



**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE  
KHOR KALTAN INCIDENT | 06-04-2026**

## **Executive Summary**

Following the tragic events of Saturday, 28 March 2026, at Khor Kaltan in Central Equatoria, Aweil the Federation of Aweil Community in Equatoria (FACE), in collaboration with the Parliamentary Caucus (APC), the Aweil Researchers and Academics Forum (ARAF), the Aweil Graduates Association (AGA), and the Aweil Youth Union (AYU), with technical support from the African Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building (ACCRPB), established the Khor Kaltan Response and Recovery Initiative (KKRRI).

The formation of KKRRI represented an immediate, community-driven response to a rapidly evolving humanitarian crisis. The initiative was operationalized on Monday 30 March 2026 following the incident, with a dual mandate:

- (i) To undertake fact-finding and verification of the incident,
- (ii) To coordinate emergency humanitarian support for victims.
- (iii) To organize Memorial Prayers for the souls of victims

A multidisciplinary team comprising researchers, community representatives, and volunteers was dispatched to the scene. Upon return, the team reported an alarming humanitarian situation characterized by multiple fatalities, a high number of critically injured individuals, and widespread loss of property. The lack of immediate medical infrastructure in the area exacerbated the severity of injuries, increasing mortality among those who might otherwise have survived.

In response, the Committee launched an urgent appeal for financial assistance through Aweil community networks, particularly leveraging social media platforms. This mobilization effort yielded significant contributions from Aweil community members worldwide, government officials, as well as from friends and well-wishers. While the intervention of the Red Cross provided essential support, it proved insufficient relative to the scale of the crisis.

Consequently, the Committee developed and implemented a structured response framework (Concept Note Annex 2), prioritizing medical evacuation, treatment, logistical coordination, and family support. Financial contributions amounting to (SSP 77,258,000) and (USD 108,100) were mobilized and deployed in accordance with the Concept Note as of today.

This preliminary report presents verified findings from the field, while acknowledging that further investigation is required to establish a comprehensive and definitive account of the incident.

## **1. Background and Context**

Khor Kaltan in Jebel Iraq has emerged in recent years as a significant artisanal gold mining and trading hub within Central Equatoria. The site attracts a diverse population of miners, traders, transporters, and informal business actors from across South Sudan and neighboring regions.

The economic activity at Khor Kaltan is structured around a weekly cycle, with peak trading occurring during the Sunday market. Traders typically arrive on Saturday evening, while miners from surrounding sites converge to exchange gold and purchase goods. This pattern creates a temporary concentration of both people and cash, making the area economically vibrant but also highly vulnerable to organized attacks.

Social organization within the mining site reflects broader communal identities, with miners and traders often grouping themselves into camps based on geographical or ethnic affiliations. While such arrangements facilitate mutual support, they also increase vulnerability during targeted attacks.

The absence of formal security arrangements, regulatory oversight, and emergency response infrastructure has contributed to the fragility of the site. These structural weaknesses created conditions under which the Khor Kaltan incident unfolded.

## **2. Methodology**

The findings presented in this report are based on a rapid field assessment conducted by the KKRRRI fact-finding team. The methodology included:

- Direct observation at the incident site
- Interviews with survivors, witnesses, and local residents
- Consultations with medical personnel and humanitarian responders
- Review of burial records and hospital reports
- Cross-verification of data from multiple sources

Given the urgency of the situation, the methodology prioritized speed and responsiveness. As such, the findings should be considered preliminary and subject to further verification.

## 2.0 Incident Injury Analysis: Khor Kaltan 28-3-2026

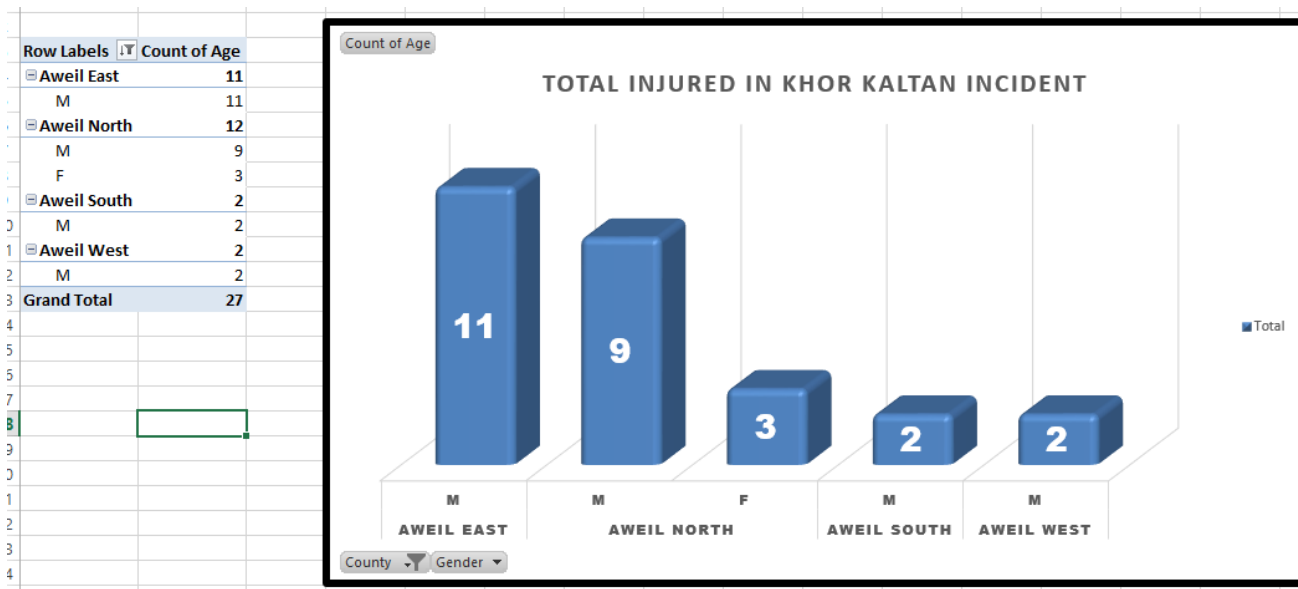
This report summarizes the total injuries recorded during the Khor Kaltan incident, categorized by the victims' state of origin, county and gender.

### 2.1 Key Data Breakdown

Total Reported Injuries: were 31 victims

1. Most Affected States: Northern Bahr El Ghazal State account for the vast majority of cases, with 27 injuries (representing 87% of the total).
2. Demographic Profile: Males (M) 28 individuals and Females (F) 3 individuals all from Aweil North county.

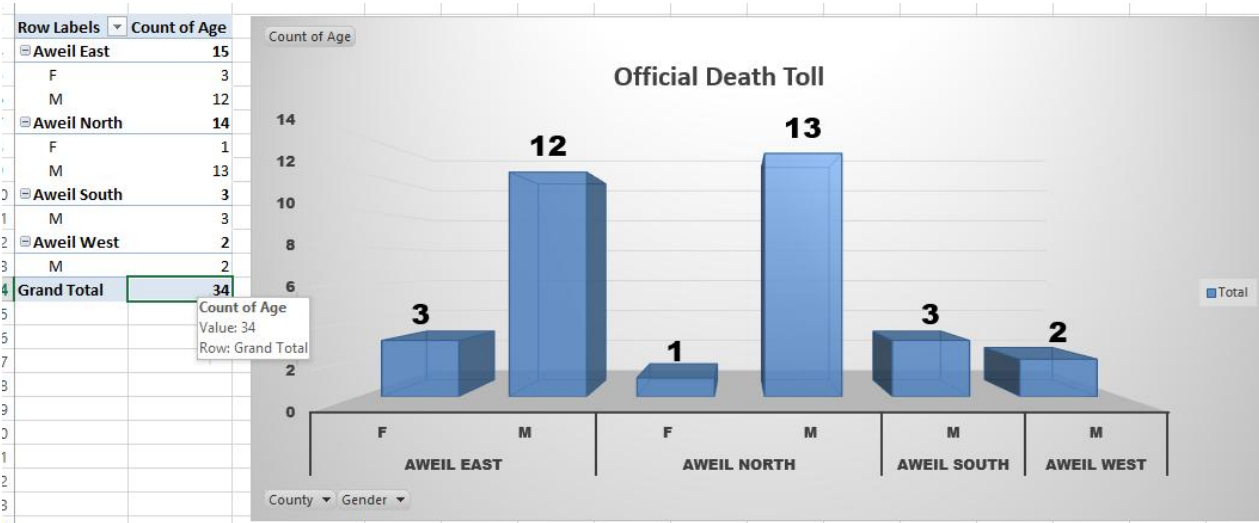
County	Male	Female	Total	%
Aweil East	11	0	11	40.74
Aweil North	9	3	12	44.40
Aweil South	2	0	2	7.407
Aweil West	2	0	2	7.407
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100</b>



### 3.0 Report on the Khor Kaltan Incident: Casualty & Fatality Analysis and Field Findings.

3.1 The confirmed death toll stands at 41, of whom 34 are from Aweil and 7 are from states of South Sudan corresponding to the SSPDF statement of 1 April 2026.

County	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Casualties
Aweil North	14	12	26
Aweil East	15	11	26
Aweil South	3	2	5
Aweil West	2	2	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>61</b>



### 3.2 Field Investigation Report of the Khor Kaltan Incident

The Committee deployed a specialized team to the scene to conduct a primary data collection and verification exercise.

#### 3.2.1 Demographic Profile (Gender)

The incident disproportionately affected the male population, though female casualties were recorded in the most impacted counties of Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

- Male Casualties: 54 (30 Deaths, 24 Injuries)
- Female Casualties: 7 (4 Deaths, 3 Injuries)

*Note: All female casualties were from Aweil East and Aweil North Counties.*

### **3.2.2 Key Findings & Verification**

- Data Sources: Findings are based on direct testimonies from eyewitnesses and the SSPDF commander in charge of the area.
- Confirmed Fatalities: The committee has officially confirmed 34 Fatalities from Aweil and 7 from other states.
- Burial Details: 17 victims from Aweil were laid to rest in a mass grave alongside other South Sudanese nationals at the site.
- Medical Status: There were 4 severe injuries, 1 died at Giada Military Hospital and other at Nile Kings Specialist and remain in critical condition and are currently receiving intensive medical care.

### **3.3 Loss of Property**

The economic impact of the incident was substantial. Victims lost:

- Cash intended for trade
- Gold and mining proceeds
- Personal belongings and equipment
- Merchandise brought for sale

The timing of the attack—coinciding with peak market activity—suggests a deliberate strategy to maximize economic gain through looting.

The Aweil camp was the most heavily targeted, resulting in disproportionate loss of life and property among its members. Many young miners, who had invested their savings in mining and trading activities, lost their entire livelihoods.

## **4. Nature and Pattern of the Attack**

4.1 Testimonies indicate that the attack was:

- Organized and coordinated
- Timed strategically to coincide with peak economic activity
- Targeted, with particular focus on specific camps

4.2 Witnesses reported that the attackers:

- Entered the area during the evening
- Opened fire indiscriminately
- Engaged in systematic looting
- Pursued fleeing victims

4.3 The pattern of the attack suggests prior knowledge of the site's structure, population distribution, and economic activity.

## **5. Alleged Perpetrators**

5.1 According to the majority of testimonies collected:

- The attackers are believed to be affiliated with SPLM-IO and NAS forces

5.2 Witnesses reported that:

- Some assailants were previously known to them as colleagues engaged in gold trading
- These individuals allegedly collaborated with armed elements
- Following the attack, they departed the area together

These claims remain allegations and require further independent investigation and verification. However, the SSPDF Spokesperson through its press statement confirmed that the attackers were forces affiliated to SPLM-IO and NAS.

## **6. Humanitarian Response**

### **6.1 Immediate Response**

The KKRRRI coordinated:

- Evacuation of injured individuals
- Facilitation of medical treatment
- Provision of logistical support to victims and families who voluntarily choose to relocate from Khor Kaltan and from Juba to Aweil.
- Communication with families and engagement with Aweil Community networks for fund mobilization and daily reporting of the progress.

## **6.2 Role of the Red Cross**

The Red Cross provided:

- Emergency medical assistance
- Transport support
- Limited humanitarian relief

However, the scale of the crisis exceeded available resources.

## **6.3 Community Mobilization**

The Aweil community demonstrated remarkable solidarity by:

- Mobilizing financial resources
- Supporting evacuation efforts
- Assisting bereaved families
- Organizing memorial prayers for the souls of its members

This response highlights the importance of community-based resilience mechanisms in crisis situations.

## **7. Key Challenges Identified**

- Absence of security adequate at mining sites
- Lack of emergency medical infrastructure
- Poor communication networks
- Delayed evacuation of injured victims
- Inadequate coordination mechanisms

## **8. Preliminary Analysis**

The Khor Kaltan incident reflects broader structural vulnerabilities, including:

- Informal and unregulated economic zones
- Weak state presence in remote areas
- High levels of mobility and anonymity among actors
- Economic incentives for organized criminal activity

The targeting of a specific community also raises concerns about potential identity-based vulnerabilities.

## **9. Recommendations**

### **9.1 Immediate**

- Provide sustained medical support to survivors
- Support burial and repatriation processes
- Offer psychosocial support to affected families
- Establish a memorial site at the mass graveyard in honour of the victims.

### **9.2 Medium-Term**

- Establish security arrangements at mining sites
- Improve emergency response infrastructure
- Strengthen coordination between communities and authorities

### **9.3 Long-Term**

- Regulate artisanal mining sectors
- Promote community-based conflict resolution mechanisms
- Strengthen early warning system

## **10. Conclusion**

The Khor Kaltan tragedy represents a profound loss—not only for the families directly affected but for the entire community. It underscores the urgent need for coordinated action to address both immediate humanitarian needs and underlying structural challenges.

While this report provides a preliminary account, it is imperative that a comprehensive and independent investigation be conducted to establish full accountability. Above all, this tragedy calls for unity, compassion, and a renewed commitment to peace

**ANNEX 1: PROPOSED MEMORIAL MONUMENT AT VICTIMS' MASS GRAVE YARD**



ANNEX 2:

## **Khor Kaltan Response and Recovery Initiative (KKRRI)**

**Location: Khor Kaltan in Jebel Iraq**

**Central Equatoria State, Juba**

**Date: 1 April, 2026**

### **1. Background and Context**

The tragic incident of 28 March in Khor Kaltan, Juba, which resulted in loss of lives and injuries, has deeply affected the Aweil community and the broader South Sudanese society. Beyond the immediate humanitarian consequences, the incident raises critical concerns regarding community safety, victim support, the need for accurate documentation, justice and accountability.

In response, the Federation of Aweil Community in Equatoria (FACE)—in collaboration with Aweil Parliamentary Caucus (APC), the Aweil Researchers and Academic Forum (ARAF), Aweil Graduates Association (AGA), Aweil Youth Union (AYU) and other organizations with technical support from the African Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building (ACCRPB)—proposes a coordinated intervention to address immediate needs while laying the foundation for accountability, healing, and long-term resilience.

### **2. Goal**

To provide a coordinated humanitarian, documentation, and recovery response that supports victims and their families, preserves an accurate record of the incident, seek justice and accountability, and promotes community healing and resilience.

### **3. Specific Objectives**

1. To ensure timely medical and psychosocial support for the wounded
2. To establish a credible and verifiable documentation of the incident
3. To organize dignified memorial and solidarity ceremonies
4. To provide structured support to families of the deceased and survivors
5. To strengthen coordination, transparency, and accountability in response effort

## **4. Program Components**

### **4.1 Medical and Psychosocial Support**

- Facilitate emergency and ongoing medical care for the injured
- Establish a medical support fund for treatment and rehabilitation
- Provide psychosocial counselling services to victims and families
- Maintain a registry of wounded individuals for follow-up

### **4.2 Documentation and Fact-Finding**

- Establish an independent documentation committee
- Compile verified data on casualties and injuries
- Collect testimonies and reconstruct a timeline of events

### **Develop a digital database managed by IT specialists**

- Produce preliminary and final reports for accountability and record

### **4.3 Memorial and Public Ceremony**

- Conduct an official public ceremony in honor of the victims
- Promote messages of unity, peace, and coexistence
- Explore establishment of a permanent memorial site

### **4.4 Family Support Mechanism**

- Provide immediate humanitarian assistance (cash, food, essential items)
- Establish a structured support package for:
  - Families of the deceased
  - Survivors with long-term injuries
  - Support education of affected children (scholarships)
- Initiate livelihood restoration programmes for vulnerable households

### **4.5 Coordination, Transparency, and IT Support**

- Form a central coordination committee representing key stakeholders
- Engage IT specialists to:

- Manage beneficiary and contribution databases
- Ensure transparency in resource tracking
- Provide regular public updates and reports

#### **4.6 Resource Mobilization**

- Launch a coordinated fundraising campaign
- Engage diaspora, development partners, and government institutions
- Maintain transparent financial reporting mechanisms

#### **4.7 Prevention and Policy Engagement**

- Develop recommendations for community security and early warning systems
- Engage relevant authorities to prevent recurrence
- Promote community dialogue and peacebuilding initiatives

### **5. Implementation Strategy**

#### **Phase 1 (Immediate: 0–2 Weeks)**

- Medical response and emergency support
- Formation of committees and launch of documentation
- Initial fundraising and community mobilization
- Memorial ceremonies

#### **Phase 2 (Short-Term: 2–8 Weeks)**

- Preliminary documentation report
- Expansion of family support programmes

#### **Phase 3 (Medium-Term: 2–6 Months)**

- Livelihood and education support
- Final documentation report
- Policy engagement and prevention initiatives

## **6. Expected Outcomes**

- Improved access to medical and psychosocial care for victims
- A credible and documented account of the incident
- Strengthened community solidarity and healing
- Sustained support for affected families
- Enhanced transparency and accountability in response efforts

## **7. Conclusion**

The Khor Kaltan tragedy calls for a response that goes beyond immediate relief to encompass dignity, accountability, and long-term recovery. This initiative provides a structured pathway for collective action, ensuring that victims are supported, their stories are preserved, and such incidents are prevented in the future.

## List of Injuries

	Name of the Victim	Gender	Age	State	County	Payam
1.	Deng Deng Achuil	M	29	NBGS	Aweil East	Wunlang
2.	Diing Bol	M	29	NBGS	Aweil East	Wunlang
3.	Lual Dau Geng	M	19	NBGS	Aweil East	Malual Bai
4.	Thiep Ngor Akok	M	42	NBGS	Aweil East	Yargot
5.	Lual Lual Lual Lual	M	19	NBGS	Aweil East	Mangar Tong
6.	Ateny Achien Majok	M	28	NBGS	Aweil East	Mangar Tong
7.	Kuol Dut Akol	M	20	NBGS	Aweil East	Baac
8.	Deng Garang Deng	M	26	NBGS	Aweil East	Baac
9.	Bol Akot Akot Deng	M	25	NBGS	Aweil East	Baac
10.	Khon Lual Kuol	M	19	NBGS	Aweil East	Baac
11.	Kuan Kuan Kuol	M	32	NBGS	Aweil East	Baac
12.	Abop Achuil Bol	F	35	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok East
13.	Aguot Aguot Aguot	M	28	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok East
14.	James Ngor Ngor Akot	M	38	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok East
15.	Gum Agany Aleu	M	40	NBGS	Aweil North	Ariath
16.	Akuel Deng Aleu	F	28	NBGS	Aweil North	Ariath
17.	Akot Malek Jongkor	M	19	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok West
18.	James Achuil Athian	M	50	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok West
19.	Garang Anyat Dut	M	21	NBGS	Aweil North	Malual Center
20.	Mathiang Bol Mathiang	M	32	NBGS	Aweil North	Ariath
21.	Garang Dut Aleu	M	29	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok Center
22.	Thiep Garang Pathedie	M	27	NBGS	Aweil North	Korok West
23.	Atong Deng Kuot	F	28	NBGS	Aweil North	Pamat
24.	Salva Lual Deng	M	38	NBGS	Aweil South	Tieraliet
25.	Moses Mathiang Jok	M	28	NBGS	Aweil South	Tieraliet
26.	Kuol Dut Deng	M	19	NBGS	Aweil West	Udhum
27.	Mathiang Yel Mathiang	M	28	NBGS	Aweil West	Udhum
28.	Diing Liai	M	20	Warrap	Gogriel West	Kuac South
29.	Ayuel Bol Bol	M	32	Warrap	Gogriel West	Panliet Awan
30.	James Agar Malei	M	37	Warrap	Tonj North	Kul-luit
31.	Deng Nyuol Arop	M	32	Warrap	Twic	Panyok

## List of Fatalities

	Name of the Victim	Gender	Age	State	County	Payam	
1.	Abuk Garang Deng	F	30	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
2.	Anyeng Anei	F	25	NBG	Aweil East	Mangar Tong	
3.	Aweng Angong	F	30	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
4.	Agorong Malong Deng	M	42	NBG	Aweil East	Madhol	
5.	Ater Deng Ater	M	28	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
6.	Athian Garang Deng	M	20	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
7.	Dau Madhieu Dau	M	35	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
8.	Piol Garang Piol	M	33	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
9.	Teng Deng Athian	M	18	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
10.	Bol Deng Tong	M	29	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
11.	Deng Dut Dut	M	30	NBG	Aweil East	Madhol	
12.	John Beek Athian	M	30	NBG	Aweil East	Mangar Tong	
13.	Lual Dut Akol	M	50	NBG	Aweil East	Baac	
14.	Mangar Deng Aleu	M	40	NBG	Aweil East	Mangar Tong	
15.	Yel Amet Mel	M	30	NBG	Aweil East	Madhol	
16.	Abop Achuil Bak	F	35	NBG	Aweil North	Korok East	
17.	Aguot Aguot Aguot	M	22	NBG	Aweil North	Korok East	
18.	Aher diing Aher	M	35	NBG	Aweil North	Korok West	
19.	Anei Atak Yuel	M	26	NBG	Aweil North	Korok West	
20.	Anei Garang Anei	M	39	NBG	Aweil North	Malual West	
21.	Atak Maduok Kuany	M	32	NBG	Aweil North	Korok East	
22.	Deng Tong Tong	M	27	NBG	Aweil North	Korok Centre	
23.	Dut Deng Akot	M	28	NBG	Aweil North	Korok West	
24.	Kuek Yak Kuek	M	15	NBG	Aweil North	Korok West	
25.	Marachdit/SSPDF	M	50	NBG	Aweil North	Korok Centre	
26.	Muoter Garang Kuany	M	26	NBG	Aweil North	Korok East	
27.	Ngor Machot Deng	M	26	NBG	Aweil North	Korok West	
28.	Nyang Atem Anei	M	31	NBG	Aweil North	Malual West	
29.	Tong Tong Malual	M	49	NBG	Aweil North	Korok West	
30.	Akot Akot	M	29	NBG	Aweil South	Tieraliet	
31.	Bol Awer Ngong	M	31	NBG	Aweil South	Tieraliet	
32.	Tito Amajuong Aleu/SSPDF	M	42	NBG	Aweil South	Tieraliet	
33.	Deng Mayen Dut	M	28	NBG	Aweil West	Ayat East	
34.	Ngor Thokluoi/SSPDF	M	30	NBG	Aweil West	Udhum	
35.	Matur	M	39	Lakes State	Cueibet	Cueibet	
36.	James Rymond	M	35	CE	Juba	Juba	
37.	Sarah	F	30	N/A	N/A	N/A	
38.	Rech Awan	M	34	Lakes State	Rumbek Centre	Rumbek Centre	
39.	Madoor Machar	M	32	Lakes State	Rumbek East	Rumbek East	
40.	Majur Marial Ater	M	30	Lakes State	Rumbek North	Maper Pakam	
41.	Atiol Mayar Ariath	M	29	Warrap	Twic	Turalei	

## Annex 3



# Khor Kaltan Response and Recovery Initiative (KKRRI).

## Program-Lineup and Incidence Report

06-04-2026 | Time: 8:00 Am | Venue: Mia Saba-Medan Silik Near Ayii University

Activity	Facilitator	Time
1. Arrival of Guests	Committee Concern	
2. Families of the Victims escorted to reserved seating	Protocol	
3. Presentation of findings of the Committee (KKRRI)	Africa Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building	
4. Candle-lighting	Identified Group	
<b>5. 09:30 – 10:30   Interfaith Prayers and Spiritual Reflections</b>		
6. Christian prayers	Catholic Church (ST.Kizito)	
7. Muslim prayers	Muslim	
<b>8. 10:30 – 14:00   Welcome Remarks and Messages of Solidarity</b>		
9. Representative of the Victims		
10. Aweil Business Association in Juba	Dau Akot Dau-Chairperson	
11. Aweil Students' Associations in Universities	Door Bul Athian	
12. Aweil Women's Representative		
13. Representative from the diaspora		
14. Chairperson of the Aweil Graduates Association (AGA)	Angelo Tong Dut-Chairperson	
15. Chairperson of the Aweil Youth Union (AYU)	Wol Deng Wol-Chairperson	
16. Aweil Researchers and Academics Forum (ARAF)	Dr. James Yach Garang-ED	
17. Chairperson of the Aweil Parliamentarians' Caucus (APC-TNLA)	Hon. Jacob Dau Kuol	
18. Community Leaders		
19. Chairperson and Founder of the African Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building (ACCRPB)	Hon. Dr. Dhieu Mathok Diing-Chairperson & Founder	
20. Chairperson of Organizing Committee and Deputy Chairperson of FACE	Hon. Stephen AJonga Akol	
21. Government Dignitaries		
25. Minister of Trade and Industry	Hon. Atong Kuol Manyang	

26. Governor of Central Equatoria State	H.E Emmanuel Adil Anthony	
26. Secretary General of the SPLM	Dr. Akol Paul Koordit	
28. Vice President and Chairperson for service Delivery cluster	H.E Hussien Abdelbagi Akol	
29. Vice President and Chairperson for Economic Cluster-Guest of Honor	H.E. Dr. James Wani Igga	Open
14:10-15:00   Cultural and Traditional Tribute		