



The People's Coalition for Civil Action

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The PCCA Commemorates 5th Anniversary Address Martyrs' Day Commemoration

Fellow Citizens,

Today, we gather to commemorate **Martyrs' Day**, a sacred day in the history of our nation that also marks the **fifth anniversary of the People's Coalition for Civil Action (PCCA) Declaration**. On this day, we bow our heads in honor of our founding father, **Dr. John Garang de Mabior**, and all the brave men and women who laid down their lives—from the anti-colonial struggles to the liberation wars—to secure the freedom of our people. Their cumulative sacrifices gave birth to the Republic of South Sudan and entrusted us with the responsibility to protect the nation they helped create.

We also pay tribute to the resilient people of South Sudan—from Boma to Raja, and from Nimule to Renk—whose courage, sacrifice, and determination sustained our long journey to independence. Today, those same citizens continue to endure hunger, insecurity, displacement, economic hardship, and political repression with remarkable resilience. We stand with them, and we dedicate ourselves once again to the cause for which generations of our martyrs gave their lives: a free, peaceful, democratic, and prosperous South Sudan.

Our liberation struggle did not end with the raising of our flag on 9 July 2011. Independence marked not the end of our journey, but the beginning of a new national responsibility: to build a state worthy of the sacrifices that made it possible. That remains the unfinished task before our generation. It is in pursuit of that unfinished mission that the People's Coalition for Civil Action was founded. We reaffirm today our unwavering commitment to remain the voice of the people, the custodian of the ideals of our liberation struggle, and a torchbearer for the aspirations of a peaceful, democratic, just, and prosperous South Sudan until those aspirations are finally realized.

Why We Founded PCCA

Five years ago, on 30 July 2021, a small group of patriotic South Sudanese established the People's Coalition for Civil Action. We did so because we believed our country had reached a dangerous turning point. Having witnessed the conduct of government during the first decade of independence, we concluded that South Sudan's greatest challenge was not a lack of natural resources, international goodwill, or peace agreements. **Our greatest challenge was, and remains, a profound failure of leadership.**

We warned that South Sudan was being consumed by a profound failure of leadership. Instead of providing strategic vision and national direction, the political leadership increasingly pursued power through violent competition, the deliberate exploitation of ethnic divisions, patronage networks, and the capture of state institutions for partisan advantage. We saw the institutions built through decades of sacrifice being captured by a narrow political elite. Rather than serving the people, the state was being transformed into an instrument for preserving political power, enriching a privileged few, suppressing democratic freedoms, and perpetuating impunity.

We also warned that the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), though intended to restore peace and guide the democratic transition, had already been subverted and instrumentalized. Instead of implementing the reforms necessary to unite the country, rebuild state institutions, and establish accountable governance, the agreement was increasingly being used to prolong the political life of the ruling elite while postponing the fundamental changes our nation desperately needed.

At the time, the country's principal political leaders still governed together under the peace agreement. Today, they are divided once again, the Agreement has effectively unraveled, and South Sudan stands on the precipice of yet another cycle of violent conflict.

The detention and exclusion of the leadership of one of the Agreement's principal signatories has fundamentally altered the political foundation upon which the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity was established. A government that no longer includes one of the principal parties to the peace agreement can no longer credibly claim to be a Government of National Unity. This is more than a political setback; it fundamentally undermines the legitimacy and integrity of the transitional government established under the R-ARCSS.

This tragic reversal has confirmed what we warned five years ago: a nation cannot be built by leaders who place themselves above their country, power above peace, and political survival above the welfare of their people. Where personal ambition replaces national purpose, peace becomes impossible, institutions begin to fail, and the hopes of an entire nation are sacrificed for the survival of a privileged few.

In our 2021 Declaration, we reminded the nation that the people of South Sudan had already spoken through the South Sudan National Dialogue. Among its most consequential recommendations was the call for President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar Teny to step aside in the national interest and give the country a new beginning under a new political dispensation.

Five years later, that recommendation has lost none of its relevance; it has only gained greater urgency. The conditions that inspired it have not improved—they have deteriorated. The crisis it sought to prevent has not been resolved—it has deepened. The leadership failure it sought to remedy has not been corrected—it has become even more pronounced.

We therefore reaffirm our unwavering support for the sovereign voice of the South Sudanese people as expressed through the National Dialogue and call for the full implementation of its resolutions. The failure to implement those resolutions represents not only a missed opportunity for national reconciliation, but also a betrayal of one of the few genuinely South Sudanese-led processes through which citizens from every corner of our country articulated a shared vision for the future of the Republic. The aspirations expressed through that process remain the most legitimate foundation upon which to build a peaceful, democratic, united, and prosperous South Sudan.

Our message in 2021 was simple, and it remains unchanged today: the people of South Sudan must reclaim ownership of their country, demand accountable leadership, and unite behind a shared national vision. Only then can we rescue our Republic from perpetual crisis and fulfill the promise of our independence. Five years later, events have tragically vindicated our foresight. We take no satisfaction in this, for every warning that has come to pass has been paid for by the lives lost, the families displaced, the opportunities squandered, and the hopes deferred of the South Sudanese people.

Five Years Later: Our Warnings Have Been Confirmed

It gives us no satisfaction to say that our warnings have been confirmed. We would have preferred to be proven wrong by a leadership that chose peace over conflict, national service over personal ambition, and the public good over private gain. Sadly, that has not been the case. Five years later, South Sudan stands in a deeper political, economic, and humanitarian crisis than when we issued our Declaration in 2021. The failure of leadership we identified has become more pronounced, while the absence of strategic vision and national purpose has driven our country even further from the aspirations of its people.

For thirteen years, South Sudan has remained trapped in a cycle of violent political contestation. Hundreds of thousands have lost their lives, millions have been displaced, and an entire generation has grown up knowing little except war, poverty, displacement, and uncertainty in a country blessed with plenty. Yet after years of immense sacrifice and suffering, our nation is no closer to lasting peace, genuine reconciliation, democratic governance, or sustainable development.

Instead of building strong institutions, those entrusted with leadership have weakened them. Instead of uniting the nation, they have deepened political division and mistrust. Instead of investing in education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and productive enterprise, they have invested in political survival. Instead of protecting the nation's wealth, they have presided over its systematic plunder. The consequences are visible in every corner of our Republic. State failure is no longer measured only by weakened institutions; it is experienced every day by ordinary South Sudanese.

Teachers report to schools without salaries, classrooms, or even basic teaching materials. Health workers continue to serve with extraordinary dedication despite shortages of medicines, equipment, and essential supplies. Civil servants remain unpaid while the cost of living rises beyond the reach of ordinary families.

Perhaps no institution better illustrates the tragedy of our Republic than our armed forces. The men and women entrusted with defending the nation have themselves become victims of neglect. Across the country, soldiers struggle to feed their families, and some have been reduced to begging in our towns. A state cannot guarantee the security of its citizens while those entrusted with its defense have themselves been abandoned.

Meanwhile, corruption has evolved from individual misconduct into a system of governance. Public borrowing continues to rise, yet citizens see little evidence that these resources are being invested in schools, hospitals, roads, agriculture, or productive industries. Instead, national wealth continues to enrich a privileged few while the country sinks ever deeper into debt.

Our natural resources have become another casualty of failed leadership. As oil revenues decline, gold and other strategic minerals have emerged as the country's next economic frontier. Yet instead of establishing transparent and accountable institutions to ensure these resources benefit all South Sudanese, the government has allowed disorder, illicit exploitation, and conflict to spread across mining communities.

Equally alarming is the continued encroachment upon parts of South Sudan's southern and southeastern frontiers, particularly in areas believed to be rich in gold and other strategic minerals. Rather than firmly defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic, the government's response has been marked by silence and inaction. This failure raises profound questions about whether the national interest is being subordinated to the political survival of those in power.

Our martyrs did not sacrifice their lives so that future generations would inherit a country whose borders are encroached upon, whose natural resources are plundered, and whose sovereignty is treated as negotiable. No government has the moral authority to compromise the sovereignty of the Republic in exchange for its own political survival. South Sudan's land is not a bargaining chip, and its natural resources are not the private property of those who temporarily occupy public office. They are the common inheritance of every South Sudanese—present and future—and must be managed transparently, lawfully, and in the interest of the nation.

We therefore call upon the people of South Sudan, particularly the communities living in our mineral-rich regions, to remain vigilant and to peacefully defend their land, their environment, and their constitutional rights. We call upon our regional neighbors and international partners to respect and uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our Republic. The wealth beneath our soil must become a foundation for national development and shared prosperity—not another source of corruption, conflict, and dispossession.

The Path Forward

Fellow citizens,

The time has come to renew the call we first made five years ago. South Sudan cannot be rescued by another recycled political arrangement among the same political elite. Nor can elections conducted

amid insecurity, political repression, institutional collapse, and the continued detention of political leaders produce a legitimate democratic transition. Elections should unite the nation around the sovereign will of the people—not deepen division or become another trigger for conflict.

The future of our Republic will not be determined by the decisions of a few politicians, but by the courage, conviction, and collective action of its citizens. History teaches us that no nation has ever been transformed by passive spectators. A fearful people cannot build a confident nation. Citizens who surrender their voice ultimately surrender their future.

We therefore call upon all South Sudanese—especially our youth, women, teachers, health workers, civil servants, religious leaders, professionals, and traditional authorities—to organize peacefully and reclaim their constitutional role as the sovereign custodians of the Republic.

Our struggle is not against any community, ethnicity, or region. It is against corruption, authoritarianism, state capture, impunity, and failed leadership. We therefore call for disciplined, peaceful, and non-violent civil action in defense of constitutional democracy, justice, accountable government, and the sovereignty of the people.

We also urge communities across South Sudan to remain vigilant in protecting their land and natural resources. Until leaders derive their authority through free and credible elections and govern through transparent and accountable institutions, citizens must peacefully resist the continued exploitation and looting of the nation's wealth.

To the political elite, our message is unequivocal: the patience of the South Sudanese people is not without limit. Leadership is a public trust, not a private entitlement. Those who hold public offices do so on behalf of the people—not above them.

To our neighbors across the region, we ask you to stand with the people of South Sudan, not merely with those who temporarily occupy positions of power. A peaceful, democratic, and prosperous South Sudan is in the interest of the entire region.

To the African Union, IGAD, the United Nations, the Troika, and our international partners, we reaffirm a simple truth: lasting peace cannot be sustained through elite bargains alone. It must rest upon the aspirations, participation, and consent of the South Sudanese people.

PCCA Fifth Anniversary Resolution

On this Fifth Anniversary of the People's Coalition for Civil Action, we solemnly reaffirm the following commitments:

First, we reaffirm the principles of the PCCA Declaration of 30 July 2021. The central challenge confronting South Sudan remains a failure of leadership, and our struggle for constitutional, democratic, and accountable governance continues.

Second, we reject the manipulation of peace agreements, political dialogue, and electoral processes as instruments for extending elite rule rather than advancing the interests of the people.

Third, we commit ourselves to organizing and mobilizing disciplined, peaceful, and non-violent civil action throughout South Sudan. Sovereignty belongs to the people, and the people must reclaim it peacefully.

Fourth, we call upon all South Sudanese to defend our national resources from corruption, illicit exploitation, and unlawful appropriation. The wealth of our nation belongs to present and future generations—not to those who temporarily occupy public office.

Fifth, we recommit ourselves to building a broad national movement that transcends ethnicity, regions, religions, and political affiliation in pursuit of a united, constitutional, democratic, peaceful, and prosperous South Sudan.

Fellow citizens,

Five years ago, we sounded the alarm. Today, we renew that call with even greater conviction. The generation of our martyrs secured our independence. Our generation must secure the Republic they envisioned by building a state that serves its people, protects their rights, upholds the rule of law, and safeguards the dignity of every citizen. The work before us is difficult, but it is neither beyond our capacity nor beyond our courage. History will not remember us for the crises we inherited, but for the future we chose to build. Let us therefore move forward—not with hatred, not with vengeance, and not with violence—but with courage, unity, truth, and an unwavering commitment to justice. Together, we shall reclaim our Republic.

May God bless the Republic of South Sudan.

Long live the people of South Sudan.

Our People Shall Prevail