



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**Communique of the Catholic Bishops of South Sudan Ecclesiastical Province to the
Government of National Unity and Opposition Groups in our Beloved Country**

27th January 2026

"Let us pursue what leads to peace and to building one another up" (Romans 14:19)

**To the Government of National Unity and
Opposition Groups in South Sudan.**

We the Catholic Bishops of South Sudan Ecclesiastical Province, in response to the deteriorating political, Security and humanitarian situation in our country, condemn in the strongest term the renewed fighting between the government forces, SPLA-IO and other armed opposition groups, particularly in in Jongle and Eastern Equatoria States. Last year 2025, we raised concerns twice on behalf of the suffering people of South Sudan to the political leaders. We are coming again with urgency to reiterate our appeal for dialogue, unity, peace and reconciliation in the Republic of South Sudan.

Again in July 2025, we called on all the political leaders not to ignore dialogue and we said "all these (conflicts in the country) are happening because genuine dialogue is being sidelined intentionally, while military action is wrongly embraced as a solution to addressing political and social differences. Thus, we asked our government and opposition leaders: "do you have this country and its people in your hearts or are you only concerned and obsessed with pursuit of power and wealth?"

During our annual plenary meeting in the Catholic Diocese of Malakal last November we urged all the parties to the peace agreement to work for the good of the suffering people in South Sudan when: "we call for the full implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) by all the parties to create confidence in the people and engage in sincere dialogue."

As Shepherds and leaders in this country, we are alarmed and surprised by the total disregard to the full implementation of the revitalized peace agreement. The growing discord within the Unity Government, attacks and counter attacks between the warring parties in many parts of the country is spreading rapidly causing displacements, hunger, and many other inhuman conditions. There is alarming increase in armed robbery of motorists and the common people even in the city of Juba and other parts of the country.

We are equally concerned by the issuing of wild messages in the social media, which amplify hate speech, misinformation and disinformation. The worst part of this kind of communication in social media is the promotion of tribal sentiments and incitement.



The Catholic Bishops of South Sudan condemn in particular, the alleged speech by Gen. Johnson Olony, the Deputy Chief of South Sudan Defense Forces (SSPDF) for Mobilization and Disarmament, calling for indiscriminate violence against civilians in Jonglei State. Directing forces to "spare no lives" is a direct call to genocide. We call on all the fighting forces not to heed to any directive that risks victimizing innocent civilians and pitting communities against each other.

We urge you all the leaders in the Unity Government and the non-signatories to the Revitalized Peace Agreement to stop war and embrace dialogue, listen to one another and to the people you claim to fight for their sake. The citizens are not properties, they are human beings and it will be good to know their pains, hunger for peace, and their desire to live in freedom. In the name of God we call out to you *"let us pursue what leads to peace and to building one another up"* (Romans 14:19). We shall not be tired of quoting the words of His Holiness Pope Francis who from heaven still tell you as the leaders of the people in South Sudan *"no more war, no more bloodshed, no more conflicts, no more violence and mutual recriminations about who is responsible for it, no more leaving your people a thirst for peace. No more destruction: It is time to build! Leave the time of war behind and let a time of peace dawn"* (Message of Pope Francis to the people of South Sudan 2023)

We call on all peace loving people not to lose hope in God *"a hope which will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us"*. Let us hold to prayers for this country. This country is more than any human desire, it's a home for a thousand of generations to come. Let us care for it and protect ourselves as long as God gives us a new day. We do not have other South Sudan to migrate to, so let's work for what unites us.

To all our partners, regional bodies and international community, the people of South Sudan are aware of your valuable contribution. You are our friends in deed and we urge you on behalf of the suffering people of our country not to grow tired of doing what is right for them.

We call upon our clergy, religious men and women and all people of good will to dedicate this time for special prayer for peace in our country. May Mary our Mother and Queen of Peace intercede for us.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of South Sudan.



H. E. Stephen Ameyu Martin Card. Mulla.

The Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba &

President of the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SSSCBC)

