



SOUTH SUDAN FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANC(SSFDA)

Chairman and Commander in Chief

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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SSFDA Condemns Escalating Violence and Calls Out Regional Complicity in South Sudan Crisis

The South Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance (SSFDA), led by Chairman Samuel Mut Gai, has issued a powerful call to action, condemning President Salva Kiir's government for escalating violence, widespread human rights violations, and the systematic dismantling of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS). The SSFDA warns that continued silence from regional actors—particularly IGAD and the EAC—not only undermines peace efforts but risks making them complicit in the suffering of the South Sudanese people.

“Peace cannot be achieved through silence,” said Samuel Mut Gai, Chairman of SSFDA. “It requires truth-telling, courage, and regional leadership willing to act on principle.”

Key Findings and Urgent Concerns

Widespread Attacks and Civilian Targeting

President Kiir's forces are conducting systematic attacks against opposition positions and civilians across Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Equatoria. These are not isolated incidents—they represent a calculated military campaign.

Opposition Leader Silenced

Dr. Riek Machar, First Vice President and leader of the SPLM-IO, is under de facto house arrest. His communications are restricted, his movements curtailed, and reports suggest possible detention at the notorious NSS Blue House.

Forced Recruitment of Children

The SSPDF, struggling with morale and unpaid salaries, is forcibly recruiting—including the conscription of boys—violating both domestic and international law.

Systematic Violations of the Peace Agreement

Kiir's administration has continued to make unilateral appointments and take actions in direct violation of the R-ARCSS, undermining its legitimacy.

Foreign Military Incursion

Troops from the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) have entered South Sudan and engaged in combat operations, violating the country's sovereignty and breaching the arms embargo.

A Repressive Security State

The National Security Service (NSS), now numbering over 15,000, operates beyond constitutional limits. It functions as a de facto presidential militia, responsible for enforced disappearances, indefinite detentions, and widespread intimidation of political opponents.

Silence Is Not Neutrality – It Is Complicity

The SSFDA acknowledges and sincerely **appreciates the recent statement from UNMISS**, which rightly raised alarm over escalating violence and the threat of renewed conflict. The Alliance commends **UNMISS for fulfilling a difficult but lifesaving mandate**, often under severe political and logistical constraints. Its clear, principled voice is a model for regional and international actors.

By contrast, the recent joint statement from EU and Troika representatives was disturbingly muted—failing to name the aggressor, obscuring responsibility, and reinforcing a false equivalence between government forces and the opposition.

“President Kiir commands unrestricted power. Dr. Machar is barely permitted to operate. To pretend they are equal parties in this crisis is to deny reality and protect impunity,” said Chairman Gai.

The Political Marketplace

SSFDA stresses that the ongoing crisis is not rooted in tribalism or culture—it is systemic. South Sudan's governance has become a transactional marketplace, where loyalty is bought, resources are hoarded, and the nation's institutions are weakened to preserve elite power.

This system rewards coercion and punishes unity—leaving over 12 million South Sudanese in poverty and fear, while a small elite consolidates control.

Direct Questions to Regional Actors

- **To Uganda:** On what legal or moral grounds do your troops operate in South Sudan?
- **To Ethiopia and Kenya:** As sponsors of the 2018 R-ARCSS, why are you silent as it is dismantled?
- **To IGAD and EAC:** Will you remain ceremonial, or will you act?

Demands from the SSFDA

1. **Formal IGAD and EAC condemnation** of the detention and silencing of Dr. Riek Machar.
2. **An emergency IGAD summit** to review and enforce compliance with the R-ARCSS.
3. **An independent investigation** into UPDF involvement in South Sudan and their immediate withdrawal.
4. **Public identification** of all parties violating the peace agreement.
5. **Support for a federal governance framework** reflecting the autonomy and dignity of all 64 Nations of South Sudan.

About SSFDA

The South Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance (SSFDA) is a coalition of pro-democracy forces advocating for a peaceful, federal, and inclusive South Sudan. SSFDA represents the 64 Nations of South Sudan and works to uphold justice, dignity, and the rule of law for all.

We do not partake in the transactional politics that have come to define President Kiir's marketplace of power. Our convictions are not negotiable, for we are rooted in the land — South Sudan is not merely our origin; it is our identity. We represent the voices of ordinary citizens, not the ambitions of elites. Our legitimacy flows not from backroom arrangements or hotel lobbies, but from the lived realities of our people — from the villages and towns, the fields and rivers, the hopes and hardships of those who have endured. We carry the voices of the mothers who buried their children, and the grandmothers who buried entire families. Their grief is our burden, and their resilience is our mandate.


We cannot be bought, for our commitment is to the people of the 64 nations, not to a seat at the table — and certainly not in luxury offices adorned with golden furniture, far removed from the truth of the land.

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