

Press Statement

Press Statement by Bari community in Khartoum: The Transfer of the Capital of Government of Southern Sudan away from Juba

We, the Bari Chiefs, politicians belonging to various political parties in government and out of government, university lecturers, women, youth, Bari Elders, and the Chief of the Lokoya people Honourable Augustino Tombe, met here in Khartoum State at Takamul, under the auspices of the Bari Community (BC) in the BC Centre on the 13th December 2008, are closely following the conduct of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), which can be summarized as follows:

- (1) GoSS exclusion of the BC in effective participation in power and wealth in the southern Sudan (SS)
- (2) The disarmament of the BC by GoSS and the lack of protection by the GoSS and the prevention of the BC by GoSS from rearming itself for self defense as other tribes are allowed by GoSS
- (3) The lack of care demonstrated by GoSS towards systemic rape of BC girls and women in Juba and around Juba and the systemic murder of BC people in Juba and around Juba
- (4) GoSS has allowed Juba to exist in state of terror, including illegal detention of BC people in Juba in illegal detention centers
- (5) The systemic abduction of BC children by individuals and groups known to GoSS without GoSS intervention to protect these children and the BC community
- (6) GoSS' lack of concern with entrenched corruption in Juba, whereby the BC is the primary victim
- (7) The entrenched and systemic land-grabbing from innocent and decent BC people by army personnel known to GoSS without GoSS intervention
- (8) The grabbing of arable land from BC people and the allocation of this arable land for grazing purposes under the protection of GoSS and through legal instruments of GoSS
- (9) The daily systemic killings of BC people in Juba and around Juba at the rate of five BC people per day
- (10) The containment of the BC people on 30% of their land in the near future for displacement purposes
- (11) The allocation of 70% of the entire land mass of Central Equatoria State, after grabbing it from the BC people and from their government in Central Equatoria, using current legal instruments
- (12) The systemic armed robbery of BC property such as livestock and other properties

Therefore, dear citizens of Southern Sudan, in spite of BC faith in the protection of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), GoSS, through the above mentioned deeds, is pushing the BC towards the following:

- (1) Rejecting the CPA if it is used for isolating and excluding the BC from power and wealth in the SS
- (2) Embracing tribalism rather than nationalism
- (3) Resorting to force and violence to enforce its rights

Therefore, dear citizens of Southern Sudan, in order to have peaceful coexistence in Southern Sudan between the BC and the other groups in the south, and have the protection of the CPA, the BC is hereby asking GoSS to transfer the capital of Southern Sudan from Juba to any of the nine states of Southern Sudan. The BC also demands the restoration of justice and the rule of law in Juba, protection, and respect of all human rights, including economic, socio-political, and cultural rights as well as the right to freedom of expression.

Signed,

Swaka Phillip Lado

Official Spokesman of the BC in Khartoum

15th December 2008