

Ottawa

Article 56 on South Sudan

Friday, November-07-14

Developments in South Sudan Conflict: A redundant mediation team and talks under the heads of state and government

Our Articles 1 to 55 were situation analyses 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 56 is dedicated to the current IGAD Talks, sidelining the envoys team heads of state and government taking charge

The surprises never end

- 1- The heads of state and government showed up in force in Addis Ababa including the presidents of Sudan and Uganda.
- 2- The current chair of IGAD PM Hailemariam Desalegn has warned (Threatened) both President Kiir and Dr. Riek Machar that if they do not reach an agreement within this current session of the summit of the IGAD (3 days!), the file of South Sudan shall be handed over to the UNSC which will declare South Sudan a collapsed state and put it under UN rule as protectorate! It may not be that simple or that straight forward, but this shook both men.
- 3- Then two heads of state: Kenyatta and Desalegn were delegated to sit with Kiir and Machar. Just the 4 of them.
- 4- Power sharing was prioritised as lynch pin if resolved the other 5 files (Security, governance system, economy, humanitarian...) will be easier to resolve.
- 5- The team of 4 came up with a paper. The gist of it is to have a president, VP, PM and 2 deputy PM.
- 6- 13 areas of power were left for the president (i.e assumed to be Kiir) we do not have the details.
- 7- Several areas of power were assigned to the PM
- 8- Several areas of power were deemed to be under “concurrent powers” of the President and the PM.
- 9- The VP is to act in the absence of the president (Not the PM)

And then?

- 1- Kiir went to his room for consultations with his team.
- 2- Riek did the same and came back with additional thoughts and amendments (Massive pressure and he trapped himself)
- 3- Riek had the additional amendments:
- 4- How can Kiir be Commander in Chief of an army (In Opposition’s army) that he does not control?
- 5- How can he be in charge of security when half the forces are not loyal to him?
- 6- The position of the VP is to be removed
- 7- South Sudan in the interim can have either one or two Deputy PM

Kiir was visibly angry and claimed that as elected president his hands should not be tied.

The fun goes on

- 1- Then the summit “orders” each leader to bring two team members with each of them.
- 2- Kiir brings in Barnaba Marial and Nhial Deng.
- 3- Machar brings in Taban Deng and Dhieu Mathok.
- 4- The 4 plus Kiir+ Riek + Kenyatta and Desalegn as still locked in the hall trying to reach a break to the issue of power sharing as we go to our distribution of the article.
- 5- The summit will be for 3 days ending on Nov 9th.

Will Machar make the mistake of his life and lend himself to such pressure and sign on a green and immature agreement?

- 1- An agreement can contain whatever clauses and articles that the party of 8 now in the hall can or may come up with.
- 2- The Nuers are going to look at ONE thing and one thing only in the agreement: Is Kiir the president? If yes, they will not read the rest.
- 3- They will reject the agreement and those who signed it will eat coal.
- 4- In our article # 55 we talked about “re-entry”. Machar did well assembling his leadership team in Nairobi for consultations before the summit.
- 5- Now he needs to stop before signing and consult his field commanders and political leaders ON THE GROUND and not in Addis.

Possible trajectories

- 1- Machar continues to trap himself in Addis and signs on agreement without consultations and re-entry.
- 2- At least massive and extensive consultations in Fangak, Akobo and Leer need to be conducted before any agreement is signed.
- 3- If he signs under the current pressure, he will burn himself and a military leader will jump up and split the Nuers further.
- 4- Aides of Machar who are aware of the sentiments of the Nuers will leave him out in the cold.
- 5- One of the trajectories is for both Kiir and Machar to go. Let others in their camps come forward for the 30 months transitional period. This may pacify both hard line Nuers and Dinkas.
- 6- Let war continue and let the file go to the UN and let the UN take charge of South Sudan for 30 months. They build institutions and prepare for elections and then both Kiir and co and Machar and co contest the elections.
- 7- The armies are to be separated and independently controlled by Kiir and Machar for the transitional period and paid from the public kitty. Unless all the new recruits go home (if they will) and the old pre-Dec 15th army is reassembled.

What is this-really?

- 1- This is not mediation. This is bullying at its worst. Power brokerage in its agilest form.

- 2- It has shown that neither Mesfin and co of the summit and co really have any power or teeth.
- 3- In their helplessness, the heads of state can only “Pass the buck” to the UNSC.
- 4- What mediation of the incompetent envoys has failed to do in 10 months, the summit hopes to do in 3 days.
- 5- Where is the AU in all this?

Stay well

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