



American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
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.....connecting hopes and gifts.....

April 7th 2010

Dear Friends,

As April 10th draws closer and the long hoped for elections are in jeopardy, it is incumbent on us to pray fervently that peace will still prevail in the midst of the uncertainty and violence which surround the elections.

As we pray for peace and reconciliation, we should also remind ourselves that what precedes this event have been painstaking efforts by many to end the protracted suffering and civil conflict which has been the fate of our Sudanese sisters and brothers for nearly four decades. We should remind ourselves of the courage and perseverance that brought about the comprehensive peace agreement and the hopes that were attached to it. As we reflect on all of this, let our prayers also give thanks for these efforts and pray that people of faith and goodwill will not lose either if what ensues is further upheaval and suffering.

We are witnessing the withdrawal of opposition political parties from the elections, alleging that fraud and manipulation make for an invalid and illegitimate process. Credible election monitors are also leaving Sudan as their reason for being in Sudan is being undermined and their safety threatened. None of this bodes well for a peaceful and fair election. Yet we must hope and pray that a spirit of reconciliation might prevail and that the despair and disillusionment expressed by so many of the country's advocates for democracy can be replaced with renewed determination to find a pathway to a peaceful future. We might accompany this prayer with a prayer that our leaders and those of the international community act on a deep commitment to safeguard the peace process to which we are all committed. To do less betrays the moral leadership that we are called to provide.

It is in this season of resurrection and acting on the call of our Lord to be peacemakers that we pray for an end to the war and violence that has marked the history of Sudan for so many years.

Faithfully in Christ,

Richard Parkins
Executive Director