



Bari Community
Juba - South Sudan

8th January, 2024

For Immediate Press Release

**CONDEMNATION OF THE ATROCITIES METED OUT AGAINST THE JUBA COUNTY'S
BARI COMMUNITY, KONDOKORO PAYAM, UNDER THE GUISE OF DISARMAMENT.**

The Bari Community (BC) Executive and Bari Elders are again informing you: the International Community, the United Nations (UN), Troika (USA, UK & Norway), IGAD, AU, the Community of Saint 'Egidio, the Greater Equatoria Communities and the peace loving people of the world, that the Governments of the Republic of South Sudan and of Central Equatoria State have singled out the Bari Community for persecution, a price for hosting the Country's Capital in Juba.

The all too familiar heinous acts of killing, torture, cattle rustling, looting of properties, displacement, land grabbing and occupation, etc. are not enough to guarantee and satisfy the lust for Bari Land. The Disarmament of civilians is now the new lethal weapon of brutalization by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) against the Bari Community.

On 24th December 2023, the SSPDF entered Kondokoro Island with a pretext of providing security during Christmas Celebration; but their mission was to conduct Civilian Disarmament. During the process of disarmament, the SSPDF started by harassing, arresting, beating, torturing and demanding ransom from the youths, elders and chiefs. The SSPDF terrorized, displaced and agonized the people of Kondokoro who were celebrating the Christmas and New Year 2024. They lastly left the Island on the 2nd January 2024, then on 3rd January 2024, following the press conference by the Community, the Commissioner of Juba County appeared to address the displaced people at Jebel Nyoka.

We present the following futile Disarmament Program:

I. THE DISARMAMENT ORDER

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On 22nd May 2008, the President of the Republic of South Sudan, H.E Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, issued a Presidential Order (GoSS, 2008a) on Comprehensive Civilian Disarmament for all the Ten States of South Sudan. The President tasked the State Governors with support of the SPLA (now SSPDF) to collect civilian weapons within six months.

II. THE EXECUTION OF THE DISARMAMENT ORDER

It is now evident that the Government is executing the Disarmament Program selectively. In some states, it is Voluntary Disarmament for instance in Greater Bahr El Ghazal, (i.e. Lakes State, Warap State, etc.) while in others such as Central Equatoria State, it is Compulsory/Forced Disarmament conducted by SSPDF.

III. THE DISARMAMENT IN JUBA COUNTY, CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE (CES)

The menace of conducting Civilian Disarmament Program in Juba County has deplorably manifested human rights violations against the Bari people of Lodu, Mangalla and Kondokoro Payams, respectively.

On 24th December 2023, the SSPDF forces entered the Island of Kondokoro on the pretext of providing security during Christmas Festival. However, the main purpose is to carry out Civilian Disarmament Program.

In the morning of Christmas Festive (25th December 2023), the SSPDF ordered the Wildlife Force who was deployed to Kondokoro by then to surrender their arms peacefully, otherwise they would use force. They claimed and accused the Wildlife Force of being a Bari force and not Government force. Thus, the Wildlife Force surrendered all their guns to SSPDF to avoid loss of lives.

On 26th December 2023, the SSPDF Forces declared to the population of Kondokoro their program of disarmament. The civil population must surrender their guns, in reply, the civilians told the SSPDF that, they did not possess guns.

In the morning of 27th December 2023, the SSPDF started harassing, arresting, beating and torturing the youths, elders and Chiefs of Kondokoro, intentionally believing that, the people of Kondokoro have guns. Unfortunately, the entire civilians living in Kondokoro don't possess arms. They were terribly terrorized and displaced from the Island to Jebel Nyoka at Western Bank of River Nile (Juba). The SSPDF illegally levied ransom of SSP 50,000 for youths and foreigners



working in the farmers (Kenyans, Ugandans, Burundians, Rwandans, and others), and SSP 240,000 & a goat for elders, Sub-chiefs and SSP 1,000,000 for chiefs. Whereas in Böri Boma, Lodu Payam, the SSPDF committed sexual harassment, raping, beating, looting and torturing of the host community.

IV. THE STICKING POINTS

1. The selective implementation of the Disarmament Order where the Bari Community is targeted for Compulsory Disarmament which included looting properties, beating elders, youths & under ten children, detention of youths & chiefs and payment of ransom.
2. We concern of the absence of the Central Equatoria State Authorities in the execution of the Disarmament Order, even though the State Governor with the support of SPLA (SSPDF) is tasked to collect civilian weapons.
3. The disarming of Bari Community while Dinka Cattle Herders are openly roaming Bari farm lands with different types of weapons.
4. The lack of respect for the Customary Law Authorities (Chiefs, Sub-chiefs and Headmen) by the SSPDF not acceptable.
5. The irresponsible and inciting utterances of Dinka notables that they will take over all Bari Land by force if deemed necessary.
6. The continuous grabbing of Bari Land (in Rejaf, Mangalla, Kondokoro, Lodu & Luri), forceful displacement, presence of cattle and their heavily armed Herders, and insecurity caused by Dinka and Nuer.
7. Condoning the forceful settlement of Dinka Bor and Nuer on the Eastern Bank of the Supiri/River Nile (Bahr El Jebel) at Mangalla, Kondokoro and Rejaf Payams; and Dinka Bahr El Ghazal and Nuer on the Western Bank at Rejaf, Luri and Lodu Payams.
8. The difficulty of reconciling accepting Juba to continue to be the Capital City and participation in the up-coming December 2024 Elections while being brutalized.
9. The unfortunate linking of Bari People with the National Salvation Front (NAS).
10. We refute the claim of collecting more than 300 guns from the civilians of Kondokoro Island as reported by SSBC Radio on Saturday 6th of January 2024.

V. THE WAY FORWARD



1. The BC Executive and Bari Elders condemn the atrocities committed by the SSPDF particularly on the people of Kondokoro Payam in the strongest terms possible. An enemy force would no exact more.
2. We are aware that the Disarmament Order is for General and complete Disarmament i.e. the abolition of all kinds of weapons in the hands of civilians. Thus, the methods used whether voluntary and/or compulsory should apply equally to all the South Sudanese Communities.
3. The never ending land grabbing, displacements, looting of properties, the presence of marauding armed cattle herders and their cattle, etc. must be stopped.
4. The scenario of beating and detention for ransom by the SSPDF must not prevail.
5. We demand the refund of ransom money and return of looted goats, sheep and properties by the SSPDF.
6. Chiefs are the link between the Government and Community, they hold special status in their Communities and have immunity before the Law. They must be accorded the respect they deserve.
7. Land grabbing and forced settlement of Dinka and Nuer must be stopped if peace is to prevail.
8. Condoning atrocities against the Bari Community and, indeed the Greater Equatoria Communities, will not augur well for the Capital to remain in Juba; for the Endorsement of President Salva Kiir Mayardit as the SPLM Flag Bearer; and the up-coming December 2024 Elections.
9. To identify and bring to book the SSPDF Commanders responsible for the atrocities.
10. The Government must desist from linking the Bari Community with NAS.

In conclusion, the Bari Community reiterates its position of relocating the Capital City from Juba to Ramciel as presented to the Government of South Sudan on 14th March 2011 by the former BC Chairman, Hon. Gen. Alfred Lodu Gore to the Former National Minister of Investment, Hon. Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak, at Tokiman B-Court Kator. And the resolution of National Council of Ministers presided by H.E Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit on the relocation of Capital City to Ramciel as press briefed on 3rd September 2011 by National Minister of Information Dr. Barnaba Marial.



We are urging the President of the Republic H.E Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit to intervene to resolve the above cited issues, if not the Bari Community will not participate in the up-coming December 2024 Elections.

Kind Regards,

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8/1/24



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Mor Lo Bari (BC Chairman)
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Juba – South Sudan

CC: Office of the President, RSS

CC: Diplomatic Missions

CC: Troika (USA, UK & Norway)

CC: UNMISS

CC: IGAD

CC: Office of the Speaker, R-NTLA

CC: Office of the Speaker, CS

CC: Governors of Greater Equatoria States

CC: Office of the Speaker, CES-RTLA

CC: Office of the Commissioner, Juba County

CC: Chief of General Staff

CC: DGs, NSS/ISB

CC: IGP

CC: Media Houses