

Dear SCAO members,

- SCAO Office received an invitation e-mail from **Barry Parkinson**, the advisor to Senator Mobina Jaffer, who is in the capacity of Canadian Special Envoy to the Sudan Peace Process. He is inviting SCAO to meet with Senator Mobina Jaffer to exchange views on the peace process and discuss issues of mutual concern.
- The president of SCAO received a call from Barry Parkinson, where he on behalf of SCAO expressed his thankfulness to him and to Senator Mobina Jaffer for contacting us and having the interest to meet with us. The president of SCAO introduced SCAO profile and explained to him that our Bylaws mandate us as a Social association and for any involvement in Political activities he need to discuss the issue at the BOD level, or even to be addressed to all members if needed.
- Barry Parkinson mentioned that Senator Mobina Jaffer is going back to the region in May, and she is keen to meet with the Northern member of Sudanese community in Ottawa, he mentioned also that she is interested to meet with the women of our Community too. The president advised them that there is a stand alone women organization, Sudanese-Canadian Women Association for Peace and Development (SWCAPS), and has been requested to pass the invitation to them. The invitation been passed on to SCWAPD.
- Barry Parkinson suggested due to the busy Senator Mobina Jaffer schedule to book an open window on April 27th, to meet with her including a female member SCAO or from SCWAPD. If SCAO BOD decided not to participate an alternative focus group agreed to use this window to meet with her.
- SCAO office members met to explore the idea and to take a decision on to accept the invitation or not.
- Based on board's previously exchanged views and on our last General Assembly where we agreed that **"SCAO office is not to turn down any invitation from Canadian Authorities, they should take advantage of any initiative, meet without involve SCAO in any political commitment and to report the feedback to the community"**. The available then 5 members of the board agreed to accept the invitation (especially it was not the first one) and agreed to meet with Mobina Jaffer. Our plan was to express our gratitude to the Senator Mobina Jaffer, to introduce SCAO and its objectives and to feedback the community members about the out come of the meeting.

On Wednesday April 27th, 04

- Two members of SCWAPD (President & Secretary General), and 4 members of SCAO (president, vice-president, Secretary General and cultural / social activities officer), met with Senator Mobina Jaffer and her adviser Barry Parkinson, where our group separately introduced itself to them, described our goals and objectives. SCAO also stated clearly their mandate. Then Senator Mobina & her adviser Barry introduced the role of the Canadian government in the region in order to achieve a long lasting peace and their programs for after the peace agreement signed.
- Senator Mobina Jaffer stated that she is supposed to present Canadian views on the peace issue and she considers the best group to be involved in this process and to support / maintain and correct any possible defects on these views are the Sudanese-Canadian because they are most knowledgeable of what is going-on in their, and they are the best candidate to view the right vision and give the right advise to follow.
- They answered our entire questions regarding their vision to the peace process, their goals, objective and means to help bring stability in the region.

- At the end of the meeting she requested if we (SCAO & SCWAPD) could meet with her again before her scheduled visit to Sudan May 13th, 04. And she suggested having it as a joint meeting with other Sudanese Southern associations to have wider views and come-up with a list of concerns / suggestions that she could present to the Sudanese authorities / organizations involved in the peace process. She mentioned the fact that she is there to present our views and called us to be more involved in the stability process of our beloved country. And I'm quoting here her sentence "Allah send us to Canada for a wisdom to be more involved and payback to those people who did not have the chance we got in life"
- SCAO stated that at this point we do not have the mandate to accept this invitation, although it's our dream and everyone in scao dream to give back and be involved in the well-being process of their beloved country Sudan. But we will take this invitation back to the community with the output of this meeting. If the community support this invitation and extended out mandate to continue supporting Canadian role in the peace process through these activities, we will come back with everyone that scao office feels has something to offer to the current process. Other wise a focus professional group will be replacing official scao representation and continue doing the same or even more.
- Scao executive office presenting this issue to all members, kindly request each member to take a few minutes and state his views on this issue and indicate if he wish SCAO office to continue holding this kind of supporting and consulting meeting with Canadian Authorities to reflect the right views of Sudanese-Canadian in issues related to Sudan, and take advantage of this relationships to gain all possible support for our local social programs. Considering that all social goals in Canada are supported / promoted by political figures.
- THE FLOOR IS YOURS, and your opinion is very important in this matter, so please do not hold it back, and do not put you views in a grey area. State it very clear YES to extend SCAO office mandate with/ or without limitation you think that the office has to consider. OR No scao office has to stop at this point and be replaced by a focus group.
- And finally, please forward your response to the all list so that a clear picture could be seen by all, and please feel free to re-send this letter to any one that is a member / entitle to be a member. We believe we covered any e-mail address that we have.

Thank you

SCAO OFFICE

PS. The suggested joint meeting moved from May 12 to Thursday May 6th due to the Senator schedule, and this feedback letter to the community for some reasons delayed in our basket. I got a call today (Wednesday May 5, 2004) about this changes, and mentioned to him that there is no way to catch-up with changes as SCAO, because we are behind in our communication regarding the feedback. I suggested to attend this meeting as a focus group and not as SCAO, I asked for the meeting agenda, and here they are as mentioned (To establish a list of views & concerns of Sudanese Canadian in the current Peace Process and after it get signed that Senator Mobina Jaffer could be able to address and discuss upon her visit with Sudanese government and other organization that involved). There fore if anyone interested to participate in this joint meeting with Southern Sudanese please feel free to pass me your name by today 7:00 so I could be able to pass your name for registration & name tack (you could call me at 825-0186)