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Date 11/7/2009
Ref. 005/09

Press statement

The initiative for mediation has been turned down by the dictator

As announced by the Government of South Soudan GoSS on 23/6/2009, the attempt for peaceful negotiation between TPLF-EPDRF and **Ethiopian Unity Patriot's Front (EUPF)** has negatively been responded by the dictator Meles Zenawi. This initiative was made as part of regional peace and stability by the leadership of Government of South Sudan especially H.E. the 1st. Vice President of the Republic of Sudan, **the President of Government of South Sudan and C- in-C of SPLA Cde. Salva Kiir Mayardit.**

For many years now Ethiopian Unity Patriot's Front EUPF has been fighting Wayane to change the tyranny dictatorial ethnic based system of Meles Zenawi. These hostilities between EUPF and TPLF-EPRDF in Ethiopia affect the border areas including the intended development program of GoSS along Ethiopian border. After signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement CPA in 2005, between Sudan Government and SPLM/A, peaceful environment started to develop in the whole of East Africa region. However, the neighboring countries' internal conflicts such as the Ugandan government's and Lord Resistance Army LRA, The Sudan Darfur problem, and the Ethiopian's growing internal conflict especially the hostilities between **EUPF** and **TPLF-EPRDF** army at the borders remains a challenging threat to stability and development process at the area.

For the stability to prevail in the whole of east Africa region, the Government of South Sudan took initiative to mediate between Uganda and LRA. GoSS also extended its initiative by approaching Ethiopian Unity Patriot's Front EUPF to accept peaceful negotiation with TPLF-EPRDF through mediation of Government of South Sudan GoSS.

The **GoSS** leadership believed that **Meles Zenawi** and his Government would positively accept this initiative. The doubt was only on the side of EUPF leadership. EUPF political bureau in relation to the call, analyzed the current Ethiopia political situation in which human rights violation, political detention, lack of freedom, marginalization and killing, and divide and rule policy have still deteriorated.

EUPF leadership also carefully examined the benefit of peaceful settlement of conflicts to the people and the need for regional stability and peace which meets the interest and standard of international community. EUPF therefore considered its political program which stated that EUPF would struggle for change of TPLF-EPRDF regime to bring about real democratic system which meets the international principle of democracy and human rights through all possible means that include arms struggle and also peaceful mediation if condition allows.

Based on these principles, EUPF made a decision by accepting GoSS mediation. This was not because EUPF believes the commitment of TPLF-EPRDF, but it was about to honor and respect the initiative of H.E. the president of Government of South Sudan to bring about peaceful settlement to the conflicts in the region. Using this opportunity EUPF leadership would like to appreciate and extend its gratitude to H. E. the president of Government of South Sudan Cde. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit for his vision of peace and peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region.

EUPF has made it clear to the Government of South Sudan that it does not believe Wayane government because they took power through barrel of gun, and they don't believe in peaceful democratic settlement of political differences. This is a claim they have already proved by turning down the attempt made by GoSS leadership to bring the two parties into round table discussion. EUPF accepted the call and expressed its commitment for peaceful negotiation because it trusts the leadership of Government of South Sudan based on historical tie of the people of two countries.

With this commitment, EUPF has shown to international community and the world at large that it's also ready for peaceful negotiation in front of international community or a third party like Government of South Sudan. Since the negative response of TPLF-EPRDF indicates the interest of war, EUPF has remained without option then to resume military operation against TPLF-EPRDF forces in the country. **The GoSS and international community now should know that the instability and hostilities in Ethiopia are caused by arrogance of TPLF-EPRDF because it never accepts peaceful settlement with any opposition party including those who operate in the country.**

EUPF/A shall win!!!

EUPF Central Committee