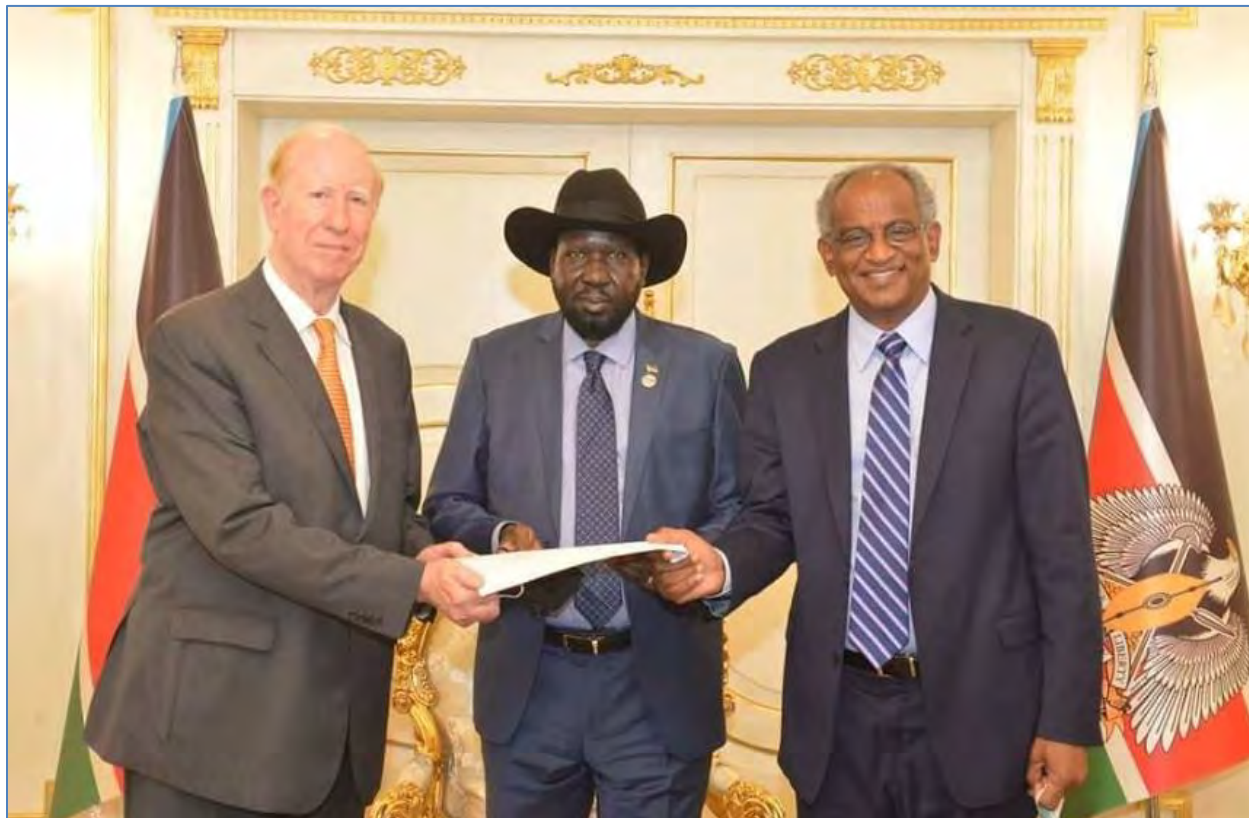


UPF Juba, South Sudan: The historic Juba Peace Agreement was signed

Frederick Wakisi
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Juba, South Sudan -- The Juba Peace Agreement, an historic peace initiative between Sudan's transitional government and several rebel groups, was signed on October 3, 2020, aimed at ending years of war in which hundreds of thousands have died.

The Juba Peace Agreement has been hailed by various world leaders as a plus for regional and global stability. The signing, held at the General Garang Grounds, was witnessed by over 10,000 local residents and guests. Speakers and well-wishers described the event as "historical," "an example for the world to follow," and an "African solution by African leaders."

In attendance were the following dignitaries:

- E. Salvar Kiir Mayardit – President of South Sudan
- E. Gen. Abdel Fattah – Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council
- E. Idriss Déby – President of Chad
- E. Sahle-Work Zewde – President of Ethiopia
- E. Ismail Omar Guelleh – President of Djibouti
- E. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed – President of Somalia
- E. Moussa Faki Mahamat – Chairman, African Union Commission
- Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda – Prime Minister of Uganda
- E Mostafa Madbouly – Prime Minister of Egypt
- E. Kalonzo Musyoka – Kenya Special Envoy to South Sudan
- E Donald Booth – U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan
- Thomas Walsh – Chairman, Universal Peace Federation International
- Tageldin Hamad – Vice Chairman, Universal Peace Federation International

Attending the event, in addition to the heads of state, were many officials representing their governments, including high officials of Uganda, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, the EU, the UN, the African Union. There was a video from Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaking about the Juba Peace Agreement and its significance.

South Sudan played a very special and very central role as the mediator, working to creating a peace agreement between the government of Sudan and the various liberation movements representing major regions within Sudan. In other words, South Sudan was in the central role as mediator, and this effort was led by South Sudan's president, H.E. Salva Kiir.



UPF Supports Sudanese Peace Initiative

South Sudan President Kiir invited UPF Chairman Dr. Thomas Walsh, and Vice Chairman Dr. Tajeldin Hamad to attend the signing ceremony. Immediately following the signing ceremony, UPF Vice Chairman Hamad was invited to speak and offered a glowing tribute to the government of South Sudan for its role in successfully negotiating the Juba Peace Agreement. Dr. Hamad announced that UPF would present President Salva Kiir UPF's Leadership and Good Governance Award for his wise leadership in the process of bringing peace to the Sudan. He expressed gratitude for Hon. Tut Gatluak, the chairman of the committee, and Dr. Dhieu Mathok Ding, the secretary of the committee, for their major roles in the negotiation of the agreement. He mentioned that the founders of UPF established many organizations that advocate that peace starts by living for the sake of others in the family, community, society, nation and ultimately in the world.

Dr. Hamad introduced UPF International Chairman Dr. Thomas Walsh. Dr. Walsh explained UPF's worldwide mission and its core principles. He spoke about the Leadership and Good Governance Award and the vision of UPF, guided by principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values. He articulated UPF's five Principles of Peace as the audience closely followed and joyfully congratulated the Sudanese people for their unity and incredible achievement for peace in the region. Dr. Walsh gave an explanation of the Leadership and Good Governance Award and mentioned other previous awardees. He expressed his gratitude to both the Sudanese and South Sudanese people and urged them to unite to ensure that the pact is properly implemented.

Then Dr. Walsh and Dr. Hamad presented the Leadership and Good Governance Award directly to H.E. Salva Kiir, who received it with great warmth and appreciation. He was sincerely moved and expressed his appreciation very openly. Everyone in the audience applauded. The Ambassador for Peace award was then presented to Hon. Tut and Dr. Dhieu, who brokered the agreement between the two parties. The UPF awards were the only awards presented during the entire program, which lasted more than six hours.

The final speech of the day was offered by H.E. Salva Kiir. Everyone had waited throughout the six-hour program for his concluding remarks. People had arrived in the early morning. The president of South Sudan spoke at about 5:30 PM. He gave a wonderful speech, very fatherly and wisely, like a great elder. He had fought for independence and is respected by everyone.

During the president's speech, he spoke about UPF and how UPF is a leading peace organization of the entire world, working closely with the UN, especially in promoting harmony among religions. He spoke a substantial amount of time about UPF. He repeated that he was moved and deeply humbled to receive the Leadership and Good Governance Award from UPF.

UPF Visits South Sudan President

On Monday, October 5, 2020, a UPF delegation paid a visit to President Salva Kiir at his official office in Juba. The four-person delegation comprised UPF International Chairman Dr. Thomas Walsh, Vice Chairman Dr. Tageldin Hamad, Executive Director of UPF-Kenya Rev. Frederick Wakhisi and former minister Nyanguok Kuol. They congratulated the premier for receiving the Leadership and Good Governance Award and affirmed UPF's cooperation in promoting and upholding peace within the region and worldwide.