

Sudan People's Liberation Army



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

OFFICE OF THE SPLA SPOKESMAN

Our Ref: No.SPLA/OSS/016/03/2007

Date: 07/03/2007

Press Statement on Abujabeha incident on the 5th March 2007

On the 5th March 2007, an unfortunate incident happened in Abujabeha of Southern Kordofan State. Many Khartoum daily news papers reported that incident ignoring the SPLA side of the story. This Press Release from the SPLA General headquarters is intended to reflect the SPLA side of the story.

The 5th March 2007 was a day to celebrate the appointment of the Chiefs in Abujabeha town. Chiefs from the former SPLA controlled areas participated in the occasion. Soldiers from both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were invited. However, some sectors of the town, including elements from the Police, did not like the occasion to take place.

When the celebration was about to finish, the discontented Policemen concocted a story that one of the SPLA soldiers is a thief and must be arrested. The Policemen shot that SPLA soldier wounding him immediately while resisting that style of arrest. The SPLA soldier threw the hand grenade at the Policemen in self-defence. Four died (among them one SPLA soldier) and thirty eight wounded from the effect of the grenade. The incident would have been avoided had the Policemen asked the SPLA Military Police present in the occasion to arrest that SPLA soldier.

The lost of dear lives and the wounding of innocent people in that incident is regrettable. We are appealing for the joint investigation of that incident so that those who caused the incident are brought to justice.

The old assumptions that the mistake is always from the 'rebels', should cease to exist from the minds of some sectors of our society if we want to leave peacefully as brothers and sisters. SPLA deserves to be treated as an important component of the Sudan' National Armed Forces.

In a separate development, Al-Intibaha daily news paper Issue No. 353, page 12, dated 6/3/2007, reported that the so-called Administration of Jihad Affairs of the Omdurman Islamic University, is preparing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the so-called "Mile – 40 Victory". It is very unfortunate that anti-CPA elements are working day and night to ignite again the war in the Sudan. What will happen if some students of the same University simultaneously celebrate the SPLA victories of 1997 in Mile – 45, Mile – 58, Lainya, Loka, Yei, Marabo and Kaya, to mention the few? We must encourage our students in the Universities to build Peace Culture. One of the tasks of the administration of any university in building that Culture is to keep alerting the students "not to play with fire".

Thanks.

Signed:

Maj. Gen. Kuol Deim Kuol
SPLA Spokesman