



Our Ref:



Your Ref:

LUSAKA, 17th August 2017.

“The Lord said to Paul by a vision in the night: Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent. Because I am with you and no-one will assault you to harm you.” (Acts 18:9).

We, the Heads of the Churches of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), meeting in Lusaka, Zambia between 15th and 17th August 2017, have reflected on the war and violent conflicts that continue to plague our young nation, bringing untold suffering to our men, women, elderly and children. Death, displacement, hunger and impoverishment have brought our people to their knees and they are deeply tired of this unbearable situation. The parties to the conflicts appear not closer to a resolution, despite frameworks and signed agreements, risking total destruction of our beautiful land. We are conscious that the Regional and International Community are seeking to encourage Peace, through the current ARCISS Revitalisation process. Conflicting interests risk undermining these very efforts.

It is our collective moral responsibility to stop the violence and prevent the misuse of power and arms. The war must end! National interests and the interests of the people of South Sudan must be put first, arms must be laid down and those within and around South Sudan who support violence must stop fanning the flames.

We urge our people to stand and denounce negative tribal and political inclinations and to maintain a common moral and religious identity as Christians and people of all faiths. We appeal to you to resist the temptation of being pulled towards divided and negative paths and stand together for peace! We call upon you all as people of integrity to seek the path of dialogue, forgiveness and reconciliation.

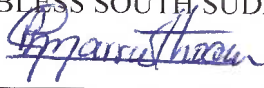
Take courage, where you walk towards each other, there is always hope, for after the night the morning will always break. We believe that if all the people of South Sudan exert the same efforts towards peace, we can have it! Words not bullets must resolve our problems. No-one can benefit from this violence, so we urge you to be witnesses of peace.

Arising in us as a renewed sense of responsibility, conviction and determination to stand up and deny ourselves, we the Church commit to resisting the temptations of division and ambitions. We are determined to be salt and give the flavour of Christ's Love to all the people of South Sudan no matter their Social and Political standings.

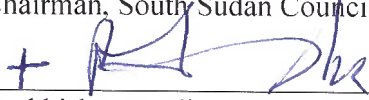
We resolve to stand, speak and work together for peace through the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) Action Plan for Peace (APP). We continue to express our prophetic voice, as we listen to and are guided by the Holy Spirit. We reach out to all the Leaders without seeking popularity or favour, acting to remind them of their duties to protect life.

We seek to pursue a vision that will bring our people out of the desert of this violence to an oasis of Peace where all the fragmented people of South Sudan will seek a vibrant and cohesive nation, that is ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION and ONE SOUTH SUDAN.

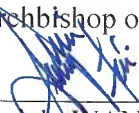
O GOD BLESS SOUTH SUDAN.



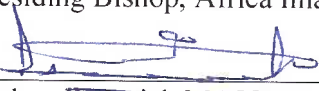
Rt. Rev. Moderator Peter GALLUAL
Chairman, South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC).



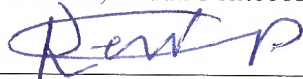
Archbishop Paulino LUKUDU LORO
Metropolitan Archbishop of JUBA, Catholic Church.



Bishop Dr Arkanjelo WANI LEMI
Presiding Bishop, Africa Inland Church (AIC).



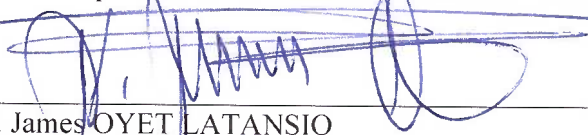
Bishop Dr Isaiah MAJOK DAU
General Overseer, Sudan Pentecostal Church (SPC).



Rt. Rev. Moderator James PAR TAP
Moderator, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC).



Archbishop Peter MUNDE YACOUB
Archbishop of the ECSS Internal Province of Western Equatoria



Fr. James OYET LATANSIO
General Secretary, South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)

