

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

July 17, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Threat of Renewed Warfare in Southern Sudan

Dear Mr. President:

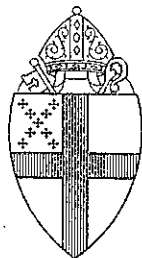
The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, meeting at our Church's General Convention in Anaheim, California, from July 7 to 18, 2009, consulted with the Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. The Archbishop leads four million Episcopalians in Sudan. He reported a rapidly deteriorating situation between northern and southern Sudan, with both sides moving heavy tanks towards the border, where numerous armed clashes have occurred over the last year. The hopes of peace raised by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) are rapidly dwindling as both sides prepare for war.

Enclosed is a copy of the Archbishop's appeal to the Episcopal Church's General Convention, describing the current crisis and recommending specific steps to address it. Enclosed also are resolutions adopted by our Convention, which commit our Church to action to help address this crisis in Sudan. A number of us have personally visited our church colleagues in southern Sudan and have witnessed first-hand the devastation that continues to plague Sudan.

We are grateful for your Administration's appointment of Special Envoy Scott Gration to address the ongoing Sudan crisis, including not only the humanitarian disaster in Darfur but the grave threats to peace posed by the failure to implement the CPA fully. The late June conference by the State Department with the parties to and guarantors of the CPA was an excellent step forward. That effort needs to be reinforced by close monitoring of the CPA by its guarantors, one of which is the United States.

We know that you are committed to peace in Sudan, as well as ending the violence in Darfur. We ask that you make full implementation of the CPA an even higher priority for your Administration, and that you and the Secretary of State become personally involved in salvaging it from its near collapse. In the next few months, strong steps are needed to stop the flow of

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weapons from China and elsewhere into Sudan, to force greater transparency and accountability in the sharing of oil revenue between north and south, and to help assure that the upcoming arbitral decision over the Abyei border dispute does not trigger a renewal of armed conflict in that critical oil-producing area.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) is the largest non-governmental organization in southern Sudan and has been working hard to help implement the CPA and mediate tribal and other armed disputes which have resulted in untold suffering. These ECS efforts complement efforts by US AID and other donors to help southern Sudan fulfill the promise of the CPA for both peace and for development. The ECS is often the first to respond to outbreaks of violence and the resulting displacement of thousands, as occurred in May 2008 in Abyei.

We ask that Special Envoy Gration meet with the Archbishop of Sudan at the earliest opportunity as well as with representatives of The Episcopal Church in our Office of Government Relations in the near future so that we can work with each other (and with other denominations) to restore the Comprehensive Peace Agreement before it's too late.

Please know that we continue to offer prayers for your leadership in bringing about peace in Sudan as well as the other nations which continue to suffer from wars and armed conflicts.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price, Jr.
Secretary of the House of Bishops

Written on behalf of the 96 bishops gathered at the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church on July 17, 2009.

Cc: The Honorable Hilary Clinton, Secretary of State
The Honorable Scott Gration, Special Envoy

Enclosures

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**Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan
Office of the Archbishop**

**Remarks of His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak,
Archbishop and Primate of the Province of the
Episcopal Church of the Sudan,
to the
General Convention of the
Episcopal Church of the United States of America**

July 2009 – Anaheim, California

Your Grace, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America,
My fellow bishops, priests, deacons and laity of the Church of God,
Brothers and sisters in Christ, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the entire congregation of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, and on my own behalf, I am humbled and honoured by your invitation to this convention and I greet you all in the precious name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to address this General Convention and to therefore cement the ever growing relationship between our churches on the sure foundation of mutual understanding, true partnership and above all the love of Jesus Christ our Lord who pardons all multitudes of sin.

I would like to take this opportunity to relate some of the difficulties facing my country in 2009; how my Church, the ECS, is working tirelessly with God's help to tackle them; and how these trials can be better faced by Sudanese Christians if they are effectively supported by overseas partners such as yourselves.

Over the past year I have undertaken major tours of Southern Sudan, covering almost all of Equatoria, Lakes State and Jonglei State. During these visits I have witnessed first hand the suffering of my people and the increasing fear of communities on the ground because of a situation of ever-increasing insecurity. In the Church's opinion, this is the biggest problem in Sudan today, and prevents any further material or economic development, as well as the free and fair elections desperately needed in February 2010 and the referendum on Southern secession scheduled for 2011.

Peoples in Western and Central Equatoria are being attacked, murdered and displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), rumoured to be supplied by people within Sudan. A large number of civilians in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes and Jonglei states are armed. The proliferation of modern weapons has caused traditional tribal conflicts over cattle ownership and grazing rights to increase and escalate into far bloodier warfare all over Southern Sudan – warfare that is now damaging the unity of the people and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) process as a whole.

We are urging the Episcopal Church of the United States of America to retain the peace of the Sudan as a top priority, working to prevent further genocide and assisting in the humanitarian effort to bring better living conditions to believers.

I am here today appealing to you not to forget the people of Sudan and I ask you to urge the United States' Government to do more for Sudan, before we witness another genocide which is our future fear. The problems facing Sudan at present are many and are as follows:

1. The Government of National Unity has failed to make unity attractive to the people of Southern Sudan
2. The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has rejected the results of the recent Population Census
3. The upcoming elections are already behind schedule and there are doubts whether they will actually take place.
4. There has been no referendum law passed to date, despite the provision in the interim Constitution of Southern Sudan (10 : 1) that the referendum law should be promulgated by the beginning of the third year of the Interim Period, that is, by 9th January 2008
5. There is still disagreement between the government in the South and in the North on the North-South border and Abyei Protocol issues.
6. Without trying to minimise the humanitarian tragedy in Darfur, the international community has, in recent years, concentrated almost exclusively on Darfur whilst ignoring the problems and deaths of thousands more people in Southern Sudan. The focus must shift back to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). If the CPA fails in Sudan, there will certainly be no peace in Darfur either.
7. Within Southern Sudan, militia and tribesmen are being re-armed by unknown groups in order to destabilise Southern Sudan and make it appear un-governable.

According to the Human Rights Report released in June 2009, arbitrary arrest and detention by the National Intelligence Security Service (NISS) military or police continues to be widely spread in all areas of Sudan, and is often linked to other serious human rights violations, such as incommunicado detention, ill treatment, torture or detention in un-official places. As UNMIS and UMAMID Human Rights Officers have no access to most places of detention, the exact figure of those detained is impossible to verify.

Regarding the rearming of militia groups and tribesmen and their subsequent fighting, the only conclusion one can draw is that these are ancient disputes that are being deliberately stirred up into something much more damaging for the local people and the stability of our country as a whole. Who is doing this is still largely unknown, but it is evident from local reports received through the Church network that the arms smuggling, re-armament and incitement of tribal violence is being carried out by enemies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This view has since been publicly shared by the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, in speeches at the SPLA Day celebrations on 26th May and at the recent opening of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly on 15th June, at which I prayed for the Government of Sudan.

During Easter 2009, I visited Jonglei State, travelling from Bor right up to Ayod in the Nuer lands. Although I and the vast majority of the party I was travelling with are Dinka, we were welcomed, and I as a Church leader spoke about love and peace between

tribes. On my return to Juba I was informed that following the visit all cattle raiding and violence in the Ayod area has ceased. I take this as proof that the Church is one of the most effective ground-level players in the peace process and as proof that our message of love and reconciliation is one that is most effective in peace building amongst the tribes of Southern Sudan.

The Church has a presence in almost all small villages in the South, coverage unmatched by any organisation, including the Government of Southern Sudan. Following the Jonglei visit I made a passionate and heartfelt appeal to those governments and organisations that form Sudan's international diplomatic and donor community, in particular the United Nations agencies and the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Netherlands, all of which have a major presence in Southern Sudan and are guarantor signatories of the CPA.

As a guarantor, the US Government has a duty to prevent Sudan from returning to war, and I urge this convention to increase your advocacy on behalf of the Sudanese people to President Obama, Secretary Clinton and Special Envoy Gration. We need to let those in the west who support the cause of peace, freedom and justice for Sudan know that the churches are key partners in the work of peace-building on the ground.

This is a problem that requires an ecumenical approach – all churches need to be supported by international stakeholders in the CPA to be tools of peace work. With the ECS community-level network that surpasses any other, we need to be empowered to spread peace in our land as I have been doing in Jonglei State last month. We must teach our people that they are part of much bigger politics of which they are unaware, but which they are destabilising. They must also be empowered to make free and fair democratic choices in the upcoming elections and referendum.

My worry, and the fear of many thousands of people I have spoken to across Southern Sudan in the past year, is that the current escalating violence will add to the current disputes between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) over the North-South border and the Abyei Protocol, that are already threatening to cause the CPA to collapse. If the CPA is not guaranteed now, war can start again all too quickly, during which a return to peace will be incredibly difficult, the Sudanese people will be further devastated and the whole region will be destabilised.

If this and other countries are guarantors of the CPA, then why is the international community allowing this violence to continue? I beseech you to act now to prevent it and protect the peace of my people.

In his letter to the Romans, Chapter 12, St. Paul appeals to the people "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think", but to act together with others: "so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another". We need to remember that though we come from completely different countries and cultures, we are still one people in the body of Christ – the perfect partnership – and we are all working for the same body – the one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

St. Paul also asks us to use the talents that we have in the service of God: "if prophesy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teachers, in his teaching" and so on. As churches we must recognise where our strengths are and concentrate on how

to strengthen the Church itself as a crucial institution in the fabric of a community. A community which in Sudan's case, has still so recently been torn apart by war.

St. Paul finally says that we should "never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit and serve the Lord". Let us take up this challenge together today. Through twenty one years of civil war, Sudanese Christians have never faltered in this duty and the ECS has been the fastest growing church in Africa since the year 2000. Whilst our people are full of zeal and the Holy Spirit, many lack any education, theological or otherwise.

My mission as Archbishop is the building of a firm, indigenous foundation for the Church and the nation. Christ said to St. Peter, "on this rock I will build my Church", and one of my goals is to leave ECS as a Church built upon the rock and sure foundation of educated, indigenous, trained people, both clerical and lay, who are honest in their business, ambassadors of peace and are trained in the faith as well as being filled with the spirit. I therefore ask for your help, in whatever way the Lord may allow.

I am hereby appealing to you, and the International Community to prevent the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) from collapsing.

I am appealing to you to strengthen the Episcopal Church of the Sudan to be able to give basic services to the returnees' communities in the Southern Sudan and the marginalised areas.

God bless Episcopal Church of America. God bless our partnership; and God bless the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Thank you.

The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak

Archbishop and Primate of the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

4 July 2009

* FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution: **A033**
Title: **Peace and Reconciliation in Southern Sudan**
Topic: **International Relations**
Committee: **09 - National and International Concerns**
House of Initial
Action: **Deputies**
Proposer: **Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice**
 Concerns

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention commends to Episcopalians the following recommendations of a joint delegation of bishops of The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that traveled to the Sudan in April 2008; and urges continued advocacy and prayer from all Episcopalians for peace with justice in the Sudan, specifically:

- (1) Renewed international commitment to the successful political implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement;
- (2) Increased and better-coordinated economic-development and investment efforts, both public and private, in Southern Sudan;
- (3) Internationally coordinated efforts to care for and resettle the several million refugees and persons who have been displaced internally as a consequence of the Sudan's long-running conflicts
- (4) Condemnation of all violence perpetrated against refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), specifically including the rape of women and girls in Darfur and elsewhere;and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church acknowledge the pleas of the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan that urgent action be taken by all concerned parties to ensure the faithful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to prevent the deteriorating situation in Sudan from escalating into full scale war, and be it further;

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge the United States Government to urgently request that nations who serve as guarantors of the CPA establish measures to hold parties to the CPA accountable for its fair and transparent implementation, including the fair resolution of border disputes, the equitable sharing of resources, and the carrying out of safe and fair elections, and to assure that non-compliance have consequences, and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge the United States and its international partners request that the United Nations Mission in Sudan continue peacekeeping duties that include monitoring the peace process and intervening in conflicts to prevent loss of life, violence, and widespread displacement.

* FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution: **D007**
Title: **Sudan Peace and TEC Partnership**
Topic: **Peace**
Committee: **08 - World Mission**
House of Initial Action: **Deputies**
Proposer: **Mr. Russell V Randle**

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention adopt the following objectives to guide our church's advocacy for peace in Sudan: (a) support for the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, settling the prior civil war between the north and south, (b) support for increased private investment for economic development in southern Sudan, as now permitted by U.S. law, (c) continued and increased U.S. government development assistance in southern Sudan and other areas affected by war in Sudan, and (d) an early end to hostilities in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, and assuring full access by humanitarian organizations to assist refugees; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge each diocese in The Episcopal Church (TEC) to consider, after careful consultation, entry into a Companion Diocese Relationship or other covenant-based link relationship with a diocese in the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) or with an ECS-approved Bible translation project, as a means (a) to strengthen the proclamation of the Gospel in both the TEC and ECS, and (b) to further the cause of peace in Sudan. Each TEC diocese is requested to report the results of such consideration by July 1, 2010 to the Executive Council for posting on appropriate TEC websites after review by Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request our Presiding Bishop to designate, after consultation with other interested denominations, a period of several weeks in 2010 as a Season of Prayer for peace in Sudan, where our churches are urged to include prayer for peace in Sudan in each public liturgy, and that such Season of Prayer culminate in a National Day of Prayer for peace in Sudan, including the celebration of relationships by TEC dioceses and churches with the ECS.

EXPLANATION

Sudan has been at war continuously since 1983. While the north-south Civil War concluded with the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) after two million people had perished and the church endured long and harsh persecution, vicious fighting broke out in Darfur in western Sudan in 2003, and continues, while armed conflict periodically erupts elsewhere in Sudan, threatening to undo the CPA or spread violence to eastern Sudan. Outside experts and Sudanese church leaders report that peace in Darfur and elsewhere in the Sudan depends very heavily on the full implementation of the CPA and the involvement of southern Sudan in helping to mediate a peace among the rest of the country. This resolution sets priorities for our church's governmental advocacy to bring about such peace.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) has been a tireless witness for the Gospel, for peace, and for peaceful development to aid all the people in Sudan. The ECS now reports four million members and twenty-seven dioceses; the people, clergy, and the church are robust Episcopalians whose witness for the Gospel and work for peace would be strengthened by partnerships with TEC dioceses, parishes, and

church-related organizations, such as Bible translation projects for tribal languages which do not yet have the full Bible in their mother tongue. This resolution encourages such partnerships. Understanding that prayer is an essential aspect of our work for peace, this resolution requests the Presiding Bishop to designate a period of several weeks as a period for public prayer for peace in Sudan, after consultation with other denominations such as the ELCA, which have indicated clear interest in joint work for peace in Sudan. Our Presiding Bishop has been a strong advocate of such work for peace in Sudan as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

Name	Signature	Diocese
W Michie Klusmeyer	W Michie Klusmeyer	WV
Peter James Lee	Peter James Lee	Virginia
Dean Elliott Wolfe	Dean Elliott Wolfe	KANSAS
Duncan M. Gray, III	Duncan M. Gray, III	MISSISSIPPI
MARK M. BECKWITH	Mark Beckwith	NEWARK
Jeffrey D. Lee	Jeffrey D. Lee	Chicago
Paul E Lambert	Paul E Lambert	DALLAS
Victor A. Scutlebury	Victor A. Scutlebury	Chicago
Michael B. Curry	Michael B. Curry	North Carolina
Lloyd Allan	Lloyd Allan	Honduras
John M. Kee Sloan	John M. Kee Sloan	ALABAMA
Michael G. Smith	Michael G. Smith	North Dakota
BARRY L. BEISNER	Barry L. Beisner	Northern Calif.
Todd Ousley	Todd Ousley	Eastern Michigan
William D. Persell	William D. Persell	Ohio
J. Jon Bruno	J. Jon Bruno	LOS ANGELES
Frank Brookhart	Frank Brookhart	
Frank Brookhart	Frank Brookhart	Montana
Steven A. Miller	Steven A. Miller	Milwaukee
Gregory H. Rickel	Gregory H. Rickel	OLYMPIA
William D. Gregg	William D. Gregg	North Carolina
Paul Marshall	Paul Marshall	Bethlehem (Pa)
Phil M. DUNCANIE	Phil M. DUNCANIE	Central Gulf Coast
James E. Curry	James E. Curry	CONNECTICUT
Otis Charles	OTIS CHARLES	Utah
Wilfredo Kears Ochs	Wilfredo Kears Ochs	Easterland
Barry R. Howe	Barry R. Howe	West Missouri