

The United Nations General Assembly, UNGA
The 78th UN General Assembly
September 18th, 2023
United Nations HQs,
New York

Monday, 18th September, 2023

Dear Esteemed Members of the United Nations General Assembly,

Subject: A Statement by South Sudanese: President Kiir must be indicted on crimes against humanity, and not to allow him be considered a peace maker.

Under his presidency, Mr. Salva Kiir Mayaradit and his first vice president Dr. Riek Machar Teny both are responsible for mass murder of over 400,000 and gang rape of over 50,000 women and young girls in South Sudan

We write with a heavy heart filled with sorrow and pain. Our nascent nation South Sudan is under siege by its oppressive rulers. Eighteen years have passed since the glorious Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the CPA and 12 years since its birth. It was right there at the United Nations in New York, USA, on 14 July 2011 unanimously at 99% of the United Nations General Assembly, you graciously endorsed and welcomed the birth of the world's youngest nation and conceded the Republic of South Sudan as the 193rd member of the United Nations.

As part of world moral responsibility, it was this very UNGA that entrusted this young nation unto the liberating ruling party, the Sudan's People's Liberation Movement, the SPLM under its chair Salva Kiir Mayaradit who is also the president of the Republic and commander in chief of its national army till present day. However, barely 2 years of independence, a vicious violent ethnic war broke out over power wrangles amongst the ranks of the SPLM, and per UN reports, the killing of 400,000 innocent civilians, gang rape of over 50,000 women, young girls and old women including pregnant women and over 70 years olds--the bizarreness of this brutal ugly war doesn't seem to end. This is despite generous goodwill from the world community, namely TROIKA as the USA and Norway as well, regional entities as IGAD and extremely hospitable neighbors; Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, yet our crooked military generals and politicians won't let their arms down. Our people continue to suffer daily, in every unimaginable way! East African nations have been extremely supportive to our people, yet President Kiir's government fails to pay EAC membership fees.

Our population is believed to be between 11 - 12 million (*there has not been any census conducted since our birth in 2011*), of which, per the United Nations, tragically, about 7.8 million are facing imminent hunger and malnourishment from wars and climate change calamities effects, a further 3 million are internally displaced persons in South Sudan, close to one million South Sudanese are living as refugees in Uganda and Sudan respectively (hundreds of thousands are still trapped in Sudan's war as very few could afford to return home when the war broke out in Sudan in April 2023), another almost half a million live in Ethiopia, over 150,000 in Kenya, and more tens of thousands in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic and beyond. If we do the maths, it is, heartbreaking that the world's youngest nation's almost entire population are suffering. Sadly, we are statistics more than a population! In addition, gravely too, when it

comes to the economy, it is simply one huge failure! For economic pressures increase food insecurity. This is despite high oil prices boosting South Sudan's GDP but the country still faces major economic challenges caused by the civil war and endemic systemic corruption. So corrupt is our young nation that even the kind-willed external humanitarian assistance mainly by the United Nations continues to be frustrated by poor cooperation from President Kiir's government with illicit tariffs imposed in various check points. It is no wonder our people don't even get to timely receive humanitarian support, if any.

It is despicable, morally, and utterly corrupt to enjoy power, to blatantly loot public revenues and our national natural resources when your citizens are majority hungry, internally displaced and refugees. How does one go about and around the world claiming himself to be a president of such a broken nation? Only a morally corrupt ruler as President Salva Kiir Mayardit has a shameful audacity to!

To add salt to injury, President Kiir unilaterally extended his stay in power by renewing the last peace agreement provisions that expired, he does this regardless he has not delivered any peace so far and despite UN disapproval. There is no doubt whatsoever, President Kiir and his colleagues in the government lack the political will to restore peace in our nascent nation. President Kiir and his first vice president Dr. Riek Machar have kept us South Sudanese hostage to their whims of "no peace, no war" since COVID19 days of 2020. They reunited and formed a coalition government then, however, state-sponsored ethnic violence is prevalent in every corner of South Sudan; worse than we have ever experienced in history. This only adds to people's hunger, diseases and homelessness. It is shameful the rulers sit comfortably with no regard to the suffering masses and yet President Kiir is calling for some sham election in 2024 with the sole purpose and end result to legitimize and prolong his stay in power. We are forbidden free and fair elections for we don't have a conducive environment for any elections. There are no basic freedoms, no democracy, lack of free multipartism, no constitutional guarantees and a culture of oppression and torture deeply ingrained in us for fear of Kiir's notorious national security services, NSS and its infamous "blue house". To-date, we have tens of brave human rights and peace activists either in arbitrary detention or falsely jailed, being kidnapped from neighboring nations/refugee camps, living in hiding in constant fear or forced into exile. Surely, this is no president to be allowed to remain in power, let alone win himself into a pre-decided election result favoring him and his team in crime!

With the above in mind, we call upon the World's Community gathered today at UNGA with the following:

- (1). To NOT grant President Kiir's government any external funding be it the world bank or the IMF or any bilateral/Troika funding – these are grants and loans his government shall loot and utilize to oppress us more, and debts accrued that will be a burden on our future generations;
- (2). To condemn and cancel Kiir's demands for sham elections in 2024: we urge the world community to listen to the National Dialogue, ND December 2020 Resolutions that called for free, fair and credible elections, that both Kiir and Riek Machar must not take part in such elections. They're the cause of our suffering and crises, the ND said in their report. It is worth noting that the ND had grassroots communal representation from South Sudan's 10 states. To us, this remains as the most unbiased representation since our nation's birth.
- (3). President Kiir' is a real security threat to East Africa region and beyond. It is common knowledge President Kiir's very close association with Sudan's US-sanctioned Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo aka Hemedti leader of Rapid Response Forces, RSF aka Jenjaweed that

committed the Darfur Genocide in 2003 and currently responsible for mass killings in Sudan's April 2023 tragic war. This makes Kiir equally a regional warlord and a real threat to regional peace security who must stand trials against humanity, not a peace maker;

(4). The United Nations General Assembly gathered here today, must unequivocally make clear demands which are enforceable, and must give an ultimatum to President Kiir's government to deliver peace NOW! We BEG you please do not watch our people dying in silence and ignored. Our People are diminishing with immense pain and suffering, ACT NOW! We're reminded by and applaud the Pope's visit in February 2023 when he bluntly demanded of Kiir/Riek: "South Sudan need fathers, not warlords; they need steady steps towards development, not constant collapses. Get serious about peace." This is the very Pope who kissed their feet in the Vatican in 2019 to remind them of humility is service.

(5). The UN must call for a care-taker civilian government of transition without Kiir and Riek Machar.

Such a civilian care taker government of transition to be charged with the following:

(i). A virtuous humanitarian assistance to help all suffering South Sudanese, and shall cooperate with the world community and regional African bodies as the EAC, IGAD, the AU, the UN, UNCHR, IOM etc. towards the voluntary return of our people to an "attractive home" to build this beautiful nation into peace and stability;

(ii). To restore and empower a people's-centered peace, national healing and reconciliation and dialogue nationwide toward a peaceful nation in South Sudan;

(iii). To put in place rule of law and order;

(iv). To embark on a permanent constitutional framework and development in a conducive environment;

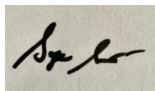
(v). To govern with sound systems and efficacy;

(vi). To regulate all organized forces and separate between civilian and military rule as a way to build true statehood;

(vii). To pave way for free, fair and credible elections.

The world cannot watch in silence the endless silent suffering of our People. It is time to act! We urge you to be on the right side of history, in solidarity with the People of South Sudan who vividly still remember the world stood with them in 2005 and in 2011, but can the world hear our silent cries in 2023?

Thank you,



Graciously signed on behalf of millions suffering South Sudanese,

Suzanne Jambo

A veteran South Sudanese peace activist and practitioner

A civil society activist

A Nelson Mandela "Ubuntu" 2017 Laureate

A former SPLM foreign secretary