

Summary Note on AUHIP Visit to Southern Sudan 30 April 2011

1. On 27 – 28 April, the AUHIP visited Juba to gain a better understanding of the security and internal situation, and assess whether these posed a threat to the stability of the South and the work of the Panel. The Panel attended the Opening of the Political Parties Leadership Council and meetings were held with President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Vice President Riek Machar, Minister for SPLA Affairs Nhial Deng Nhial, UNMIS Regional Coordinator David Gressly, Archbishop of the Catholic Church Paulino Lokudu and Secretary General of the Nuer Peace Council Rev James Ninrew. The Panel also met with SPLM-DC Chairman Lam Akol in Khartoum.
2. It was clear that the cancellation of the political committee meeting scheduled for April 27-28 (by Minister Nhial Deng) was not communicated to President Kiir and other members of the political committee, and was a misunderstanding of sorts. President Kiir stressed that SPLM are ready and available to attend all meetings convened by the Panel at any time.
3. President Kiir gave the Panel an extensive briefing on the security situation in the South. While there are problems, it was his determination that they are under control, with most militia recently defeated or retreating. General Gabriel Tanginye, for example, is currently being held in Juba. UNMIS confirmed the assessment of President Salva Kiir, stressing that the problem in their opinion was largely a reintegration and DDR concern, with the exception of Upper Nile where local Shilluk grievances need to be addressed.
4. The Church and others believe that the problem requires political dialogue and that militia groups are ready and willing to engage. There is however, a problem of mistrust in the GoSS / SPLA which must be handled carefully.
5. At the Political Parties Leadership Council, convened to discuss the draft *Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan*, the Panel was pleased to note that all political parties attended the meeting, which the Panel understands is due in large part, to efforts made by Vice President

Machar. However, Lam Akol informed the Panel that a crisis has subsequently developed, and opposition parties may pull out of the meeting over a disagreement on the agenda.

6. Article 1 (2) of the transitional constitution claims Abyei as within the territory of Southern Sudan. President Bashir reacted strongly to this, making public statements at rallies in Muglad, that Abyei belongs and will always belong to the North. The AUHIP fears that this issue may be impacting the negotiations; in the last days the NCP has cancelled two negotiation meetings previously agreed. The AUHIP has stressed to the GoSS that this clause should be adjusted to be conditional to an agreement or a referendum; as it currently stands it is a provocation to the NCP and outside the framework of the CPA.
7. The main concern on the draft constitution internally, expressed by opposition parties, the churches and civil society is regarding the duration of the 'interim period'. This is set in the draft as four years, during which the current existing government will live out their elected term. The public's view is that the current GoSS should serve only as an interim administrative government, with elections to be held within two years.