



Executive Committee

Ref: No. ACOJ/019

Date: / /20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Juba, 11 January 2024)

Position of the Ngok Community of Abyei on the Resolution of the Ongoing Conflict with the Twic Community of Warrap

Background:

The current conflict between the Ngok Community of Abyei (hereinafter referred to as 'Ngok') and the Twic Community of Warrap (hereinafter referred to as 'Twic') has been ongoing for almost two years now, with little progress towards a resolution. The conflict, which began on February 10, 2022, started when Twic armed youth attacked the town of Agok/Aneet inside the boundaries of the Abyei Special Administrative Area (ASAA). These attacks have resulted in significant loss of lives and properties since then. It is to be noted that the southern boundaries of the ASAA are based on the 1956 borders, agreed in the Machakos Protocol of 2002, signed by President Kiir Mayardit and which formed the basis for the borders agreed upon in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between South Sudan and Sudan.

The numerous memos issued by various Twic organizations, before the start of armed conflict, show that the attacks in February 2022 were not isolated happenings but were carefully planned ahead. The book of Mr. Bona Malual Madut (*Abyei of the Ngok Dinka: Not Yet South Sudan*), the Twic MPs open letter, the Twic County Commissioner and the Ajak Kuac youth association, and other statements made by them all are evidences of incitements and preparations to attack Abyei. So far, over 50 attacks have since been carried out by Twic armed youth inside the ASAA boundaries, resulting in the loss of many hundreds of lives, the destruction of many villages south of River Kiir, and the looting of thousands of heads of livestock. All these time, the Ngok community of Abyei have remained set in defending itself within its recognized boundaries.



Tongpling 3k South, 200 M South Medan Rembo, Juba-south Sudan

Tel: +211 928 380 006 / +211 917 733 256 | Email: abyeicomunityinjuba2017@gmail.com

Why Twic is Attacking Ngok Land?

The excuse put forward by Twic for attacking areas inside the boundaries of the ASAA is the claim that all the areas of the ASAA south of the River Kiir belong to them. As such, to stop their attacks, they demand that all the communities of Ngok in these areas relocate to the northern part of the River Kiir, together with their administration. This is an outrageous demand that Twic has never made in our long history as neighbors. Some Twic elders making these claims have never previously asserted their community's ownership of the Ngok areas south of the River Kiir. Instead, it has been the Missiriya Arabs, supported by the Sudanese government, who have been claiming our areas north of the River Kiir and wanted us to relocate to areas south of River Kiir that Twic is now claiming.

It is, thus, now abundantly clear that both Twic and the Missiriya Arabs have a shared agenda to dispossess us of our ancestral land on both sides of the River Kiir. The Missiriya Arabs have always had the backing of the Sudanese government, and now Twic are shamelessly adopting the same strategy by rallying support from the communities of Warrap and our national government to support their false claim. This unfortunate situation is evident in the recent resolution of Warrap communities, as stated in their "green book," which shamefully supports Twic's claims that the Ngok community relocates north of the River Kiir.

The Ngok Community Position:

In response to this malicious plan to expel the Ngok Community from their ancestral land, we must firmly inform and make our unyielding position clear to all the communities of South Sudan, the central government, regional and international organizations that:

1. The Ngok Dinka people of the Abyei Special Administrative Area have been relentlessly subjected to a series of brutal attacks by Twic armed youth and their allies of the renegade Gai Machiik since February 2022. The lack of serious intervention from the central government leads us to firmly believe that there is a diabolical conspiracy to rout us out of our ancestral land.
2. Therefore, we demand immediate and decisive action from the government to intervene and end the violence. Both sides must be made to withdraw and return to their positions **before February 10, 2022**. The relevant state institutions, such as the Council of States, must be tasked with resolving the border dispute between the two communities. Furthermore, our government must ensure the opening of the roads between Abyei and Twic to ensure the safe movement of people and goods. Lastly, we call for an inclusive peace conference for the two communities to address and resolve the underlying issues that have contributed to the current conflict.

3. We stress that the borders of the Abyei Special Administrative Area must be unequivocally respected not only because it is our ancestral homeland but also because it was legally established through national legislation and international treaties (the Constitution of South Sudan, the Abyei Protocol of the CPA, the Hague Arbitration Ruling, the UNISFA & SOFA, and the ASAA Establishment Order). Any unilateral changes to these borders would seriously undermine the integrity and credibility of South Sudan and flagrantly disregard the constitution and provisions of the CPA, the Hague Ruling, and the SOFA agreements, which were internationally witnessed.
4. We firmly remind Twic, Warrap State, and our central government that, as Ngok people, we did not create the current map of the Abyei Special Administrative Area. The current Abyei Box was a product of the Abyei Protocol and the Hague Ruling, negotiated by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).
5. As the Final Status for Abyei is yet to be achieved, the boundaries of Abyei remain internationally disputed between South Sudan and Sudan. The Ngok community is not authorized to negotiate changes to the current boundaries. If there is any desire to renegotiate or question these treaties, it should involve all the parties involved.
6. We call upon the communities of Abyei at home and in the Diaspora to unequivocally reject any attempts to displace our people from their ancestral land forcibly. The Ngok community has a deep historical connection to their current territory on both sides of the River Kiir, and we are determined to remain firm in our resolve and maintain our rightful place. We have fought and sacrificed for the liberation and independence of South Sudan, and we continue to claim our South Sudanese identity proudly.
7. We consider the recommendations in the "green book" to solely represent the views of Twic and Warrap state communities. We vehemently reject any application of those recommendations to the Abyei Special Administrative Area and its people as it is legally unjustifiable.
8. We urgently call upon all the communities and civil society organizations of South Sudan, our central government, and regional and international organizations to take immediate and decisive action to fully comprehend the gravity of the situation and the imminent risk of genocide faced by the Ngok people of Abyei upon the occupation and forceful displacement of our people from our areas south of the River Kiir. The recent assassination of the Deputy Chief Administrator of the ASAA, Hon. Noon Deng Ngok and the former Minister for Physical Infrastructure, Hon. Mayot Kuendit is a clear illustration of

the threats facing our people. We call the government to carryout full investigation of these assassinations to bring the culprits in the court of law.

9. Furthermore, we urge our Diaspora community to remain vigilant and actively engaged, exposing the atrocities expected to be committed in the area upon its occupation.
10. Finally, we call upon our government to attach utmost importance to understanding that tampering with the current Abyei map will only exacerbate the conflict and impede any chances for the Final Resolution of the status of the Abyei Area. The stability and harmony in the region depend on respecting the current borders and finding a just and fair solution that does not infringe upon the rights and existence of the Ngok people.

Signed:

- Dr. Dier Tong Ngor / Abyei Interim Leadership Council
- Mr. Mayath Michar / Abyei Community Organization in Juba
- Hon. Tabitha Chol / Abyei Parliamentary Caucus
- Sultan Bagat Makuac Abiem / Nine Ngok Chiefdoms Chiefs
- Mrs Nyansign Dholbet / Abyei Women Association Network
- Moulana Biong Chol / Abyei Lawyers Network
- Miss Clementina Deng Agok / Abyei Youth Association



- cc. H. E. The President of the Republic
- cc. H. E. First Vice President of the Republic
- cc. H. E. Vice Presidents of the Republic
- cc. Rt. Hon Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly
- cc. Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Council of States
- cc. Hon. Governors of States and Chief Administrators of the Administrative Areas
- cc. UNMISS, AU, IGAD, and UNISFA
- cc. Diplomatic Missions in South Sudan
- cc. Troika (UAS, UK, and Norway)
- cc. Media Houses