

*The 1997 Khartoum Peace Agreement*

## **THE NUBA MOUNTAINS PEACE AGREEMENT**

In the same framework of the Sudan Peace Agreement concluded on 21.4.1997, a separate peace agreement has been signed between the Government of Sudan and the Nuba Mountains United SPLM/A. The then Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Peace, Republic of the Sudan Mr. Mohammed El-Amin Khalifa has signed the agreement on behalf of the Government, while Commander Mohammed Haroun Kafi Aburass chairman of SPLM/A Nuba Mountains Central Committee has signed on behalf of Nuba Mountains United SPLM/A. The most outstanding significance of this agreement is that it recognised for the first time since Sudan independence in 1956, the fact that there has been a long-standing problem in the Nuba mountains area. This agreement is based upon the "Declaration of Principles" agreed upon by the two parties on 31.7.1996 in Nairobi, Kenya. Hereunder is the text of the above mentioned Declaration of Principles :

### **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE NUBA MOUNTAINS' PROBLEM (SUDAN)**

Out of our conviction that both peaceful and political dialogues are the ideal, and appropriate means for resolving all the Sudan's conflicts and problems. Having realized and acknowledged the fact Nuba Mountain's state problem is one of the Sudan's historical and long standing problems that requires a solution through an objective and constructive dialogues between the concern parties so as to create a conducive atmosphere and a peaceful co-existence as well as achieving a prosperous future for the Nuba Mountains state. - And in recognition of the parties to the peculiarity and the unique nature of the solution of the Nuba Mountains' state problem in comparison to that of any other regions in the Sudan.- And in recognition of those efforts exerted by the region's sons internally and externally, the parties referred to hereafter declare, commitment to the following principles as means for reaching a final and ever lasting just solution for this problem in question:-

1. To recognize that there has been a long-standing problem in the Nuba Mountains state which has led to the armed struggle since 1984.

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2. The parties, therefore confirm their commitment to the peaceful and political solution channelled through constructive dialogue as an ideal means to solve all the Sudan's problems, conflicts and disputes.
3. The two parties have acknowledged their abiding and! observing the unity of the Sudan with its geographical and political borders of 1956.
4. The parties have acknowledged the importance and necessity of taking stand and a vision of the problems from regional perspective and within the frame of a united Sudan as the ideal means for solving the Nuba Mountains state question far from that of the SPLM/A of Dr. John Garang's faction.
5. The parties have agreed to consider the political charter "10th of April 1996" as a general frame for solving and as a ground for embodying the rest of Sudan's problems and questions of a national nature.
6. The sharia and the customary laws shall both be equally the legislative sources of the Nuba Mountains state, in addition the region has the right to legislate complementary laws to those federal ones on questions and problems peculiar to the Nuba Mountains state.
7. Citizenship, shall be the basis for the rights and duties that include freedom, equality, justice and human rights.
8. The parties acknowledge, and are self-committed to principles of the religious and faiths right, including creation of a peaceful, satisfactory and conducive atmosphere for worshipping, preaching and practices. Without forcing any citizen to believe/ accept any faith or religion contrary to his/her will.
9. The parties acknowledge the federal system as a vehicle of governance that can provide the region's citizens with their rights to participate in the administration of their regions affairs and its development, together with their balanced and full participation in the federal power.
10. Powers and resources are shared on equal and just basis between the Nuba Mountains state and the federal government, details shall worked out by the two parties in separate protocol.
11. Eradication of any and all kinds of socio-economic, cultural injustice and grievances. That include any agricultural, non agricultural and other lands which have been unfairly distributed or owned, headed by agricultural schemes reforms and redistribution in a way that preserves

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respect of the natives and avail greater opportunity and priorities for  
the indigenous people of the area to invest and develop their land.

12. To join efforts for eradication of all kinds of backwardness, illiteracy and ignorance which have caused such situation of injustice and grievances. This alongside with the designing, implementation and execution of a special development programme for the Nuba Mountains state in a such a way that achieves equitable development between the Nuba Mountains state and other regions in the country for a purpose of achieving the region's welfare.
12. The government of the Sudan shall abide and undertake a special humanitarian programme for relief, reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement for solving and dealing with all kinds of negative effects shortcomings resulting from the war. This shall also include an emergency crush programme for facing the humanitarian urgents and needs, such as the relief and otherwise as appropriate.
14. To acknowledge the local cultures and their development as well as to support equal opportunities to reflect them and be expressed within other cultures of the people of the Sudan in all fora mass of expression accredited by both the Nuba Mountains state and federal government.
15. The war has badly and effectively led to the destruction of the natural resources, environment and gross violation of human rights in the Nuba Mountains state. The two parties therefore, undertake to deal with these negative effects resulted during the twelve-years war.
16. The parties have asserted the unity of the Sudan, condemnation and rebuff of the tribal acts and practices. The parties, therefore undertake assurance of the democratic rights of the people of the Nuba Mountains state for achieving and gaining their national and regional just rights, equal and identical within the framework of the united Sudan. This in the eve of any political changes without having any influence from internal and external forces.
17. There are some issues outside the armed conflict and disputes which has been agreed upon by the parties. Such issues have been dealt with in a separate document attached to this declaration.
18. The two parties shall work together in developing a detailed programme for the general principles mentioned in this declaration. This shall be implemented by joint efforts which shall be required for

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mobilization towards achieving of these principles ending the war in  
order to realize the comprehensive peace and stability.

Note: attached is the document referred to in article 17

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Deputy Chairman of Central Committee of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement and Peoples Liberation Army, Nuba Mountains and Chairman of its Negotiations Team.

**AHMED MOHAMED HAROUN**

Director General of Peace Resettlement Administration, South Kordofan and Chairman of Government of Sudan Negotiations team.

Nairobi, Kenya. 31/7/1996

**WITNESSED BY**

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SPLA/M NUBA MOUNTAINS**

Engineer ABDELBAGI HAMDAN KABEIR

Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Spokesman.

2. ENG. RIZIGALLA BAKHAT KAHMIS  
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Secretary
3. DR. AMAR JADELKARIM MAHMOUD  
Secretary of Health Affairs
4. CDR. AKASHA ALSAID AKASHA  
Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Social Welfare
5. A/CDR. ELTAJ ELTIGANI ARWA
6. A/CDR.. NASRELDIN HAROUN KAFI ABURASS.

**SUDAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION**

1. ISMAIL DIGLES NEJAR  
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2. MUSA SOMI RAIIMATAIIA  
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3. AHMED MUSA HARIN  
Member of National Council
4. HASSAN KUNDA TORUBA  
Member of the Supreme Council for Peace
5. REV. YUNTHON HAMMAD KUKU  
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**ACCREDITATION BY:**

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CDR. MOHAMED HAROUN KAFI ABURASS  
Chairman of SPLA/M Nuba Mountains Central Committee

(R) BRIG. psc HAMAD ABDEIKARIM ELSAID  
Minister of Finance, South Kordofan State and head of Government of Sudan  
Delegation

Nairobi, Kenya. 31/7/1996

The Sudan government delegation in its negotiation with the SPLM/A Nuba Mountains Central Committee has taken notice of the report which has been prepared by Dr. Abdel aati Badr Suleiman, Deputy Chairman of the Production Unit of the International Atomic Energy Agency (report attached in two languages) about the existence of an atomic radiation in Miri dam and its extensions around Kadugli town. On this respect, the Sudan government delegation declares its undertaking to work side by side with the SPLM/A Nuba Central Committee and specialized authorities for all necessary arrangements and procedures dealing with that report. The delegation, therefore values very much the tremendous effort made by the member of SPLM/A Nuba Mountains Central Committee, for finding and acquiring this important document.

Signed by:

ENG. RIZIGALL BAKHAT KHAMIS  
Secretary for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Central  
Committee, SPLM/A Nuba Mountains.  
(ENG. ABDEL BAGI HAMDAN KABEIR on behalf of ENG. RIZIGALL  
BAKHAT KHAMIS)

AHMED MOUSA HARIN  
Member National Council, Sudan Government Delegation

Nairobi, Kenya. 31/7/1999