

Greater Tonj Community Conference

Theme: *unity is our Strength*

***Conducted in Kanaf, Tonj South County – 15th
to 20th November 2014***

Preamble:

We the people of Tonj in all the three counties;

Mindful of our historic brotherhood and kinship and proud of our collective role in the historic struggle of the people of South Sudan for freedom;

Aware of the challenges ahead that requires our collective efforts;

Recognize the importance of peace and stability in all our three counties;

We regret the senseless conflicts, disunity, and social disharmony that characterized the lives of the people of Tonj for the last three decades;

And remembering our individual and collective role in bringing peace, stability and development to our people;

Commit to end all hostilities that have held our communities hostage to poverty, displacement, fear, destruction of property and lives including the deliberate murder of women and children;

Drawing from our unique culture and customs to which each member of Tonj is his brother's/sister's keeper;

Now do hereby agree to renounce all forms of violence and promote reconciliation and dialogue, and work for the common welfare of the people of Tonj through service delivery and promotion of development activities in the area;

The following resolutions will provide guiding principles for peaceful coexistence, good governance and collective action for development and social stability.

Resolutions on security situation in greater Tonj counties

1.0. Governance and traditional authority

- (a) To end insecurity along the border of Warrap State with unity State, a military division must be stationed at Meshara/Akop
- (b) The county commissioners must have a joint collaboration mechanism to coordinate, monitor and resolve emerging security challenges of elopement, theft and murders within their counties.
- (c) The commissioners are empowered to arrest any individual who is providing protection to a thief or a murderer within his/her jurisdiction.
- (d) Chiefs must be based at their Bomas to facilitate speedy settlement and resolution of disputes; commissioners have the mandate to provide constant supervision of chiefs at their workstations and to hold them accountable for breaches of their duty.
- (e) Individuals must not interfere with due procedures of the law; commissioners must arrest individuals compromising with the due process of justice.
- (f) Commissioners are empowered to arrest individuals who incite violence, encourage theft and promote social discords among the communities; this will end negative influence of some spiritual masters prone to this practice.
- (g) Due to vastness of Tonj and to curtail rampant insecurity, the community requests government either to make state capital rotational or create an independent state for the people of Tonj
- (h) Government to implement the provisions of local government Act 2009 on the appointment of chiefs and commissioners

1.2. Firearms control and management

- (a) Commissioners to register all youth with firearms in their counties.
- (b) All illicit firearms to be collected during rainy season and stored in Payam armories; guns can only be returned to youth during time of security threats, especially during the dry season or when insecurity emergency occurs.
- (c) Sources of firearms should be identified and controlled through joint security surveillance across the three counties and beyond; security organs to investigate and report such matter.
- (d) Random shooting in the cattle camps and dance halls is banned forthwith; authorities, like mijok-wuot, Boma administrators, Payam administrators must arrest and report individuals guilty of this act.
- (e) Community police must be trained on the proper use of guns- must be empowered to arrest and report criminals to the chiefs or their boma administrators

1.3. Law enforcement and the rule of law

- (a) Construction of expanded prison facility at Alugo area to accommodate criminals sentenced to long-term prison service.
- (b) Adequate police and prison forces to be deployed in the counties to enforce law and order in the counties; community police must be trained to assist the regular police service in maintaining law and order
- (c) Any individual withholding information about individual criminal from the police or the authorities upon any given prove must be arrested and brought before the law; security organs to investigate such cases.
- (d) Deploy adequate number of judges in the counties to speed up the delivery of justice.
- (e) Paralegals must be trained in all the three counties to advice litigants on the laws and procedure to obtain justice.
- (f) Promotion of peaceful disputes resolution mechanisms must be adopted as principles for resolution of conflicts; county authorities and civil society's youth have the responsibility to disseminate nonviolent dispute mechanism to all people at grassroots level.
- (g) Bylaws to be passed by county councils to regulate movement of cattle; this will reduce cattle theft. Any individual moving with the head of cattle must possess a stamped written permit from any relevant local authority.
- (h) County commissioners and security forces must arrest any individual found moving with the head cattle without a stamped written permit.
- (i) Roads must be opened to facilitate access of police personnel and administration officials to the communities; this will enhance conflict prevention.
- (j) Construction of police stations in all Payam headquarters to bring law enforcement agencies closer to the people.
- (k) To end deliberate killings of women, the law must make sure that families of the woman killed must be compensated with 51 cows
- (l) A committee of lawyers must be set up to design appropriate legal framework to resolve local disputes on grassing areas and water points in Tonj
- (m) Dinka (Wanhalel) customary laws to be reviewed, amended and pass in line with emerging security situations
- (n) County commissioners must respect the policy and aims of community development fund (CDF) in order to allow execution of development programs

1.4. Dialogue and reconciliation process

- (a) All forms of conflicts must be resolved peacefully in all the three counties of Tonj.
- (b) Committees to be set up by Tonj community leadership to move down to grassroots, especially in Ananatak to enhance dialogue and facilitate reconciliation among Tonj communities that are in conflict with each other.

- (c) Dissemination of peace and nonviolent resolution of conflicts must be extended to cattle camps by the youth and civil society organizations with support of development agencies to educate the youth on the rule of law, human right and good governance.
- (d) Traditional reconciliation ceremonies must be held to enable spiritual leaders promote healing and mutual acceptance of each other as brothers and sisters.

1.5 Service Delivery

- (a) Girls school to be open and female teachers be trained to be their instructors only and either boarding or day schools to established
- (b) Development of education policy framework on early education establishment
- (c) Diversion of schools and other benefits to the community must cease and the transfer of schools to unknown locations are un-acceptable and abolished
- (d) Inspection or supervision on the planned activities and their implementation to be monitored
- (e) Teachers training institute to be opened and the only institute we had initially be brought back from Panliet Awan of greater Gogrial
- (f)