome of the Conference at the University of Ottawa (see annex for details)

General: This was a Canadian Event and not an event of Canadians of South Sudanese Origin

About 90 participants were in the hall mostly mainstream Euro-Canadians who are concerned about South Sudan. They included ex-ambassadors, ex-development officers, members of INGOs, senior researchers from 5 universities, at least four officials from The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, representatives of political parties....and a noticeable presence of Canadians of South Sudan Origin.

General Taban Deng Gai addressed the participants via teleconference from Addis Ababa. Gordon Buay addressed the conference via Skype from the US. Ambassador Akec Khoc Aciew Head of Mission of South Sudan to the US declined to participate as he was not accredited to Canada. Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the GRSS did not respond to all our e-mails and phone calls to his home in England when he was there.

Canadians of South Sudan origin came from Ottawa, Kitchener, Waterloo and Hamilton.

Speakers came from Montreal, Waterloo, Hamilton and Toronto

Some of the Recommendations (as captured by Sub Sahara centre)

1. There were calls for Canada to appoint an Envoy to South Sudan to assist with the peace process
2. Another call suggested a block immigrant visa to join divided families of Canadian Citizens from South Sudan Origin in Canada
3. Developing a stronger umbrella to support the IGAD Mediators and place it under the UNSG.

4. Encourage the Canadian Parliament to hold a hearing session to be hosted by The Standing **Committee on Foreign Affairs** and International Development (FAAE).
5. Canada to make a strong call to stop the forcible recruitment of youth in the 3 Equatorian States
6. Assist the negotiating “Rebels” with much needed experts to strengthen their capacity in “Process” and Negotiation and Mediation.
7. Do Canada’s own needs assessment in rebels controlled areas and allocate funds (\$10-\$15 mill) for emergency relief
8. Help our Canadian citizens who lost everything running for their lives with start up support.
9. Immigration Canada is to scrap paying back the evacuation costs Canadian Citizens in South Sudan were made to sign for under duress.
10. Canada to show some care and concern at Parliament Hill level.
11. Support Civil Society Organizations working in Canada and South Sudan
12. Support further similar conferencing events and in-depth analysis and research for the lessons learned coupled to the fragility of South Sudan and its total lack of resilience

Some of the positive outcomes

1. The participating Canadians of South Sudan origin engaged in a structured process that was able to control their anger and bickering.
2. Participants from different tribal backgrounds in South Sudan talked to each other and some have agreed to work together
3. CIPS of the University of Ottawa has agreed to set up a Blog on South Sudan in their website
4. Sub Sahara Centre and other centres in Canada are looking into encouraging donors to support training in Community-Based Conflict Resolution (CBCR) and Prevention of Mass Atrocities
5. Multi-organizations support for the initiative of the Canadians of South Sudan origin to have a special hearing on South Sudan in Parliament Hill

To Note:

1. The event was self funded by University of Ottawa and Sub Sahara Centre
2. The out-of-town participants funded their own expenses
3. The venue was over booked 6 days before the event’s date but everyone who showed up was admitted.
4. In spite of the anger and sadness, veteran Canadians who stood beside South Sudan’s struggle for years showed up; some on walkers and some who retired tens of years back. It was a moving sight
5. While the event was a welcomed effort it did not go far enough or deep enough for time and funds constraints.
6. Some colleagues were surprised at the figure of \$20 billion spent in South Sudan. \$12 billion was oil revenue 2005-2012 and \$8 billion were aid and loans. The impact does not far match the funds unless we add corruption!

On Riek Machar's whereabouts

1. Riek Machar never left South Sudan as rumoured. He is too smart to do such a fatal move.
2. He moved from Jonglei State to Upper Nile State for reasons that we believe are understandable (our own assumed reasons and insider information)
3. There is a major military activity in Upper Nile.
4. Warrap State military capacity has been siphoned out by President Kiir to come to Juba. It is already under attack now. Unless a miracle happens, Machar will raise Akun to the ground as Kiir raised Leer to the ground.
5. If you have grievances with a Nuer, you better "step aside"; "a lot of men didn't and a lot of men died"!!
6. Machar cannot let the current 150,000 BPD (and declining) flow from Adar and Gumri oilfields if the proceeds are going to Juba. If he shuts it, with or without agreement with Khartoum, he will shut off revenue to Juba. Juba is already under stress and workforce strikes are growing for lack of payment to civil servants.
7. The panic of President Kiir is manifested in firing Francis Ayul, the minister for mining and petroleum of Upper Nile State and scrapping his ministry altogether. Ayul helped the foreign oil workers to evacuate when Malakal was about to fall. If Machar gets to and controls Gumri and Adar fields, he will have a strong bargaining card with Juba, in Addis and with Khartoum.

The Big Bully (Museveni) and the world landscape as President Kiir must see it

1. Soft power may work when military power is not applicable
2. The "Bully" will now feel the pinch and may no longer be the spoilt kid of the West. In a move, a first of its kind' the World bank froze \$90 loan to Uganda "We have postponed the project for further review to ensure that the development objectives would not be adversely affected by the enactment of this new law," World Bank spokesman David Theis said .
3. The World Bank usually stays away from country politics in dealing with member nations.
4. Which country has real leverage on the World Bank? Make a guess!!
5. \$1.56 BILLION are still loaned by the Bank to Uganda.
6. Norway (One of the Troika) and Denmark have suspended their aid to Uganda.
7. Is it all about homosexuality? Look at other countries punishments: Mauritania-Death, Nigeria-Death, Sierra Leone-Life for male, Kenya-14 years, Tanzania -up to life, Saudi-death or life, Afghanistan (We just came out of there!)-Death....
8. Did the World Bank bring it up?

Sudan

Donald Booth's 8 pages testimony for House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Human Rights, and International Organizations, "U.S. Policy Toward Sudan and South Sudan" on February 26, 2014, we invite you to look at the soft language

“I will continue to work with both parties, and the umbrella opposition group of the Sudan Revolutionary Front, to urge them to take the necessary steps through the AU-led effort to achieve a cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access—the latter of which has been denied by the Sudanese government since the outbreak of the conflict over two and a half years ago, resulting in a serious humanitarian crisis”

Once more

“The United States continues to press the Sudanese government to allow greater humanitarian access in Darfur, and to engage with all parties for a comprehensive political solution.”

He goes on

“Against the backdrop of continued conflict and the repressive response to public demonstrations in September, we took note of President Bashir’s speech on January 27 in which he called for an inclusive process to redraft the constitution—a process that would include both armed and non-armed opposition groups and that would address issues of peace, economic development, political reform, and a dialogue about Sudanese identity. The world will be watching Sudan carefully to gauge the seriousness of this initiative, which, if truly holistic, inclusive, and comprehensive, offers an opportunity to address the underlying causes of Sudan’s tragic history of war between its center and its periphery. “

And Finally

“To this end I, along with other senior U.S. government officials, have endeavored to coordinate and strengthen international messaging with 8 key partners such as China, the United Kingdom, Norway, the AU, Ethiopia, Egypt, Qatar, and others.”

Could have Ambassador Booth said otherwise? No. How can he when the US made Sudan enemy number one for so long for the sake of South Sudan and now the South Sudanese shoot themselves in both feet!

Reality check? Perhaps!

We need to watch Machar, Beshir, Afworki and oil. May be El Sir Sid Ahmed will write on that. May be the work in progress, that the Small Arms Survey of the Human Security Baseline Assessment are doing can also inform us. They are very credible

**Subsahara Centre
Ottawa Canada**

Annex

Crisis in South Sudan: Issues, Actors and Options for Canada

Wednesday February 26, 2014 8:30 AM-12:00
University of Ottawa, Desmarais building 12102, 55 Laurier East

Organised by the CIPS Fragile States Research Network
in partnership with Subsahara Centre

Background

The conflict that erupted in South Sudan in December 2013 has claimed over 10,000 lives and displaced over 700,000 persons. What are the roots of the armed violence, what are key South Sudanese stakeholders' positions and how are international actors responding? What are the diplomatic, humanitarian and longer-term options for Canada and its international partners?

Please join us for a morning of informed dialogue between practitioners and scholars working on these issues. Representatives of the Government of Canada shall be present but will not participate. Registration is required. Please follow the links via <http://cips.uottawa.ca/event/conflict-in-south-sudan-issues-actors-and-options-for-canada/>

Agenda

8:30: Registration

9:00 Welcome and introduction, Prof Stephen Baranyi, University of Ottawa
Minute of silence for victims of the violence

9:05 Session I: Context, issues, actors

Chair: Prof Rita Abrahamsen, University of Ottawa

Speakers (8-10 minutes each):

- Mr Tag Elkhazin, Subsahara Centre: Context 9:10-9:20
- Mr Gordon Buay, SSLM/A (by Skype) 9:20-9:30
- General Taban Deng, SPLM/A-in opposition (by teleconference) 9:30-9:40. Followed immediately by Q&As for Gen Taban 9:40-9:50
- Mr Paul Wel, Generations for Peace: A view from South Sudanese civil society 9:50-10:00

Discussion 10:00-10:30

10:30 Refreshment break

10:40 Session II: Canada and the international community

Chair: Prof Stephen Baranyi, University of Ottawa

Speakers (8-10 minutes each):

- Ms Peggy Mason, Peacebuild: International responses to date 10:45-10:55
- Mr Kyle Matthews, MIGHRS: R2P options Sudan 10:55-11:05
- Dr Eric Abitbol, IRIS: Discussant 11:05-11:15
- Mr John Siebert, Ploughshares: Longer-term options 11:15-11:25

Discussion

11:55 Closing remarks: Tag Elkhazin and Stephen Baranyi

Chairs & speakers

Abitbol, Eric: Senior Fellow, Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability, York University and Vice-Chair, Peacebuild

Abrahamsen, Rita: Professor, Graduate School of International and Public Affairs, University of Ottawa

Baranyi, Stephen: Associate Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies and Coordinator, Fragile States Research Network, University of Ottawa

Buay, Gordon: Senior representative, SSLM/A

Elkhazin, Tag: Principal Analyst, Subsahara Centre, Ottawa

Deng, Taban: General and Chief Negotiator, Peace talks Addis Ababa, SPLM/A-in opposition

Mason, Peggy: Independent Consultant and Chair of Peacebuild, former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament (1989-1995)

Matthews, Kyle: Senior Deputy Director, Will to Intervene Project, Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, Concordia University

Siebert, John: Executive Director, Project Ploughshares

Wel, Paul: Chief Executive Officer, Generations for Peace, South Sudan