

Annex I: Convention for fraternity and peaceful co-existence between Messiriya Tribes, (Ajaira) and the Dinka of Abyei: 3 – 11 October 2001-10-23

Introduction

Tribes have peacefully coexisted in Abyei area for years. Relationships between the Messiriya Ajaira and their brethren the Abyei Dinka became a model of peaceful coexistence: they were brothers in everything, sharing everything, sweet or sour; speaking each other's language and giving their children the same names on both sides irrespective of ethnicity and religion. Friction came with rebellion. However, the Messiriya and the Dinka, who are on the borderline and who have learned lessons, stood firmly against the enemies of peace.

Today, the sons of Abyei Province sat together under the auspices of their respective tribal leadership, to restore that coexistence, taking advantage of their knowledge of current relationships between tribal groups to avoid all factors of discord. In the period 3 – 11 October, 2001, the Abyei Popular Peace Committee with their brethren from Messiriya Ajaira concluded the following conferences and meetings:

1. Citep Conference, (4 – 7 October), attended by 48 from all clans of the Messiriya Awlad Kamil
2. Bitakh Conference, (8-9 October 2001) attended by 63 persons representing all clans of Messiriya Ajaira
3. Muglad Conference, attended by 52 persons representing both sections of the Messiriya. This meeting ratified the recommendations from both conferences as following, acting on God's words, (from the Holy Quran): "*O ye people! We have created thee from a male and female and made of thee nations and tribes to know one another*".

Recommendations:

The [Muglad] conference recommends the following:

1. A declaration to denounce differences and factors of conflict between the tribes of the area
2. Twinning between Dinka and Messiriya tribes on pasture, agriculture and other resources
3. Tribal leaders, each in his areas of jurisdiction, to ensure the rights of citizenship for the two tribes.
4. To communicate with the sons of Abyei with the rebel movement in and outside the country so that they contribute to development and stability
5. To give a chance to the Emirs and section leaders, (the Abyei Peace Committee) to continue their contacts with their sons with the rebel movement for the a total peace in the area
6. Formation of a joint committee, which will tour all states where people from Abyei Dinka currently live so that they return home immediately to participate in development, stability and production.
7. Encourage and insure safety of agricultural production around Abyei by establishing model villages in Naam of Deng Majok, Um Balayil, Bantoe, Tajalei
8. Formation of a committee from both tribes and to let them understand the contents of the Convention for Fraternal and Peaceful Coexistence.
9. Give priority for the return of displaced persons to their respective areas, particularly the villages around Abyei, availing adequate circumstances.

In conclusion, the conference recommends that a committee composed of leaders from both tribes to meet the sons of Abyei area in northern states calling them to return to the area. The conference also calls upon the Government and peace loving agencies to support this committee, empowering it with all means to achieve its objectives.