

Ottawa

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Article 6 on South Sudan

Developments in South Sudan Conflict

Our Articles 1, 2 and 3 were situation analysis of the conflict in South Sudan. Our article 4 (A) was the first of our series on “Who is Who”. Our article 4 (B) is under finalization and editing. Our article 5 was an open letter to General Sumbeiywo. This article 6 deals with President Kiir’s Government suspending salaries of Nuers in the Government Apparatus “suspected” of joining the rebellion. It also deals with IGAD/AU/UN and related issues.

GRSS and President Kiir

Suspension of salaries

To add insult to injury, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) has suspended the salaries of its Federal and State employees “suspected” of “joining” the rebellion. If the rebellion is “Armed” and the civil servants are “unarmed”; if they had to flee violence and seek safety for themselves and families; how can they be part of the “rebellion”? Unless he is saying “If you are supporting Machar or a Nuer I am not going to pay you”. We have first hand information of honourable people who are in dire need of even \$10 in Nairobi and Kampala and their outskirts. We do hope that countries like Canada, Australia, Italy, Sweden and the US can quickly open quotas of immigration to deserving Southern Sudanese. Very few nations sought refuge aboard twice within 30 years.

Kiir and the UN and the plague of “International Representatives”

South Sudan has been unblest by several personalities:

The top 2:

1. Liz Grande, a US citizen and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan who is also Acting Head of the United Nations Mission. This woman has been with the South Sudan file since her days in Khartoum under Christoph Jaeger in the early 1990s with a short absence in Asia. After over 20 years with South Sudan, she seems to be completely “internalized”. Diplomats are normally changed every 3-4 years. One minister in GRSS told me that “she does not allow you to talk as she talks all the time”
2. Hilda Frafjord Johnson (now rather silent after street calls for her removal from South Sudan). She was born in Arusha Tanganyika-Tanzania. She was Norway’s Minister of International Development between 1997 and 2005 and spent more of her time on South Sudan’s file than any other file. After working for the AfDB and UNICEF, she came back to South Sudan as head of UNMISS in August 2011. Once more, as if Eve has bread no other women! She has been with the South Sudan since the days of the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF). During the IGAD/CPA negotiations, she used to “Elbow” every envoy who had weaker “state muscles” than her. The streets of Juba have asked for her removal and Kiir accused her of being the “parallel” president of South Sudan. A PNG may be the answer.

Then comes Frahan Haq who says: Quote “Comments by senior public figures from both the government and the anti-government side against the mission risk inflaming the situation and

being taken by others as incitement to violence against civilians sheltering inside UNMISS bases and against UN personnel” Unquote. Is that the kind of talk one airs in public under the tense situation in South Sudan?

Ivan Simonovic is another character! The same lack of sensitivity and while the bodies are still soft and lying in the streets he is talking about atrocities by “both sides”. Not that he is wrong, but this is not the time or the venue to show off and anger Kiir.

Well, Kiir got fed up and talked like a Dinka and slammed them all up to Ban Ki Moon. He is right: Ban Ki Moon and down to the most junior UN staff do, in fact, ”Work for Kiir” and his South Sudan Government. They are “Employees” of each and every one of the 193 member nations of the UN.

Ariane Quentier tried her best to mend fences, but the issue is beyond a very junior UN official talking to media.

For those of us who worked in South Sudan until recently and saw the arrogance, presumptions and assumptions of authority by UN staff, INGOs and International Governmental Organizations, we feel that Kiir has put them, for the first time, in their right place. He has 350,000 BBD of oil to back him. One senior minister in Juba once told me that “The International Community in South Sudan are accountable only to God”.

Regardless how this conflict emerges in its end-game, life is not going to be the same for the so called “International Community” (IC). Unless the IC steps back and stops treating Southern Sudanese as adolescents and let them manage or mismanage their own affairs, South Sudan will never emerge as a nation. If someone ever has the opportunity to do an independent evaluation of the \$12 billion spent in South Sudan in 7 years, he/she should find out how much of that has gone into “Recycling” funds as payments to “expatriates”. Kiir’s image has been boosted as Africans admire a “Macho” figure. Kiir Oyee!

On Kiir still

"Nobody will disown them for what they have done. We have a space in our hearts to forgive him and his people” talking of Machar. That is not the right thing to say. But we are not just looking at the text. This means he is not considering any process of mediation. “Come back on your knees and we shall forgive you” wishful thinking more that probable!

Nuer Army Generals who saved Kiir’s soul.

“If the three generals took side with Riek Machar, Kiir would have been now history” says an insider from Juba. One of the close relatives and ally of President Kiir said by phone from Juba to a colleague in Canada" If it was not because of Hoth Mai and the Ugandan Army, Kiir would have been captures and killed by the White Army"

The three pivotal Nuer Generals

1. 1st Lt. General James Hoth

2. Lt General Johnson Gony Biliw- Commander of division 2

3.Lt.General Bapiny Monyuil.

Remember the names. We shall identify them fully in our Who is Who.

IGAD humiliated and the AU drawn in

In our article (1) we stated: Quote “Is this a conflict that the IGAD with its very limited capabilities can address? Has IGAD got any soft and hard power to bring pressure to bear?” Unquote. Well: GRSS gave us the answer: The meeting of the foreign ministers was cancelled with a stroke of a pen just 24 hours before the meeting date and that of the heads of state was cancelled 48 hours before the meeting. The reason given: That there is an upcoming AU Summit meeting in Addis Ababa! It cannot be. Read the next paragraph.

Summary of what the 22nd AU summit will discuss:

This 22nd summit meeting is not about South Sudan although they may talk about the conflict and its ramifications as one of Africa’s most resinous conflicts in the 21st Century. The theme of the 22nd Summit is “*Transforming Africa’s Agriculture: Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*”. The sessions have already started as the series of meetings span from 21st to 31st January 2014 at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Summit officially kicked off Tuesday 21st January with the 27th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC).

On the other hand, the 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council will hold from 27- 28 January 2014 at the headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa. The Ministers of External Affairs and other ministers or authorities designated by the governments of AU Member States will deliberate on the different reports of the ministerial meetings organised by the AU Commission during the last six months. They will consider the activity report of the Commission.

The Executive Council meeting will see to the election of the ten members of the Peace and Security Council for a two year mandate. This is the Council overseeing peace and security and under which the issue of South Sudan falls.

The 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union is scheduled to take place from 30 to 31st January 2014 in the plenary hall of the New AU Conference Centre. The Heads of State and Government will launch the year 2014 as the Year of “Agriculture and Food Security”, marking the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The African Heads of State will also consider the report on the assessment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), as well as launch the final report of the High Level Panel on Fragile States.

The summit will also discuss “Presidents’ reports of activity”: Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten on the UN Reforms, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the High Level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda including the proposed draft African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Idris Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad and Chairperson of the High Level African Trade Committee.

How much time will they give to South Sudan in comparison to the aborted IGAD Summit meeting of Juba giving a full day to South Sudan only? Or was President Kiir telling IGAD to “go and fly a kite?”

Lobby for transfer of the file to AU:

We are informed by reliable sources that Abdul Mohamed (Yes!) the same Abdul Mohammed of AUHIP is lobbying in and around the talks in Addis to move the file to the AU. Has he succeeded? We are also informed by the same sources that Alex De Waal was on his way to Addis. Since December 15th 2013 we did not hear the voice of Ex-President Thabo Mbeki or his colleagues AUHIP or the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. For your information those are: Ex-President of Nigeria, General Abdusalami Abubakar and former President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya. How many of us even knew they were members? Mbeki and his advisors commandeered the AUHIP and it became a source of lavish living.

With Uganda in the same team with Kiir, Somalia dysfunctional, Eritrea and Sudan siding openly with Kiir, Djibouti is silent and is only 23,000 SQ KM and 850,000 inhabitants and a “City Country” who is left in IGAD? It is Ethiopia and Kenya out of 7 countries.

With Ethiopia grumbling (and rightly so) about Uganda’s intervention complicating the situation, Ethiopia fell out with Kiir. He told IGAD to go to hell and that he was moving to AU.

Well! It is not that simple. Will AU take the job?

Let us not forget about interests. Someone told me that Kenya made hundreds of millions of dollars from the IGAD/CPA process. But this time John Ashworth says that “The international community is out of touch with South Sudan and have their own priorities”. The pattern is:

The Africans create the conflict

The West funds the political settlement process

Clever African countries collect the money by hosting

“Experts” get employed

Neat *eh!* (As my Canucks Canadians say)

The talks and those talking have been moved to Saro Mara hotel, a privately owned 4 star hotel owned by an Ethiopian Alemeyehu Nigussie. That is definitely a downgrade in hospitality. If more money is not coming, we will see more downgrades.

Malakal fell, Malakal regained, Bor fell, Bor regained

One party takes Malakal and moves out just 5 KM and no one will know where they are and no one will dare to chase them. That is the secret of the bush. During the second civil war 1984-2005, SAF controlled most of the town garrisons (But not South Sudan). The SPLA controlled several small towns. But the biggest success for the SPLA was the “No man’s land” in between. That was until Nasir’s group joined Khartoum and exposed that there is no SPLA in the no man’s land and a SAF column moved from Malakal’s Sobat Mouth to Pibor unchallenged. Kiir’s army can control all the town garrisons he wants but he will only be ruling over 30% of the population. International news agencies are no longer reporting the fall and regain of towns.

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