

مجمع الكنيسة الأسقفية السودانية

Province of Episcopal Church of the Sudan

Office of the Archbishop

P.O. Box 110, Juba, Sudan
Tel: + 211 (0) 912 299 275
+ 211 (0) 928 406 072



Email: archbishopdanieldeng@yahoo.com
archbishopdaniel@gmail.com
ecsprovince@hotmail.com

3rd January 2014

Communique from The Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan to Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Reverend Dr Justin Welby

Dear Archbishop Justin,

I am writing this letter to update you about the situation in the Republic of South Sudan. As you have already know that on 15 December 2013 a heavy fighting broke out in Juba between the presidential guards and soldiers loyal to the former Vice President Dr Reik Machar, the incident that took us by surprise and resulted into the lost thousands of lives.

Since then the fighting has spread to some parts of the ten states of the newsiest country, particularly in the Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States. In Juba, over 500 people are feared dead and thousands are displaced. Although the situation in Juba is calmer now and is full control of the government, Bor, the capital city of the Jonglie state was totally destroyed. Many people lost their lives, although we cannot give a figure as we still yet are gathering more information, ten of thousands of the internal displaced people fled Bor across the River Nile to a small village called Awerial for safety. I myself and the Head of SUDRA (our Church local Relief and Rehabilitation Agency) visited the area and met over 75 thousands people (and more are still coming) mainly women and Children, some occupying churches, schools and other living under trees. The situation is more disparate as there is no clean water to drink, little food to eat. No good sanitation and lack of health facilitates. Some crossed to Juba and others are still living in bushes without food or shelter. Bor has been occupied by 35 thousands Lou Nuer militias who are threatening to march to Juba. We are concerned and afraid of more lost of lives because of the fighting there as most of these militias are civilians not professional armies who were mobilised by their leaders to wage war against their own nation and people.

In Malakal, the capital of the Upper Nile state, we received incredible report of total destruction and looting of the town with thousands of people displaced and hundreds of lives lost. Although the town is in the government control, the fighting still raging on outside the city. Most of the people in Malakal are displaced to various areas and living in the

bushes but as the situation is getting calmer some are beginning to return to the town. We are still gathering more information. Bentiu, the capital of the Unity state where the Oil Fields are has witnessed the worse fighting. Ten of thousands of people were displaced and hundreds more deaths. The town is in full control of the rebelling soldiers of Dr Reik Machar. We are unable to verify some casualties and get more information, may be UN will provide us with more update of the situation there. In a town called Akobo, where the UN compound was stormed by the rebelling soldiers of Dr Reiek Machar, some Dinka displaced people were killed including two UN soldiers (UN might have more information of the situation in Akobo).

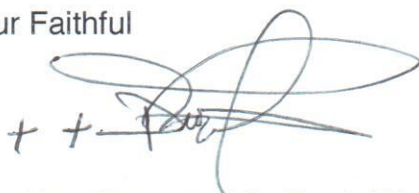
I have formed an Emergency Crisis Committee (ECC) under the chairmanship of Bishop of Bor Rubben Akudit and comprising of ECSS&S head of departments of Health, Education, Mother Union, University and Youth to survey the crisis and make detail programme of emergency support for the needy people and gather more accurate information about the situation in the country. We thank God that Bishop Ruben Akudit has been rescued by the government soldiers and he is now with us in Juba. Also the assistant Bishop of Bentiu the Rt Revd John Gatak is also with us in Juba. Our worry now is the Rt Rev. Hilary Garang and his family who are trapped inside Malakal town. We pray for God's protection upon him and his family. We will update you with more information. In the mean time, I am so grateful of the IGAD that has taken initiative to mediate between the two warring parties. All the Churches together are also working hard with good well wishers to try to mediate peace and end the conflict.

Therefore, as Head of the Anglican Communion, I urge you to appeal on our behalf to the rest of the Anglican communion partners to pray for us and lobby your governments to come in to end this senseless war. The crisis begin as a political struggle within the SPLM party, but it turned into military struggle which later on took the dimension of ethnic problem. And we as the church are deeply concerned and worried that if the situation is not contained it will lead into chaos which will be uncontrollable. Also we are worried that the fighting may turned into genocide or ethnic cleansing. We still don't know how the situation may evolved in the next twenty four hours, days, weeks and months ahead of us. Also do appeal to some charitable Organisations and agencies to please, help alleviate the affected people as some of them are now dying of hunger, diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria particularly the children, although there are some NGOs present providing some assistance, the humanitarian crisis has reached a breaking point. We will update you accordingly.

Please, do pray for us and also asked the international communities to pressure the two sides to immediately end the fighting and stop the war but resolve the problem through dialogue and peaceful means.

Thank You and Happy New Year 2014.

Your Faithful

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel', with a large, stylized flourish above it. To the left of the signature are two small '+' symbols.

The Most Reverend Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak
The Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan
and Bishop of Juba Diocese, South Sudan