



October 4, 2010

Sudan: Peace in the Balance, Oct. 5, 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., EDT. Live on streaming video at <mms://streaming.nd.edu/sudan>.

In January 2011, southern Sudan will hold a referendum on independence from Sudan. Will this lead to peace or new violence and instability? In their main public event while in the United States with other religious leaders advocating for constructive U.S. and UN engagement, three representatives of the Catholic Bishops of Sudan will speak at the University of Notre Dame:

Bishop Paride Taban, Bishop Emeritus of Torit

Bishop Daniel Adwok Marko Kur, Auxiliary Bishop of Khartoum

John Ashworth, Acting Director of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute in South Africa

This event is sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Center for Civil and Human Rights, Center for Social Concerns, Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies & Solidarity, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Program in Catholic Social Tradition, and Mendoza College of Business; Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace.

The Church's Wider Campaign for Peace in Sudan

The Catholic Church in Sudan, with the assistance of Catholic Relief Services and other Caritas agencies, has intensified its long-standing peacebuilding efforts as the referendum approaches. The Sudanese bishops issued a major statement on the referendum in July, which can be found, along with other statements, at: <http://cpn.nd.edu/conflicts-and-the-role-of-the-church/other-conflicts/sudan/>

With the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and CRS, the Sudanese Bishops' Conference has launched a campaign: [**Change Your Heart, Change the World: Reflections for 101 Days of Prayer towards a Peaceful Referendum in Sudan**](#). The USCCB and CRS have also launched a [**Peace in Sudan initiative**](#) asking Catholics to [**Pray, Learn, Advocate,**](#) and [**Give**](#) to promote a peaceful transition in Sudan. Information on both initiatives can be found at <http://peaceinsudan.crs.org/>. For the USCCB's advocacy efforts on Sudan see: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/callafrica/sudan.shtml>.

Pax Christi Issues New Report on Sudan Peace Agreement

IKV Pax Christi has just issued its second CPA Alert: The State of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (September 2010). This report concludes that "the holding of a free and fair referendum is the centerpiece of the CPA [Comprehensive Peace Agreement] and must therefore be the over-riding priority of policy making and enactment for all stakeholders, including the Sudanese governments, political parties and civil society, and the international community." The full report is available at: <http://www.ikvpaxchristi.nl/files/Documenten/AF%20Sudan/CPA%20Alert2.pdf>.

The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) is a voluntary network of practitioners, academics, clergy and laity from around the world which seeks to enhance the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding, especially at the local level. The CPN aims to deepen bonds of solidarity among Catholic peacebuilders, share and analyze "best practices," expand the peacebuilding capacity of the Church in areas of conflict, and encourage the further development of a theology of a just peace. While it is a Catholic network, the CPN believes that authentic and effective Catholic peacebuilding involves dialogue and collaboration with those of other religious traditions and all those committed to building a more just and peaceful world.

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