

# Turkey to promote economic tie with S. Sudan

Juba Monitor interview with the Turkish ambassador Mr Haluk AGCA

**Question-**Could you provide a brief context how Turkey can share its development strategy with South Sudan as a young country?

Turkey is desirous of promotion of bilateral cooperation with the friendly South Sudan particularly in economic and commercial areas. We may start bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food industry, tourism and construction.

Turkey is ready to share its experiences, knowledge, and know-how with the friendly South Sudan in the process of economic development.

As for the history of Turkish industrialization or, to put it bluntly economic development, after the proclamation of the Turkish Republic in 1923 by Atatürk, a process of industrialization came into being mainly in order to create substitutes for imported products from industrialized countries. During this planned process various industries were established, and as a result, from the 1950s onwards, industrial design activities began to emerge. These industrial design activities, which initially began as product modifications for the imported products according to the local market's needs, have evolved into new product development efforts in sectors such as sanitary ware, textiles, glass ware, furniture, electronics, construction materials, transportation vehicles, defense industry and white goods. During the period of planned industrialization especially the large companies in the aforementioned sectors set up in-company design teams/departments. The period of industrialization, in which an industrial production capacity was built through measures such as a protected domestic market and financial incentives of the State, was interrupted by a Military Coup in 1980 and a new political and trade regime followed it. The national market was almost entirely opened up for foreign competition. Turkish and South Sudanese officials and experts may get together to exchange views and experiences on all these matters.

**Question-**Based on the unpredicted incident of attempted coup, what is your Government doing to normalize the situation?

On 15 July 2016, FETÖ carried out a terrorist attempt under the leadership of its military members within the armed bureaucracy (army and police) in order to overthrow the democratically-elected government of the Republic of Turkey.

Fortunately, their terrorist act was foiled by the Turkish people in the streets and squares. The Turks blocked the gates of the military bases to stop the tanks and armoured military vehicles and more soldiers from participating in the illegal act. It definitely proved how dangerous FETÖ is and should be eliminated. In the meantime, I wish to give brief information on FETÖ; The Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) was founded by the self-proclaimed "imam" Fethullah Gülen (with no formal religious education) to destroy the Republic of Turkey in cooperation with foreign powers. He claims to be the "Imam of the Universe", namely sort of "God". His followers have resorted to all means and methods to achieve their goals, including use of force, violence, bugging, blackmailing, extortion, tax evasion, distortion of official documents and all other illegal methods to undermine the



state authority by creating an alternative or parallel authority.

FETÖ organization has cell-type structures headed by the so-called imams in various public institutions, particularly within the judicial institutions, the Turkish Armed Forces and the Police. The public officials who are members of the organization use their positions and authorities, equipment and the personnel of the institution they work in line with the aims of the organization. FETÖ is operating in other countries just as the way it is in Turkey with the same goals. Therefore, it poses a tremendous danger to any country's government wherever they are active. However, The Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Çavuşoğlu said that They (terrorist leader, Gülen's supporters) have infiltrated Kyrgyzstan's government and could stage a coup there. The Turkish foreign minister further added that "Kyrgyzstan is under a serious threat. I notified my Kyrgyz counterpart about the fact and handed a list of names of terrorist Gülen's followers to him". FETÖ has carried out a great number of illegal acts under the guise of legality. In this regard, the acts of the organization include wiretapping the communications of the politicians from the ruling and opposition parties, in particular the President, the Prime Minister, the cabinet members, businessmen and high-ranking bureaucrats and using them in line with the aims of the organization; ensuring the employment of their followers in the public institutions by manipulating the entry exams organized by such institutions, as well as ensuring the release of their militants from custody or detention based on court decisions by other unauthorized judges who are members of the organization.

Unfortunately, the members of FETÖ who have infiltrated into the Turkish armed forces bombed the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Office of the Presidency, National Intelligence Organization and other government agencies' buildings using the military helicopters, war planes and tanks which they seized by rebelling their commanders. They also opened fire on ordinary citizens who took to the streets to protest against their attempt to control the country. Heavily armed soldiers and tanks are overpowered by furious Turkish civilians after responding to president's call to crush bloody coup.

The police, public prosecutors, and other elements of the armed forces immediately took the necessary measures to foil the attempt of FETÖ militants to stage a coup outside the chain of command of the Turkish

Armed Forces.

Above all, it was the Turkish nation who thwarted the plot. It displayed a historic solidarity as it took to the streets and remained defiant. It stood bravely in front of the tanks and stood by the democratic and pluralist political system. Turkish people are still continuing to stand guard of democracy in the streets and squares of all the cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir after working hours every day.

The terrorists tried to broadcast their message by taking over studios of the state-owned Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) as well as raiding a few of private media outlets out of over three hundred TV channels in the country; yet the plotters' attempt to control a few of media which did not last long. It must be noted that the Turkish media also played a key role in defeating the coup attempt. Moreover, the terrorists attacked the satellite control unit to block broadcasting of media outlets.

Throughout the process, all political parties, the Members of the Parliament and the people stood firmly by democracy, democratic politics, democratic institutions and the Constitution. A Joint Declaration in defence of democracy was issued during the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly on 16 July.

Those who have involved in the terrorist attempt to stage a coup more than 10,000 members of FETÖ have been taken into custody so far. The operations are intensively going on. Some members of the organization whose statements had been taken within the scope of the investigations confessed that the terrorist attempt in question had been carried out by FETÖ. Unfortunately, more than 246 of our citizens and security officers, including those very close to the President have been martyred and more than 2,500 were wounded as a result of the terrorist action. The President, the Prime Minister, the Government, the Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Turkish people all together defeated this coup attempt and stood by democracy and the rule of law. Cambodian and Azerbaijani officials have recently announced that they are closing down or are planning to close down the schools run by Gülenist terrorists after Turkey files a formal request, while Somalia was one of the first countries to suspend a school run by Gülenists and expel all Gülenists following the coup attempt.

The Gülen Movement started out as a religious group before evolving into a powerful politically charged entity and later into a terrorist organization that depends on education to both advance its ideology and swell its funds. The movement runs a global network of schools in mostly African and even some Asian countries.

A state of emergency was declared in Turkey by the decree of the Council of Ministers in accordance with Article 120 of the Constitution upon the recommendation of the National Security Council to promptly defeat the terrorist organization with all its elements and to take the necessary steps in the most effective and expeditious manner for the purpose of eliminating this serious threat to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms of our people. This state of emergency came into effect on 21 July 2016 at 1 a.m. and will last for 90 days. It was approved by the Turkish Grand National Assembly during the

extraordinary meeting held on 21 July 2016. The aim of that declaration is not to restrict the freedoms but to enable the Government to act expeditiously.

Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights permits the Contracting Parties to take measures derogating from their obligations under the Convention in extraordinary circumstances. In this context, Turkey resorted to the right of derogation from the obligations in the Convention. As clearly stated in the Convention, derogation is not a suspension of rights. It may bring certain limitations to the exercise of certain rights under required conditions.

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), which was founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and national hero of the modern Turkish Republic, also organized a rally in Istanbul last Sunday. AK Party representatives and supporters also joined the CHP's rally, a first in years. Having met Erdoğan lately, CHP Chairman Kılıçdaroğlu said in a statement: "The spread of FETÖ [Gülenist Terror Organization] within the state and the Turkish Armed Forces to such a degree is something we should all think about."

The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) also demonstrated against the coup attempt in the streets. MHP Chairman Bahçeli explicitly said that Gülen was responsible for the coup attempt.

The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and its supporters are also of the same opinion.

**Question-**As you know South Sudan has also went through similar situation Turkey has gone, what advice can Turkey government give to South Sudan Government to underscore the situation to bring lasting peace in the young nation?

Coup attempt foiled just because the Turkish Government had the wide public support including all sections and colors of the Turkish politics as well as public. Once an elected Government manages to gather the widest possible support of the citizens, any attempt to topple an elected government doomed to fail. The Turkish people defended not only the democratically elected government, but also the democracy and pluralistic political system. If you surf internet you will see many photos showing the unarmed Turks who took up the control of a military tank by climbing up to the turret or another Turk lying on the ground in front of a military tank to stop it from moving. People took over the tanks on the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul on July 16, 2016. Unarmed people, man in the street forced the rebels to surrender. Consequently, nobody or no armed attack may overpower the people.

**Question-**Which areas in particular do you think Turkish government would help South Sudan to gain trust amongst them?

South Sudan's internal and external issues can be best solved by the South Sudanese, themselves. First of all, South Sudanese people should find a way out to reconcile their differences sooner than later.

Turkey, as a friend of the Republic of South Sudan, is ready to develop her relations with Juba in various fields. As a result, we would like to see that all the drafts of agreements concerning bilateral cooperation between Turkey and South Sudan should be finalized to give an impetus to the friendly relations existing between our two nations.