



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**SOUTH SUDAN PRESS CONFERENCE TO COVER 2024 ELECTIONS,
SUDAN SITUATION AND RETURN OF CEREMONIAL SHIELD**

Date: London press conference to be held on Tuesday, 9th May 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30PM

Venue: Hyatt Regency London - The Churchill
30 Portman Square, London W1H 7BH

For immediate release!

LONDON The Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has the honour to host a press conference to be addressed by Hon. Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin MP, Minister of Presidential Affairs who arrived in London to represent H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan for the King and The Queen Consort's Coronation and Associated Events.

The Press Conference to be held at 12 noon, Tuesday 9th May 2023, will cover the Implementation Metrics for the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), which has been extended for 24 months with a concrete Transitional Roadmap. The Government of South Sudan aspires to hold a free, fair and credible election in December 2024 as witnessed during the Southern Sudan Referendum in February 2011.

The Press Conference will also cover the unfolding crisis in the Republic of Sudan between the Chairman of the Sudan Sovereign Council and the Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces Gen. Abdel Fattah Al Burhan and Deputy Chairman of the Sovereign Council and Head of the Rapid Support Forces, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo (known as Hemetti) and the prominent role H. E. President Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit holds as the Guarantor of the Juba Peace Agreement and Chief Negotiator, as mandated by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

H.E. The President has been actively engaging between the two conflicting parties and has managed to broker several ceasefires, building in duration from 24 hours to 72 hours to a week.

The gravity of the unfolding crisis in Khartoum is unprecedented, as conflict has previously only occurred in the peripheries of the Republic of Sudan. However, the cessation of hostilities has been accompanied by the two Generals agreeing to send their representatives to a negotiation, that could be held in the Republic of South Sudan or a venue of their choice.

Response and Aid

The Republic of South Sudan has opened the 2,000km border shared with the Republic of Sudan to receive those fleeing the conflict through the 12 stations distributed across the border. The Republic of Sudan used to host close to 1 Million South Sudanese nationals, who are now returning due to the conflict.

So far, South Sudan has received a very high influx of refugees from Sudan, other nationalities and returnees, with the 12 stations reporting over 6,000 people travelling through the border daily, with the number continuing to grow.

In response to the humanitarian crisis, the Government of South Sudan availed 1 Billion South Sudanese Pounds and waived the checking of documents at these stations to aid the facilitation of movement. The Government urges the international community to continue to provide support and to increase humanitarian aid for those affected by the conflict. H.E. The President remains seized of the matter and aims for the complete cessation of hostilities.

On the same day, Hon. Dr. Barnaba MP will be receiving the shield on behalf of H. E. President Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the Government and the people of



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South Sudan. The shield was originally a gift given to Mr. James Baynard-Smith in 1969, who was a former British Officer posted to Khartoum and stationed in the South Barracks by the Blue Nile in 1947 (dubbed a dutiful son of the Empire) from Mr. Buth Diu, a Southern Sudanese who became Minister of Works for Sudan.

The shield will be gifted back as a national artefact to the Government of South Sudan by Mr James Baynard-Smith who will be accompanied by Mr Peter Everington, a former English teacher posted to Sudan between 1958-1966.

CONTACTS

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