



Canadian Ecumenical
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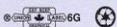
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29 January 2014

Rev. Mark Akec Cien
Acting General Secretary
South Sudan Council of Churches
scc_juba@yahoo.com

Dear Rev. Mark Akec Cien:

On behalf of KAIROS and our member institutions, I am writing to express our deepest, most heartfelt concern for the people of South Sudan in these difficult days of violence and conflict. We have you in our prayers – prayers for peace, harmony and reconciliation in your new nation.

We condemn attacks on both sides that have left over 1,000 people dead and over 200,000 displaced since the violence began last month. It is very troubling in particular to hear reports of pastors and church leaders being among those who have been targeted and killed in the violence.

As people of faith, we are people of hope. Your ecumenical call for peace of December 17 is clearly grounded in a hopeful vision of a strong and united South Sudan, rich in its ethnic and cultural diversity. KAIROS is cautiously optimistic that last week's ceasefire agreement between the opposing sides will stem the violence and create space for broader dialogue. As KAIROS, we commit to spreading your messages of peace, hope and reconciliation to all Canadians. We have called on the Government of Canada to play a leadership role in international efforts to help foster peace in South Sudan.

KAIROS is particularly hopeful that the women of South Sudan will play a key role in peace-building. As you know, KAIROS has provided support through the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) to re-establish a National Women's Programme within the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). Peace-building will not be possible without the full participation of women in the process.

We stand in solidarity with the South Sudanese people, and continue to hold you and your churches in our prayers.

Blessings,

Jennifer Henry
Executive Director