



THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING



Office of the Minister

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SOUTH SUDAN REBELS ACCEPT PRESIDENT KIIR'S AMNESTY OFFER

With the Republic of South Sudan's second anniversary less than a month away, this nation of 12 million people can finally see signs of peace on the horizon. Almost two thousand soldiers and thousands of their civilian supporters turned in their weapons to join the SPLM's unity government. "It is now time to work together to fulfill the dream of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir," former rebel and militia leader General Johnson Olony stated.

Olony, based in the Upper Nile state, admitted that most of his support, weapons, training and vehicles came from the Khartoum government. "It is true, I was in Sudan, the Khartoum government was with us in all areas," he admitted. Olony turned over hundreds of weapons and vehicles to the national government. "We now will be part of the SPLA," he added.

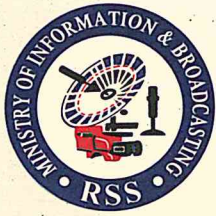
Babiny Monytil, leader of a second rebel group based in Unity state also turned over his command to the national government. This brings to three the number of militias to join the government. Last year Major General James Guit surrendered his arms to join the national government. All three groups took advantage of President Salva Kiir's amnesty offer introduced shortly after South Sudan was created.

Brigadier General Malaak Ayuen Jok, the head of information and public relations within the SPLA, repeated South Sudan's position that Sudan has been providing all types of support to the different militia groups to destabilize the young nation.

SPLA General Johnson Gony Biliu congratulated them and their forces for responding to the amnesty. "I welcome you all on behalf of general command to your country. This is where you were born and grew up, you are South Sudanese and this country belongs to all of us," he stated. Additionally, he said that South Sudan now has documentary evidence that Khartoum provided support to the rebels, but it is now up to the politicians to bring up the issue with the government of Sudan.

Khartoum has always denied backing South Sudanese rebels and militia groups, instead accusing Juba of arming the SPLA-North





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This leaves just two other rebel groups fighting government troops, David Yau Yau in Jonglei state and Gordon Kong who is fighting in Unity and the Upper Nile State.

South Sudan and Sudan signed the Cooperation Agreement on 27 September 2012 in Addis Ababa. It stipulates that both countries will respect the principles of the African Union Constitutive Act and the United Nations Charter concerning relations and cooperation between the two countries. South Sudan remains committed to the Cooperation Agreement and the implementation matrix, including mechanisms to resolve disputes, complaints, or grievances between the two countries.

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For more information contact Hon. Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin (MP) at +211-(0)977.109.929
Minister of Information and Broadcasting

