

UPF Helps Sudanese Peace Accord - Seven Rebel Groups Lay Down Arms

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Juba, South Sudan -- The Sudan government and rebel leaders signed a landmark peace deal on October 3, 2020, aimed at ending decades of war in which hundreds of thousands have died. The peace agreement was midwived by a host of countries, including Kenya, Egypt, and South Sudan, and international agencies that included UPF.

The Peace Agreement includes the following sections: Security Protocols, Land Ownership, Power Sharing, Return of Refugees and Transition Justice.

Seven rebel groups from Darfur and West Sudan vowed to lay down arms and foster unity in a peace deal mediated by regional governments. Putting an end to Sudan's internal conflicts has been a top priority of the country's transitional government that took office soon after the ouster of long-serving leader Omar al-Bashir. The Sudan peace deal was midwived by South Sudan, whose leaders fought Khartoum [in north Sudan] as rebels before achieving independence in 2011.

The Sudan Peace Agreement has been hailed by various world leaders as a plus to regional and global unity. The signing, held at the General Garang Grounds, was witnessed by over 10,000 locals and guests. 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
 Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda – Prime Minister of Uganda
 Mostafa Madbouly – Prime Minister of Egypt
 E. Kalonzo Musyoka – Kenya Special Envoy to South Sudan
 Donald Booth – U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan
 Representative of the European Union
 Thomas Walsh – Chairman, Universal Peace Federation International
 Tageldin Hamad – Vice Chairman, Universal Peace Federation International



The first speech of the day was by UPF Vice Chairman Dr. Tageldin Hamad. He is closely associated with the Juba regime, having facilitated a meeting between the regime's top leadership and Pope Francis. Dr. Hamad paid glowing tribute to the government of South Sudan for its role in ensuring the achievement of the Peace Agreement. This peace deal involved several regional governments and other international agencies, including the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). In addition, Dr. Hamad honored President Salva Kiir with UPF's Leadership and Good Governance Award for the job well done in the process of bringing peace to the Sudan. He concluded by inviting UPF International Chairman Dr. Thomas G. Walsh to introduce UPF's mission before presenting the award.

Dr. Walsh spoke about the vision of UPF, led and driven by Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universally Shared Values. This was a mammoth gathering of tens of thousands, including five sitting heads of state, several heads of government and government ministers. Also in attendance were current leaders of UN agencies and heads of diplomatic missions.

Dr. Walsh clearly articulated the five Principles of Peace as the audience closely followed. He expressed his gratitude to the Sudanese people and urged them to unite to ensure that the pact is implemented. When we returned to the hotel for dinner, we were faced with the reality on the ground. Everyone in the dining hall including staff stood up and sought out Dr. Walsh! The entire Juba had been at the meeting. At that time, the national TV was broadcasting the meeting continuously. The spiritual atmosphere was electrified.

H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, president of South Sudan, dedicated an entire paragraph to UPF. "Let me tell you what UPF is," President Kiir began, and proceeded to explain,

UPF is a leading propagator of peace building, the dynamo behind today's peace deal. UPF promotes beliefs and attitudes for strong healthy families, communities, societies and nations known as a Heavenly Community. Such beliefs and attitudes enhance leadership and good governance, facilitating peacemaking and peacekeeping.

The landmark ceremony was well covered and reported by local media, as well as attracting journalists from the region including Egypt, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan.

All the dignitaries went home admiring President Kiir for striking a peace deal and landing a leadership and governance award. This has won UPF a prime seat in Juba.



UPF Visits South Sudan President

On Monday, October 5, 2020, a UPF delegation paid a visit to President Salva Kiir at his official residence in Juba. The 4-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 Nyanguiek Kuol. They congratulated the premier for receiving the Leadership and Good Governance Award.

Dr. Dhieu Mathok, Investment Minister for South Sudan, reiterated the president's determination to bring on board two rebel groups who had not signed the Sudan Peace accord. He and another top government official were also honored as Ambassadors for Peace for their commitment towards the talks that led to the Peace Agreement.

Dr. Walsh affirmed UPF's cooperation in promoting and upholding peace within the region and worldwide.