Aweil Community Rejects Khartoum claims of Mile – 14 South of river Kiir

Thursday 18 October 2012

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Juba, South Sudan
October 12, 2012

H.E General Salva Kiir Mayardit

President of the Republic of South Sudan

Juba,

Cc: Permanent Members, UN Security Council

Cc: UNSG Special Representative

Cc: Chairperson, African Union High Level Implementation Panel

Cc: Speaker, National legislative Assembly

Cc: Governor, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State – Aweil

Ref: Aweil Community Rejects Khartoum claims of Mile – 14 South of river Kiir

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned representatives of Aweil Community, are hereby submitting the aforementioned issue under your esteemed and able leadership. On behalf our voiceless citizens of Mading Aweil we bring to your attention their concerns in respect of the issue of 'Mile – 14' South of River Kiir earmarked to be demilitarized as came in the Security Arrangement, one of the Cooperative Agreement signed between the government of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan.

Aweil Community, in the strongest terms, condemns and vehemently rejects the so-called Security Arrangements that has categorised some part of our ancestors' land as part of the disputed areas. Our unwavering support to our movement—the SPLM—and now the Government of the Republic of South Sudan has, in many ways, resulted into the exclusion and perhaps, limited participation in both the administrative as well as the decision making process. Despite the grievances, we, the people of Mading Aweil, will always remain committed and supportive of your leadership and the nation's cause.

The people of Mading Aweil, feels, the political process advanced towards the negotiation, was politically unjust, not so much because of its outcome, but because, of its wilful ignorance to appreciate the need to consult with the communities concerns. In reference to Sudan government Permanent Representative to UN's letter dated 26th July, 2012 to the UN Security Council and the subsequent letter to the AUHIP dated 7th June, 2012 from the same source, protesting the exclusion of the so –called Mile – 14 in Sudan map, we thinks, this was a mere demagoguery; but to our surprise, it was the same position the Government of Sudan put forth as a position paper, that we ended up accepting. This, compromise, we feel, had our negotiators, consulted the relevant communities, the outcome would, at least have been different from what we do have today, better known as "additional special arrangements."

Furthermore, this new agreement, to some extent, will jeopardize the already existing and practical annually-renewable agreements between, the Messeriya/Rezeigat and Dinka Malual for grazing purpose. Because, in our minds, the annually peace alluded to some extent, substantially, establishes, at least between the two communities, the defining border lines. Dinka Malual Chiefs expressed their dissatisfactory to Munroe – Weatley agreements in Babanusa on 24th to 29th, March, 1935 that correct suggestions of 1924 agreement, the General Agreement of our traditional leaders at Safah on April 16th ,1959.The decision on Safah Conference of April 16th – 18th,1974.The Seasonal Migration Conference between Dinka Malual & Reiziegat on 20th -22,Jan,2012 has addressed some vital issues as quoted here "Grassing zones and grazing routes shall be governed peacefully accordance to Dinka Malual's norms and values" . Also, the 1935's Conference has addressed the issue of common grazing on condition that the Arab nomads don not settle in the Dinka Malual's camping grounds (WUTS)

With that said, and having furnished your Excellency with historical backgrounds in respect of the Riezigat-Dinka's grazing arrangements, we urge your able and wise leadership to seek to explore some other avenues to address the contentious 'Mile 14' debacle caused by additional special arrangements in the Security Agreement" amicably in order to adopt the South Sudan's map of 1/1/1956 as stipulated in the CPA and Addis Ababa agreement. We unanimously support the implementation of other eight (8) agreements except the security arrangement. We, therefore also would like to urge your Excellency to discourage those who attempt to use the issue of Mile 14 disguising as the true Guardians of your government, in order to further their selfish political interests. There are forces of Evil in the whole of ten states, who does not want this country to prosper; we must inform your Excellency.

We call upon UN Security Council members and people of Goodwill to understand that the so –called Mile – 14 has never been a disputed or a claimed area in the modern history of Sudan. The Reizeigat knows that their border with Dinka Malual lies more than 38 Miles North of Kiir River. Khartoum has insufficient documents to claim our ancestral land. We regret to learn that the US administration was pressuring our negotiators to accept the request of Khartoum regime without any clear and substantial justification. The USAID is aware of our community annually agreed grazing arrangements with the Reizeigat nomads since 2008. We urge the people of genuine goodwill to friendly advice the Reizeigat to maintain their current locations more than 38 Miles North of Kiir River; otherwise the governments of Sudan and South Sudan will bear the responsibility for failure to address the relations between the two historically coexisting tribes in none-politicised manner. The Mile 14 has ceased to provide sufficient grazing facilities as it turned a dry land, and so it is also in the best interest of the Reziegat not to accept the two governments attempt to deviate from grazing arrangements the Dinka Malual has accorded to them for centuries.

Finally, we urge your wise leadership to spare time and space to look into the grievances of the communities bordering the Sudan and consider their participations in future border negotiations. Otherwise, we urge your able leadership to consider reviewing the status of our negotiating team. .

We beg to remain.

Truly Yours

Signed

1. Hon. Kwac Makuei Mayar

Aweil Elder and Veteran Politician

2. Sultan Abdelbagi Ayii Akol

Community Elder

3. Hon Aldo Ajou Deng Akuey.

Aweil Elder & Politician

4. Ustaz Ateny Wek Ateny

Civil Society Activist

5. Sultan Leek Malong Yor

Aweil Paramount Chief

6. Aguer Kuel Kuel

Aweil Community representative in Diaspora

7. Daniel Gar Gar

Civil Society organisations

8. John Garang Dut

Representative of Aweil Youth Union

9. Representative of Aweil Women Union

10. Athain Aciec Majok

Aweil business Community

11. Mr.Mou Mou Thet

Aweil Students Association

12. Bol Akok Mayol

Community’s Activist

13. Engineer Yaak Malong Akech

Community’s Activist

14. Ustaz Garang Akol Mading Ngong

Ad hoc Committee Member

15. Ustaz Ngor Garang Gau

Ad hoc Committee Secretary

16. Ustaz Wol Wol Lual Baak

Civil Society activist

17. Kuan Kuan Athian

Secretary of Information