



## SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

Office of the SPLM/A Representative to the UN-New York

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

November 28, 2016

Dear Honorable Haley,

On behalf of our Chairman and Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Riek Machar and of our representative to the United Nations, I wish to convey our congratulations for your nomination as the Permanent United Nations Ambassador to the United States. Your nomination, and appointment, to this important position with the extensive responsibilities appertained to it is a manifestation of trust and confidence that President-Elect Donald Trump has in you. We wish you every success in carrying out the duties that will be entrusted in you.

Honorable Haley, your appointment comes at a critical time in the history of South Sudan. We would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention issues that are of vital importance for the future of South Sudan. The independence of South Sudan, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2011, had been mainly attributed to the efforts of the United States to bringing peace and prosperity to the region. However, right after independence, the oil rich country abandoned the aims of its 21 years of struggle and turned into a senseless ground for killings of innocent civilians, raping and gang raping of women and children, torture, and violence.

The country under the leadership of Salva Kiir, president of South Sudan, has been governed with a combination of grievance and greed, connected by extreme corruption. In December 2013, two years after independence, war broke again in South Sudan and halted in August 2015 with the signing of the Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS), that was also coordinated and made possible by the United States. However, Salva Kiir showed reluctance from the time of signing by providing a list of reservations and even stating that the ARCSS is not a 'Holy Qur'an or a Holy Bible', indicating that he can abrogate it at any time.

We would like to bring to your attention that due to the lack of commitment to peace and breakdown of law and order, as a result of continued violence across the country, hundreds of lives have been lost and tens of thousands of civilians displaced. The inability and unwillingness of the government to provide security, law and order, has had a negative impact on women, children and other vulnerable population. A breakdown in the economy led to widespread famine, people either die of starvation or leave the country in search of food. The widespread insecurity combined with lack of full implementation of the peace agreement heighten the risk of return to full-scale war and genocide.

Further chaos is propagated by the government soldiers, following the recent Juba incident in July 2016, which hunted Dr. Riek Machar and chased him out of the country despite being the First Vice President of the republic. Salva Kiir's government slaughters, rapes, and steals without fear of reprisal. The Intelligence Service conducts summary arrests, summary executions and detains citizens for long periods without trial or access to family or legal assistance. The healing nation has been subjected to violence that must be condemned in the strongest terms possible and strong measures must be imposed to rescue the situation.

We are equally upset that the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has been ineffective in protecting civilians due to lack of strong mandate. The UNMISS lacks sufficient resources, capacity and capabilities. It also

lacks the respect of the government because they (government) know there is no repercussion for violating the sanctity of the mission. It has been widely reported that government soldiers, in an attempt to humiliate, shame and inflict damage on its adversary, recently raped dozens of women and girls just outside a UN POC site in Juba, while UN peacekeepers watched. This act led to the death of at least two of the women due to their injuries. Similarly, well-documented reports from Wau clearly prove that uniformed government soldiers are committing sexual violence against women and girls. This proves that the rapes are targeted ethnic violence amid reluctance by or incapability of UN peacekeepers to protect civilians.

On a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the UNSC reported in details horrific atrocities that took place in Juba including the attempt to eliminate Dr. Riek Machar. However, to our disappointment, the UNSC decided to impose selective travel ban on Dr. Machar, who is clearly the victim, and ignoring the fact that Salva Kiir is the one who is responsible for the violence and crimes committed in the country. We feel this action is counter-productive for peace. An effective role of the UN is needed to help implement ARCSS, protect civilians from abuse, allow for distribution of humanitarian aid, and prevent further descent into chaos.

The people of South Sudan need reconciliation, peace and security. They need food and shelter, schools and hospitals, stability and development. Instead, they are living in horror and are displaced due to the acts of a government that failed to uphold its first mandate, protection of citizens. It is time for Salva Kiir to face justice for the crimes he committed against the people of South Sudan and give way to a reliable and credible South Sudanese leadership committed to peace, reconciliation and stability of the country. Not only is the restoration of stability and democratic government in South Sudan essential for humanitarian reasons, it also is essential to stabilize the nation to reduce the potential for regional conflict and check the spread of radical elements in Africa.

Honorable Haley, as you assume your position, we **URGE** you to take the following actions:

- Holding Kiir accountable for the collapse of the ARCSS and the return to violence.
- Provide a regional protection force of sufficient size to protect the civilian population in Juba and other major cities and force all South Sudanese military forces to withdraw.
- Influence the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to declare an **embargo on weapons** transfer into South Sudan and ensure the urgent deployment of the 4000 peacekeepers as authorized by the UN Security Council Resolution 2034.
- Require all SPLA, SPLA-IO and any other forces to return to their cantonment areas at least 25 miles from the outskirts of Juba.
- Impose targeted **sanctions on all the leaders** who are responsible for the widespread atrocities.
- Establishment of the **Hybrid Court** and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Honorable Haley, as you carry on your responsibilities, I would like to assure you of my desire and commitment to working closely with your office and with other UN representatives to further strengthen the roles we can play in the UN and USA as well to bring drastic changes to the situation in South Sudan. As a people's movement, we would coordinate our efforts in support of work towards justice, liberty and prosperity for the great people of South Sudan.

We look forward to a mutual and collaborative effort as we collectively initiate a meaningful dialogue for lasting peace in South Sudan.

Respectfully,



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**Sarah Rial**

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