



South Sudan Watch Update

23 – 28 June 2018



Cautious progress in South Sudan peace talks

The face to face talks between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Dr. Riek Machar organized by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have yielded cautious progress. An initial meeting in Addis Ababa on June 20 was the first time that the two leaders had met face to face in two years and allowed Machar to propose a new model for the talks.¹

After the Addis talks, the rebel leader returned to South Africa where he had previously been detained, IGAD clarified that Dr. Machar was free to travel wherever he wanted except the IGAD region where he would only be allowed to attend peace talks.²

A second round of the talks began in Khartoum on 25 June lead by Omar al Bashir of Sudan supported by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. The session discussed power sharing, and both sides described themselves as willing to compromise.³ The meeting produced a [declaration of agreement](#), which recommits the parties to a ceasefire and to expeditiously agreeing a bridging agreement to create a transitional government.⁴ Although not mentioned in the text of the agreement, Uganda's *Daily Monitor* reported that the parties agreed to have three capital cities in South Sudan including Juba, Wau hosting three vice presidents and to allow the government of Sudan to secure oil fields in cooperation with the South Sudan government.⁵

¹ "Machar proposes change of tack in mediation talks," *The East African*, 21 June 2018, available at <http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/South-Sudan-mediation-Machar-Kiir-talks-outcomes/4552908-4624386-rxjl3i/index.html>

² "S. Sudanese rebel leader returns to South Africa," *Sudan Tribune*, 24 June 2018, available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65711>

³ "South Sudan President Promises to End Suffering at Khartoum Talks," VOA, 25 June 2018, available at <https://www.voanews.com/a/south-sudan-president-promises-to-end-suffering-at-khartoum-talks/4454687.html>

⁴ Khartoum Declaration of Agreement, available at http://www.sudantribune.com/IMG/pdf/20180627_khartoum_declaration_of_agreement.pdf

⁵ "South Sudan foes strike peace deal after Museveni visit," *Daily Monitor*, 26 June 2018, available at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/South-Sudan-foes-strike-peace-deal/688334-4632382-14mbw4rz/index.html>

Another round of revitalization forum talks is scheduled for 29 June to 10 July 2018. Civil society organizations and representatives from the various political parties from South Sudan have been invited.⁶

Human rights body wants Machar and Kiir out of the coalition government

The Center for Peace and Justice (CPJ) wants both Salva Kiir and Riek Machar excluded from the coalition government. The Executive Director of CPJ, Anthony Tito, said that the lack of progress in the talks shows that the two leaders cannot co-exist. He suggested that the two should appoint successors to lead the next transitional government. If either Kiir or Machar wants to lead the country after the transitional period, he added, they should do so by taking part in an election.⁷

Fighting breaks out on the day of peace talks

Col. Lam Paul Gabriel, the deputy spokesperson of the SPLA-IO, reported that SPLA-IO forces were attacked near Wau on 25 June, as talks began in Khartoum. Col. Lam said that the rebels were able to capture military equipment from government forces and called on the ceasefire monitoring commission (CTSAMM) and UN to investigate the attack.⁸

In a separate incident, a Bangladeshi peacekeeper, Lieutenant Commander Ashraf Siddiqui, was killed when his convoy escorting humanitarian workers to the town of Lasu was shot at by unknown gunmen. UNMISS confirmed that the convoy was shot at several times and returned fire. Both the government and rebel forces were in the area when this happened.⁹

⁶ "IGAD invites South Sudan party representatives to attend talks in Khartoum," 25 June 2018, Radio Tamazuj, available at <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/gad-invites-south-sudan-party-representatives-to-attend-talks-in-khartoum>

⁷ "Rights body wants Kiir and Machar excluded from coalition government," *Sudan Tribune*, 24 June 2018, available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65712>

⁸ "Fighting break out near Wau as rival leaders meets in Khartoum," 25 June 2018 Nyamilepedia, available at <http://nyamile.com/2018/06/25/breaking-fighting-break-out-near-wau-as-rival-leaders-meets-in-khartoum/>

⁹ "Bangladeshi peacekeeper killed in South Sudan attack," 26 June 2018, Reuters, available at <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-southsudan-peacekeepers/bangladeshi-peacekeeper-killed-in-attack-in-south-sudan-idUKKBN1JM1ML?rpc=401&>