

October 20, 2010

**To: Natalie Patenaude**  
Counsellor & Head of Aid, Embassy of Canada

**Carlo De-Filippi**  
Ambassador, European Union

**Norbert Braakhuis**  
Ambassador, Royal Embassy of the Netherlands

**Sandra Pepera**  
Head, UK Department for International Development

**Susan Fine**  
Acting Mission Director, USAID

Subject: Donor Contributions to the SSRC

Your letter of October 19, 2010 is received with thanks. I have been under the impression that generous commitments to contribute to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission's budget were made on the understanding that the Commission is administratively, technically, and financially independent. In conformity with such independence, section 64 of the Southern Sudan Referendum Act provides that "the Government, the Government of Southern Sudan and the International Community shall fund and appropriate the necessary funds into the accounts of the Commission to fund its running costs and the costs of the referendum."

It now appears that there is an underlying mutual misunderstanding. The arrangement offered in your letter is, in my opinion, the complete antithesis of financial independence and is, therefore, unacceptable.

Yours truly,



**Prof. Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil**  
Chairman, Southern Sudan Referendum Commission

cc:

Haile Menkarious, UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General  
Claudio Caldarone, Country Director  
Denis K. Kadima, Director, UNIRED  
Haruka Yamazaki, Aid Coordination Officer, Embassy of Japan  
Jerome Leyraud, Country Director, IFES  
Jill Helke, Chief of Mission, IOM  
Robin Hefferman, Donor Working Group Coordinator