

South Sudan Makes New Peace Offer to Sudan

Posted Monday, July 23rd, 2012

South Sudan has unveiled proposals to advance peace talks with Sudan, including billions of dollars in financial concessions.

The two countries went to the brink of war in April, after failing to resolve issues on borders, oil and citizenship stemming from the South's independence last year.

South Sudan says it would pay more than previously offered to use Sudan's oil pipelines, needed to export southern oil. It also offered greater debt forgiveness and a cash transfer of more than \$3 billion.

South Sudan also proposed the United Nations and African Union organize a referendum by the end of this year to determine the status of the contested Abyei region.

Disputes over who was eligible to vote led to cancellation of a planned Abyei referendum in early 2011.

South Sudanese negotiators say they presented their offer to Sudan and African Union mediators late Sunday in Addis Ababa. There was no immediate response from Sudan.

South Sudan said Monday that its proposal aims to achieve "permanent and lasting peace, security and prosperity for both nations."

Multiple rounds of AU-hosted talks between the two Sudans have produced almost no progress.