

H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit

Press statement- 10 June 2013

On Saturday, June 8th, 2013, we learned through press reports that President Bashir ordered the closure of pipelines that transport oil from the Republic of South Sudan to the marine terminal at Port Sudan. This was later clarified in detail by the Sudan Minister of Information that they will close the pipeline after 60 days if South Sudan does not cease to support rebels in Sudan. Khartoum continues to falsely claim that South Sudan is supporting rebels in Southern Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States. We have repeatedly made clear our disengagement with the SPLM-North and have offered to mediate a peace process between them and Khartoum.

As I speak now, the Republic of South Sudan has not received any official notification from Sudan with regards to the potential oil shutdown. This decision to prevent our oil from transiting through Sudan in order to reach the international market seriously undermines the September Cooperation Agreements and the Implementation Matrix.

If Sudan has legitimate grievances concerning violations against the agreed security arrangements, their response should not be an oil shutdown, but rather that those grievances should be brought before the Joint Political Security Mechanism (JPSM). The allegations should then be investigated by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) or the Ad Hoc Committee.

For example, the Republic of South Sudan has brought forth credible complaints of Sudanese support to rebels and militia operating in South Sudan. This includes the David Yau Yau militia and General Jonathan Olony who recently came in with 3,000 well armed rebels of the South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM). They were trained and armed by Khartoum in order to destabilize South Sudan.

The Republic of South Sudan has been and continues to remain committed to the full and unconditional implementation of these agreements and we call on Sudan to cooperate and maintain the spirit of the agreements.

Out of respect to the African Union, South Sudan will wait for their official response regarding the aggressive attitude from Khartoum before taking any further measures. This latest turn of events brings into question the credibility of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel and the African Union's mechanism for enforcing agreements that they oversee. However, we remain optimistic that they will intervene accordingly.

The people of South Sudan should remain calm and patient as we work with the African Union to resolve this impasse with Sudan. While President El Bashir has declared Jihad and is mobilizing for war, I maintain my pledge to you and the world that I will not take the people of South Sudan unnecessarily back to a state of war. However, rest assured that we are prepared to defend the lives of our citizens, our borders and territorial integrity. Any unwarranted provocation will not be tolerated.

We urge both regional and international governments to diplomatically engage with Sudan in order to protect the lives of the citizens of both nations and to encourage Sudan to engage in peaceful dialogue with their internal rebellion. We also call on the international community to stand behind the foreign operating companies to ensure the security of their investments.

Thank you