



SOUTH SUDAN
Restoring Unity & Dignity of the People
National Salvation Front/ Army
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON
General Headquarters

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Statement on South Sudan Peace Talks

The Leadership of the National Salvation Front (NAS) would like to update its members, the people of South Sudan, the region and the International Community on the status of peace talks between the **Non-Signatory South Sudan Opposition Groups (NSSOG)** and **the Government of South Sudan, R-TGoNU**.

NAS therefore would like to state the following;

1. On Christmas Eve 2023, the R-TGoNU Minister for Presidential Affairs Hon. Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, issued a statement that President Salva Kiir has written to Kenyan President H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto requesting him to mediate and host talks between the R-TGoNU and the NSSOG to be held in Kenya.
2. On 13th January 2024, the Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of NAS, Gen. Thomas Cirillo Swaka received a letter dated 5th January 2024 from H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya. In his letter H.E. President Ruto offered to partner with the Community of Sant 'Egidio in mediating and hosting the peace talks in Kenya. The NSSOG did not receive any formal notification from President Salva Kiir Mayardit of his intention to change the mediation and the venue.
3. On 27th January 2024, after consultations with the other NSSOG members, **National Salvation Front (NAS)** together with the **National Democratic Movement – Patriotic Front (NDM-PF)**, and the **South Sudan National Movement for Change (SSNMC)** wrote a response to H.E. President Ruto, stating the NSSOG's surprise in the intention of President Kiir to request for a change of venue and mediation of talks to Kenya from Rome and the Community of Sant 'Egidio without consultation. The letter also clarified to H.E. President Ruto that there had never been any disagreement between the parties over mediation and venue but on substantive issues (**Agenda**), that Sant 'Egidio and Rome had provided a safe environment for frank and credible discussions and that the

NSSOG are in fact waiting for the R-TGoNU to return to the talks in Rome. The last time the two sides met in March 2023, the R-TGoNU delegation requested from the mediation to return to Juba for consultations.

4. **The National Salvation Front**, the **National Democratic Movement - Patriotic Front** and the **South Sudan Democratic Movement** are of the view that the proposed pre-mediation meeting be convened in Rome, Italy.
5. NAS shall continuously update its members, the people of South Sudan, the region and International Community on any developments on the matter.
6. The National Salvation Front is committed to achieving sustainable peace in South Sudan by peaceful resolution of the root causes of the conflict through an inclusive dialogue in genuine and credible negotiations.

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