



Republic of South Sudan
The President

His Excellency, Salva Kiir Mayardit
President of the Republic of South Sudan
Address to the Nation on Martyrs Day

July 29th, 2020

Fellow citizens,

I greet you this evening in the name of our country the Republic of South Sudan and in the name of our martyrs.

Today is a landmark day in our history. We are commemorating Martyrs Day - a day we have set aside since 2011, to remember those who fell in our struggle for freedom.

While this day was designated to honour the sacrifices of those who lost their lives in the wars of liberation, it was also thoughtfully chosen because of its fitting tribute to our late leader, Dr. John Garang de Mabior,

who died in that fateful Helicopter crash on July 30th, 2005.

As we commemorate this day, let us remember Dr. John Garang de Mabior, his SPLM/A colleagues and all other leaders in our history who died in the cause of liberating South Sudan. Equally, let us also remember all the sons and daughters of South Sudan whose bravery during the struggle brought our freedom.

In memory of these sacrifices, I call upon all of you to join me on this day in recalling our long and painful history to statehood, especially the contribution of our selfless compatriots who didn't live to see the birth of our nation, yet their efforts were pivotal in making us a country.

Fellow citizens,

I urge you to use this year's Martyrs Day to reflect individually and collectively as a society about our nation's future. I am equally calling upon all of you to support us your leaders, in our efforts to consolidate peace and reconciliation. As we work tirelessly to overcome challenges associated with peace

implementation, we would like you to cheer us on by embracing peace in your interactions and by promoting tolerance and harmonious co-existence among our communities in all that you do.

If we all embark on this path, we will realize our aspirations for permanent peace and stability more quickly and demonstrate to skeptics that we can overcome our problems.

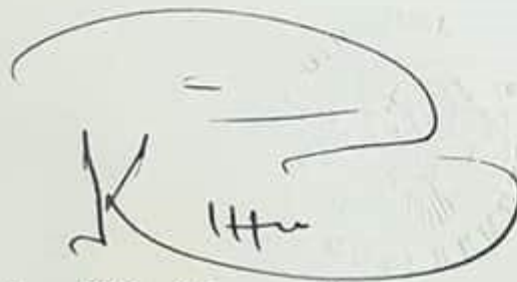
Fellow citizens,

As your leaders, we are likewise happy to receive and act on your concerns when presented in constructive manner. We consider your input as a crucial guide for us as we steadily implement the revitalized agreement.

However, what our situation does not need now is this widespread culture of using made up stories with the hope of gaining some leverage in the political discourse. Lies do not bring people together nor do they bridge conflicting views. My advice to those engaged in this practice is that their chosen path will not take them or the country forward. What we all need to do instead is to desist from using undesirable propaganda and focus on working together

irrespective of our political differences to restore peace and transition the country to the phase where its people will determine its leadership.

Finally, I would like to end my remarks by strongly urging all of you to uphold unity and maintain peace among ourselves as a lasting tribute to our martyrs. May the almighty God bless you and our country South Sudan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salva Kiir Mayardit', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval border.

Salva Kiir Mayardit
President, Republic of South Sudan
Juba, South Sudan