



## Coalition of Advocates for South Sudan – CASS

*The Voice of the Diaspora*

July 14, 2015

### **Open Letter to President Kiir**

Honorable Salva Kiir  
President  
The Republic of South Sudan  
Juba, South Sudan

Dear President Kiir:

While delivering your State of the Nation address on the sixth anniversary of the independence of South Sudan, you reiterated your call on rebel groups to reciprocate the unilateral ceasefire you declared in May as part of your bid to end the ongoing civil war in our beleaguered nation of South Sudan.

Both this call and your expressed desire for a national dialogue are certainly part of the path to ending the conflict in South Sudan. However, a problem exists in that the rebel groups, the people of South Sudan, and we the diaspora are concerned that your call is not genuine. Part of that concern exists because both the SPLA and government forces under the direction of the First Vice President continue aggressive attacks on the people and rebel groups, despite your calls for a ceasefire.

Furthermore, reports from the people, who are victims, are that the SPLA continues its horrible treatment of unarmed, uninvolved civilians seemingly on an ethnic basis. This and the similar response by the armed opposition groups causes us to fear that the nation is sinking into an unrecoverable conflict based on ethnic hatred.

This continuation of violence against civilians and attacks on rebel positions also undermine your call for national dialogue. As the leader of the country safety and protection of innocent people is your responsibility. This conflict has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions.

We commend you for the call for unilateral cease fire, but your call must be matched by the actions of government forces to allow the population to regain trust in their

government. We believe that the following will help to bring about the reciprocal ceasefire and national dialogue which you are seeking:

- Stop the advances of the SPLA and allied elements against the opposition and the attacks against the people. To make that effective, it will be necessary for them to pull back to bases and avoid contact with those who are suffering from the war.
- Divert the funds currently being used for the acquisition of weapons and military supplies to paying the military forces and supporting humanitarian efforts to stop the famine.
- Work with the Troika and others to conduct a high-level stakeholders conference, in a place deemed safe by all, to restore confidence of the people. Sitting at the table must be, not only the Government and armed opposition, but those who are suffering, such as: women, youth, Church, diaspora, and other civil society representatives. Use this group to help restore a path to peace and prosperity.
- Then conduct the national referendum in a manner with which the high-level stakeholders agree.

While true peace and prosperity will take years to implement, at this point there is no credible effort to begin that process. We recommend this path.

As, Bishop Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala said in a recent homily,

“After visiting many places around the world, I still conserve my love for this country, I don’t know how and why. The only answer I can give is that God meant me to be South Sudanese and that I am one in every drop of blood in my veins.”

We the diaspora write to you in the same spirit of love of our homeland.

Truly yours,

*Reuben Garang*

Reuben Garang  
President  
Coalition of Advocates for South Sudan