

# THE POLITICAL PARTIES LEADERSHIP FORUM

Date: 15 September 2014

H.E. The President of the Republic of South Sudan

Your Excellency,

**Subject: Prevention of the Delegation of the Political Parties from Travel to the Peace Talks in Addis Ababa**

We would like to bring to your kind attention the incident that took place at Juba airport two days ago. At about 2:30 pm on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, the delegation of the political parties to the IGAD led Peace Talks in Addis Ababa was refused to travel to Addis Ababa. The immigration officer at the airport stated clearly that he was under orders from the Minister of Cabinet Affairs that members of our delegation should be denied exit visas. This act is a flagrant violation of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011. Article 27(2) of the Constitution states that **"Every citizen shall have the right to leave and or return to South Sudan"**.

Your Excellency,

This development comes hot on the heels of the recent activities staged by the political parties that are in government on both the national and state levels. Acting on the behest of the Minister of Information and the Minister of Cabinet Affairs the group declared that they have changed the official delegation of the political parties and formed a new delegation of their own composed entirely of the parties in government including the SPLM. Your Excellency met the four members who defected from our delegation on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>, the group was granted unlimited access to the public media to spread their campaign, and your Excellency met this group on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> instant. At the same time we were denied access to the same media which is contrary to the ethics of journalism that guarantee the right of reply. We are not complaining; these are your coalition partners in the government and can meet them as frequently as you like. However, it appears that the government is using its authority to settle political differences. Our delegation was officially invited by the IGAD mediation to attend the Addis Ababa Peace Talks and was prevented through directives from a specific government Minister from travelling. This must therefore be understood to be a government decision.

Your Excellency,

We hear a lot of baseless claims about the Political Parties Leadership Forum (PPLF). It is incumbent upon us here to set the record straight on this matter. The PPLF that was formed in October 2010 as a result of the All Southern Sudan Political Parties Conference (ASSPPC) to follow up its resolutions was indeed chaired by the President of the Republic with the Vice President as the Rapporteur. You will recall that it was Minister Michael Makuei and his fellows in the SPLM who questioned the legality of the PPLF in March 2011 when it was

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Handwritten signature in blue ink: "James - James".

Handwritten notes in blue ink: "Almak" and a signature.

Handwritten signatures and notes in blue ink at the bottom of the page, including a large signature and the date "15-9-14".

discussing the draft Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011, which led your Excellency to dissolve it not long after. Hence, that PPLF was dead and buried through your decision to dissolve it. The current PPLF was revived after the current crisis in January 2014 with a new Conduct of Business Regulations that do not provide for a permanent Chairman. Dr Lam Akol is the current Chairman of the PPLF who must call and chair all its meetings. He can only be changed in accordance with the regulations of the Forum.

Your Excellency,

It was your Excellency and the Leader of SPLM/A-IO, the principals of the two warring parties, who on 9<sup>th</sup> May decided that the Addis Ababa Peace Talks shall be joined by other stakeholders including the political parties. Surely, you did not intend to have the political parties that are with you in the government to be the ones representing us. The government delegation by definition should represent all the political parties that are in the government or supporting it. It defies logic to suggest that the same people could again think of becoming another independent stakeholder.

Your Excellency,

What took place on Saturday is a black spot in the face of South Sudan and a big blow to our claims to be promoting a multi-party democratic state. Furthermore, it is a step that delays our joint efforts to speedily bring this senseless war to a speedy end and save innocent lives.

We sincerely urge your Excellency to take corrective measures.

Thank you.

Signatures of the political parties are attached.

Handwritten initials "S/S" with arrows pointing to the left.

Almak

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No	Name	Party	Signature +
1	Dr Lam Akol Ajawin	SPLM-DC	
2	Kornelio Kon Ngu	NUDF	
3	Sebastian Uchan Kich	UDF	
4	Albino John Laku Awan	DUP	
5	Garang Thuc Garang	PURE	
6	Ismail Suleiman Saeed	CPSS	
7	Peter Lomude	USSP	
8	Musa Al Mak Kur	PCP	
9	Simon Primo	SSDA	
10	Joseph Opio	SSUP	
11	Abbas Bullen Ajalla	UDSF-M	
12	Andrew Philipson Abili	NJMP	
13	Manoah Aligo	UDP	By Telephone

