



Our Ref:

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LET US WORK FOR PEACE AND REBUILD WHAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED

**THE STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH SUDANESE CHURCH ON THE EVE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AND SPLM/A IN OPPOSITION**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, FEBURARY 10, 2014

“Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart ”I said, ‘why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ graves, lies in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire” (Nehemiah 2:2-3)

PREAMBLE

We the delegation of South Sudanese Church under the umbrella of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), compelled by the Gospel imperative for peace and justice, and motivated by sincere and deep love for our beloved country, South Sudan, came to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to accompany the Peace talks with prayers and to deliver a prophetic message of peace from God and from the people of South Sudan to the two conflicting parties and the IGAD mediators. This message is simple: we want comprehensive peace in our beloved land. We are tired of war!

The church in South Sudan appreciates the agreements reached on the cessations of hostilities and the modalities on the release of the political detainees and which cover the following:

- Protection of civilians
- Humanitarian aid
- Negative propaganda
- Stoppage of the war

And the church calls for full implementation of the above agreed points in good faith and encourages urgent and vigilant monitoring by IGAD.

The church also appreciates the efforts exerted by the International Community, the African Union, IGAD and friends of IGAD and other stakeholders in working for a peaceful South Sudan.

Pertinent issues on the conflict:

Following the outbreak of political crisis and violence on 15th December 2013, the South Sudanese church has issued the following statements:

1. "Message of Peace and Reconciliation" dated 17th December 2013 from South Sudan Council of Churches.
2. "Let my people live in peace and harmony" dated 11th January 2014 from South Sudan Council of Churches;
3. "Let us Re-found our nation on a new covenant" from Catholic Church dated 31st January 2014;
4. "Communiqué of the Emergency House of Bishops meeting" from Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan dated 31st January 2014.

From these papers a number of issues the church believes are pertinent on conflict were mentioned. They include:

- Governance and democratic institutions/political parties
- Reform of organized forces
- Constitution
- Education
- Accountability
- Resource allocation and resource management
- Truth, Reconciliation and Healing
- Inclusive dialogue to seek honest views from all sectors of society in order that the people own the process and the expected agreement.

In line with inclusive dialogue process, the church requests to accompany the two parties with Chaplaincy services and to give advice where necessary. We believe that by addressing the above issues during these peace talks, we will reach peaceful settlement of the conflict in South Sudan and we will all live in peace and harmony in our beloved country.

We all need to work hard to nourish the notion that we are one nation, sharing one identity, rich in culture, blessed by diversity, which is to be celebrated, not resented. Let us, therefore, endeavor to build our nation on strong foundation of truth, justice, reconciliation, diversity and peace. These noble values are drawn from the Gospel and they can provide a solid national foundation for our new republic.

Conclusion

In our prophetic ministry, we want to see **a just and peaceful South Sudan inspired and transformed by Godly values** towards **holistic and equitable development** for all people. To this end, we are committed and we shall not rest until we achieve it with the help of God.

Signed:

1. Bishop Enock Tombe Stephen, Episcopal Church of South Sudan/Sudan
2. Bishop Dr. Isaiah Majok Dau, Sudan Pentecostal Church
3. Bishop Arkangelo Wani Lemi, African Inland Church
4. Rev, Tut Kony Nyang, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church
5. Rev. Peter Gai Lual, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan/Sudan
6. Mr. Isaac Kunguru Kenyi, Catholic Church of South Sudan
7. Bishop Michael Taban Toro, Chairman, South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
8. Rev. Mark Akec Cien, Acting General Secretary of SSCC

Staff:

Mrs. Agnes Wasuk Sarafino, Women Program SSCC

Mrs. Gladys Dommy Mananyu, Justice and Peace SSCC

Mr. Jim Long John, Justice and Peace SSCBC

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