



09<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## STATEMENT ON THE DETERIORATING POLITICAL, SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

We, the Head of Churches and leaders of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), stand together today specially during this period of lent, the period of reflection, and journey of faith, a call to repentance and turning to God. It has come when our nation stands at a critical crossroads, and we have come together as brothers and sisters in solidarity for peace.

The year 2025 was the worst, the year where our people lost trust for the repeated failure in the implementation of a genuine Peace in our Country by the political leaders and the few elites. In our Christmas message last year, we urge our leaders to stop all forms of war, because there is no victory in war. We urge them to embark on genuine and truthful dialogue in addressing all forms of conflict.

As Shepherds, we are deeply worried about the escalation in violence, particularly in Jonglei State and elsewhere in our Country, with intense fighting between government forces (SSPDF) and opposition groups (SPLA-IO), and this threaten a return to full-scale civil war. These Military actions are not necessary if only our leaders were to choose dialogue as a means of resolving political and social differences in our Country. This has now caused our country dearly, with widespread violent conflict, displacement of Population, breach of key security provision of the peace agreement, and risk of the total collapse of the R-ARCSS 2018.

We, therefore, remind our leaders, that our Country has bled for decades and our citizens have sacrificed dearly, battling with harsh economic challenges, killings and struggle to make ends meet and work for daily bread. Those, who mostly pay the price, are our women, mothers, children, girls and boys and elderly, and continue to bear all forms inhuman conditions.

Therefore, we call upon our President and leaders of R-TGoNU:

1. **To give peace a chance.** South Sudan have gone through decades of sacrifices and blood sheds for over Seventy (70) Years of pains, displacement, death and destructions. We encourage you leaders to do everything possible that leads to inclusive dialogue, true forgiveness, healing and reconciliation in our country.
2. At this Lenten season let this be an opportunity for the conversion of hearts and repentance, for the rejection of war through ceasing hostilities and embracing peace and moving our country forward. **Stop the ongoing Military operation in Jonglei**, especially the recent orders from SSPDF Military command to conduct what they refer to as second phase of operation in Akobo. This will only increase more human suffering and displacement to our own populations, humanitarian crisis and death.
3. **To lead the country towards stability**, by releasing all the political opponents with whatever political charges, those in detention facilities and those undergoing court trials in Juba included the suspended First Vice President Dr. Rick Machar in order to foster truthful and inclusive dialogue, paving way for healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace in our Country.

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4. **To bring to book all those who perpetrated the killings of the innocent civilians,** women, children, elderly including the county authorities of Abiemnom of Ruweng Administrative Area.

We, therefore, thank the region and international communities and leaders, for their continues support and continues journey with the people of South Sudan for peace. The people of South Sudan have suffered a lot, and they deserve to be given peace. We equally call for a solution to the desperate humanitarian situation by provision of humanitarian aid to the most affected by the conflict and floods.

**With prayers and steadfast hope,**

