



**SOUTH SUDAN**

Restoring Unity & Dignity of the People

National Salvation Front/Army

**OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN**

**NAS-HQs**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

The Leadership of National Salvation Front (NAS) informs its members, supporters, the people of South Sudan and members of International Community about the start of new military attacks on NAS positions by South Sudan People's Defence Force (SSPDF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA IO) in Central Equatoria State.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the SSPDF force at Katigiri; Wonduruba Payam, attacked a NAS position at around 8:00 am in the morning. NAS forces fought back in self-defense and dispersed the attacking enemy force which lost four (4) soldiers.

This morning 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020, at 5:00 am, the SSPDF and SPLA IO forces supported by Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) and heavily mounted attack vehicles attacked a NAS advance base in the out-skirt of Loka. NAS forces responded to the aggression and destroyed one (1) Toyota Land crusher mounted with a 12.7mm machine gun. This force is still fighting with the intention to reach other NAS bases in the area.

This SSPDF and SPLA IO military campaign is part of President Kiir's Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) strategy to exploit the global lock-down due to the COVID-19 pandemic to attack the forces of NAS and to punish the civil population whom they accused of supporting and harboring NAS. The objective of this campaign is to capture NAS positions and displace the civil population in the area.

NAS leadership assures its members that the gallant NAS freedom fighters shall defend their positions, the lives and property of the innocent civilians and shall prevail over these SSPDF and SPLA IO attacks.

NAS reiterates its commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) signed on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, and to the Rome Declaration on recommitment to CoHA signed on 20 January 2020 in Rome Italy. NAS, however, reserves the right to self-defense.

**Suba Samuel Manase**

**NAS Spokesman.**

