



THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MESSAGE OF PEACE

From: The Catholic Bishops of Sudan and South Sudan

To: The People of Sudan and South Sudan

We, the Catholic Bishops of Sudan and South Sudan, meeting in our Ordinary Plenary Assembly in Kobar – Khartoum (Sudan) between 7th and 11th November 2018, send you this message of Peace and Love from God our Father and the Merciful Lord Jesus Christ.

We are sending you this message in support of the recent peace efforts exerted by our political leaders and the opposition groups. We are happy that these efforts and the support of the regional and international leaders have culminated in the signing of the revitalized peace agreement on 12th September 2018.

We are greatly encouraged by the peace celebrations we had in Juba, on Wednesday, 31st October 2018. That event was definitely a momentous achievement for all the people of South Sudan. It is one more sign of how South Sudanese can resolve their differences in a peaceful manner. This is the kind of unity and resilience which we should all be working hard to achieve.

We laud and congratulate all those who have taken active part in bringing about this peace agreement. We consider this peace agreement very important however imperfect it may be. We support this agreement and want to see that the parties to the agreement follow their commitments in all the stages of implementation so that a sustainable peace may return to our suffering people. We continue to pray that the Lord may seal this peace agreement with his own love and forgiveness.

We want to assure you that the Catholic Church is for peace. We have been praying and working hard to bring about a lasting peace to the country. Therefore, since we want all sons and daughters of South Sudan to be treated with love, dignity and respect, we call on the government and those who have not yet signed the peace agreement to continue the negotiations so that the whole country may enjoy a genuine peace.

We have noted with deep relief that there are similar peace efforts on the way to resolve the wars and other political problems in Sudan. We encourage the President of South Sudan H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit in his willingness to mediate the peace process between the government of Sudan and the armed opposition groups in Sudan. This is a good gesture of exchange. It cannot be overstressed that the people of Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile have suffered much and for a long time. We support every effort to bring about stability and peace in these troubled areas of Sudan so that all corners of Sudan can also enjoy peace and prosperity.

We want to appeal to our people in Sudan and South Sudan (*including those in diaspora*) that true peace can only be built by citizens like you. You have a vital role to work for peace in the way you think, talk and act. We appeal to you to tune down your unhelpful rhetoric on social media which do sometimes mount to insults and incitement of hatred. We call on each one of you to avoid the negative pattern of tribalism which is now infesting our society. We want you, instead, to accept and build peace by embracing the spirit of love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

instead, to accept and build peace by embracing the spirit of love, forgiveness and reconciliation. There should be no more war in your minds, lips, houses and villages. Let us give this peace a chance by embracing each other as sons and daughters of one nation.

We, your pastors, are resolved to engaging you and all our political leaders in Sudan and South Sudan. We want them to do all they can to resolve the current harsh economic situations in the two sisterly countries in order to improve the living conditions of the people.

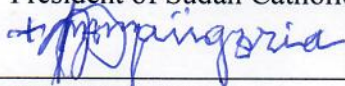
We will work with the other churches in issues of ecumenical dialogue. We will work with other faiths in the issues of interreligious dialogue so that all our efforts may pour into one goal; i.e. peace, unity, development and prosperity for all our people in Sudan and South Sudan.

We continue to pray and hope that lasting peace comes to our war torn countries.

Given in Khartoum (Sudan), this 12th day of November 2018



1. H.L. Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala
Bishop of Tombura/Yambi,
President of Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SCBC)



2. H.G. Michael Didi Adgum
Metropolitan Archbishop of Khartoum,
Vice President of Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SCBC)



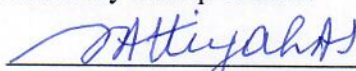
3. H.G. Paolino Lukudu Loro
Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba



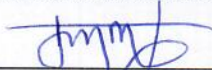
4. H.L. Erkolano Lodu Tombe
Bishop of Yei



5. H.L. Santo Loku Pio Doggale
Auxiliary bishop of Juba



6. Msgr. Thomas Oliha Attiyah, AJ
Apostolic Administrator of Torit



7. Rev. Fr. John Mathiang Machol
Diocesan Coordinator of Rumbek



8. Rev. Fr. Marko Mangu Udilio Ukanda
Diocesan Administrator of Wau

