



The Lost Boys & Girls of Sudan

THE NATIONAL NETWORK

**Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan Summer Conference
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA
June 19-21, 2009**

2010 Election and 2011 Referendum Update

Saturday, June 20, 2009

PRESENTERS:

Abraham Aguer is from Kongor in Jonglei State, and came to the U.S. in July 2005. He is currently studying at the University of Utah, and will receive his bachelor's degree in Management/Finance in 2011. He has worked in leadership positions for many non-profit organizations. He was the Chairman for the SPLM Secretariat of Utah, a volunteer teacher for basic financial literacy for Somali and Iraqi Refugees at the International Rescue Committee, and was Secretary General of the Sudanese Lost Boys and Girls Association of Utah. He is currently interning at TechniScan Medical System, and has worked as a Customer Service Representative at the Teleperformance USA on Sprint Project, a Security Officer at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, and a picture framer at Cambridge Collection, all in Salt Lake City, UT. Abraham is a founding Board Member of the National Network. bulaguer@gmail.com

Philip A. Boldit is the Director General for the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for the Government of National Unity (GONU). Mr. Boldit joined the SPLM/A in 1983 while he was an instructor in the Finance Institute in Dublin, Ireland. He had military training in Ethiopia and was active in many campaigns as Alternate Commander in the SPLA. He moved to Dallas, Texas in 1995 and worked as a case manager for Catholic Charities where he mentored the Lost Boys and Girls in the refugee program of North Texas. He also worked for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) during his time in Dallas. Before joining the SPLM/A in 1983, he was trained in banking with Citibank NA Khartoum. He holds degrees in Economics and Computerized Accounting, and a Masters in Business Administration. Mr. Boldit answered the call of Dr. John Garang to return to Sudan to help in the reconstruction and development of the nascent government by joining the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to oversee the interests of GOSS, where he currently works. philipboldit@yahoo.com

Peter Lam Both has recently been the SPLM Representative to Canada from 2006 to 2008. He has worked for various local and international institutions and organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ethiopia, India and Jordan. He also worked as a Resettlement Counselor for Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and other immigration agencies in Canada. Peter has taught social work at the University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, and Mount Royal College in Alberta, and is a published author of several papers and professional journals. peterboth2002@yahoo.com

Roger Winter has worked on issues of peace, war, humanitarian assistance, civilian protection and democracy in Sudan – first as Executive Director of the non-profit U.S. Committee for Refugees (1981-2001) and then as Assistant Administrator of USAID and as the Deputy Secretary of State's Special Representative on Sudan (2001-2006).
rwinter4700@yahoo.com

NOTES:

Roger Winter

- Questions concerning poor governance, violence and corruption exist within the international communities about Southern Sudan.
- Khartoum is undermining the image of Southern Sudan.
- Khartoum precipitated violence last year in Abyei and sent the 31st Brigade to chase away residents and future voters. Some have never returned.
- Khartoum will continue to push Southern Sudanese people out.
- The US State Department is discussing the idea of whether the US should support the results of the election and referendum or not, especially if there is danger of a failed state. The current position is that the US will respect the results of the election and the referendum.
- Some are concerned about the dates of the election and the referendum and want to delay them.
- We must be certain that the referendum takes place on time.

Peter Both

- Political Issues
 - It is difficult for SPLM because there is nothing to reconstruct in some areas.
 - Development takes time and patience – we need to start from scratch with no resources in many places.
 - The SPLM Diaspora is trying to provide services, schools, clinics etc.
 - There are over expectations.
 - Lack of media access for SPLM. The National Congress has the access to the media, computers and offices.
 - SPLM immediate questions are:
 - Who goes to counties or cities or state?
 - Who will work for the party and raise funds?
 - The Diaspora needs to contribute funds!
 - SPLM has good policies and programs. GOSS needs to implement them.
- Corruption?
 - There are questions about the management of public funds and lack of transparency.
 - Many are not trained in managing funds.
 - There are no requirements for hiring practices, so friends may be hired who are not properly equipped or qualified.
 - There are discrepancies with salaries.

- Sudan is a communal society- if one person is a minister, his whole clan may come to his house and expect to be fed. Where will that money come from?
- There are no safety nets or plans to take care of the poor.
- SPLM must win the election!
 - The SPLM is the only national party with an agenda.
 - If the SPLM loses, many states may break away and become separate countries - Nuba, Upper Nile, Darfur etc.
 - How can you lose an election to an international criminal?
 - The SPLM is doing its best to organize, train people, get out their message and agenda, and unite people on a new basis.
- Challenges
 - How will the Diaspora actually vote?
 - Southern Sudanese refugees do not have passports.
 - There is a lack of demarcation between the North and the South.
 - There are no defined areas.
 - Security problems: Khartoum will destabilize the areas and use politicians to give weapons to create different tribal conflicts.
 - Known terrorist organizations are coming into Sudan to get training to assassinate the SPLM leaders. The International community needs to protect SPLM leaders.

Philip Boldit

- Understand the reality of the clash of two civilizations in Sudan: Christianity and Islam.
 - Met with President Obama in Chicago to ask if he understood the reality in Sudan.
 - The British formed an Arab State, which failed and left a mess.
 - Missionaries came and since then Islam has been trying to wipe out that influence.
 - Islam is trying to take over all of East Africa.
- Confusion over unity or separation.
 - Most people would rather be free and hungry than to be enslaved.
 - If the referendum passes and S. Sudan is independent, what type of government will be implemented?
- Southern Sudan needs manpower from the Diaspora.