

## **NCP Statement to Mediators**

### **On**

### **SPLM Announcing Talks Collapse and Unilateral Action**

1. Minister Deng Alor, the SPLM Chief Negotiator on Abyei, announced failure of the international community and the CPA partners in resolving the Abyei problem and that the SPLM decided to take a unilateral action. He declared this to the El Sahafa Arabic Daily, Khartoum, which reported it as the main story of its issue No 6247 of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
2. In that announcement, Minister Alor revealed to the media that the international community, shocked of the failure of the last meeting of the Presidency, informed the two partners that it is pointless to continue the present mediation and that the issue is now left for the two partners to decide. Minister Alor also accused the international community of trying to appease the NCP out of anxiety to remove all obstacles in the run-off to the Southern Sudan referendum. He asserted that he is now neither waiting for the two partners nor the international community to resolve the Abyei problem.
3. Remarkably, Minister Alor declared that in this stalemate the Ngok Dinka will take action to acquire their rights. He disclosed that contacts were already made with international legal experts “to look for a legal excuse for conducting a unilateral referendum in Abyei”. He added that the unilateral referendum exercise “can take place in accordance with the international law definition of those who are eligible to vote in the Abyei referendum”. He further clarified that the international law definition “excludes nomads from voting”.

4. In the same veins, Minister Alor clarified that “it is not important that everybody recognizes the outcome of the unilateral referendum of the Area”.
5. Deng Alor also said that when the unilateral referendum is conducted the Messreriya will be denied grazing rights in Abyei, Warap, Aweil and other places in the South. He empasized that the Messeriya should be cautious not to be used by the NCP who is desirous to acquire the Ragaba ez Zerga for its own ends of controlling reported oil reserves in that area.
6. Deng Alor finally confirmed that the NCP will be the loser if war erupts; as “the SPLM is not the one of old times”.
7. While bringing this serious development to the kind attention of the mediators, the NCP reminds their Excellencies of its early statement of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 that warns of the SPLM probable unilateral move in Abyei. The NCP also forewarned of the same in its statement of November 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 delivered in the AU Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa.
8. Furthermore, the NCP maintains it is now clear that the SPLM is deliberately pushing the Abyei talks to failure in order to announce the predetermined Ngok Dinka unilateral action. This was all evident in the last meeting of the Presidency of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. In that meeting, and instead of responding to the AUHIP proposals, the SPLM used the opportunity to present the NCP with an ultimatum. A draft agreement and

a draft resolution for annexing Abyei to the South, with the names of President El Bashir as signatory and President Mbeki as a witness appended, were presented to the NCP on the basis of “take it or leave it”. In other words, the NCP was asked to either surrender or get ready for the next step now being threatened in public by Minister Deng Alor.

9. The NCP condemns this announcement as a flagrant violation of the commitment made by the Parties to the AUHIP and an unwarranted escalation. Believing that the AUHIP mediation is still in place, the NCP affirms self-restraint and wait for the mediators’ action.

Khartoum, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.