

Chamber of Northern Merchants in Southern Sudan

To: H. E. Sir, Derek Plemby

Date: 4.11.2014

Excellency,

We the northern traders/ merchants in Southern Sudan write to you out of a deep concern over our livelihood and rights which we unfortunately feel have been, and are going to be compromised by authorities in the South, following the likely secession of southern Sudan after the forthcoming right of self determination referendum of 9th January 2011.

Our plight went unnoticed by all including the international community, and a tragedy is falling upon us since the Nivasha Agreements. We welcomed the agreement that brought valuable peace to Sudan, and valued the role played by IGAD and its partners **and the immanent role played by the AEC**. We were full of hope that this achievement would spread welfare in the country and that, we in particular, the northern community that helped our fellow people in the south for over a century to receive their vital needs, during war and peace, would be among the people of the south to reap the dividend of peace.

Unfortunately, even before the Nivasha accords, and for over the past 20 years the SPLM/A confiscated many northerners properties in the south without any compensation. Our properties were rented in foreign currency (US Dollar), and we, the owners, were deprived of this revenue or of regaining those properties. We went to Nivasha during the negotiations to plead our case, and met with the leadership of the SPLM which promised to return our properties once they formed their government. This promise was never kept. In further pursuance of this matter we met with the Vice President of the GoSS and a select group of ministers who wrote letters asking the authorities in more than 20 cities and towns for the return of our properties, but unfortunately those letters were ineffective, and our claims were rejected by the local Governors and commissioners at those locations. Subsequent instructions by the Vice President of the GoSS and his minister of Justice were also not heeded to by those local authorities.

Our concern is aggravated by the increasing probability that the impending referendum will result in the secession of the south, and that our properties and livelihood which we built with great sacrifices and effort would be lost. This definitely is a fringe and flagrant violation of our basic human rights and denial and travesty of Justice.

We have been pleading for our rights and nobody seems to wanting to do any thing about it. Our properties including shops and large farms of plantations of tea and coffee are now in the hand of the SPLM, and more than 5000 northerners are now deprived of their properties.

The authorities here in the south might deny this, but we are ready to prove our claims if asked. Our properties are very visible. Our fellows the Greek merchants are also experiencing the same suffering. We have furthered their claims with ours, and there are many southern citizens who are ready to testify in support of our rights. We also possess authentic documents to support us.

Excellency,

Injustice is a horrible thing and if our fellow brothers and sisters in the south argue that they insist on the right for self determination to bring justice to the people of southern Sudan, then they should not force injustice on a community, part of them, which has for more than a century being citizens of the south helping to enhance the livelihood of its southern brethren and secure the basic necessities of live for them. What is really going to happen to us northerners in the south who own real-estates and farms in most towns of the south.. and who lived all their lives there ... and their children and grand children?.

Excellency,

This is our case. It is genuine and urgent. We have all confidence that you will exert all needed efforts to support us preserve and regain our rights now and in the future.

Sincerely yours,



Siddig Mohamed Korak
For the Northern Merchants
in South Sudan Chamber

**Approximate list of confiscated properties of Northerners Sudanese,
Greeks and Syrians by SPLM in Southern Sudan**

#	Town	Shops
1	Yei	500
2	Kaya	300
3	Bor	100
4	Kaboita	50
5	Mangla	20
6	Lasu	5
7	Kaji Keji	5
8	Meriedi	120
9	Yambio	70
10	Anzara	30
11	Tumbra	40
12	Sersibu	10
13	Izzo	10
14	Rumek	100
15	Yarol	30
16	Tonj	20
17	Alnasir	50
18	Bnatue	60
19	Katari	11
20	Mundari	5
21	- Alduk 1 - Alduk 2 - Alduk 3	20
22	Baibur	50
23	Fashala	7
24	Kungur	7

- *500 Coffee plantations in Equatoria alone were confiscated*