



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) Call for Action and Solidarity Message of Hope to the Church, People of Sudan, and the Returnees.

*For "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters that you do unto me..."  
(Matthew 25:40).*

South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) have been following with great concern the ongoing violence in the Republic of Sudan since its eruption on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, hence, with heavy hearts, we regret the loss of lives and the destruction of properties, and the occupation of some Church properties by armed groups who are party to conflict exposing the Church to become targets aerial bombardments and artillery attacks. We strongly condemn this disrespectful act that can happen to the house of God meant for prayers and worships. We call and demand for the immediate exit and withdrawal of all these forces from the Church compounds. We extend our sincere condolences to all families who have lost loved ones and extend comfort to those who have lost properties. We stand in solidarity with the Church and the people of the Sudan at this critical moment in their lives.

In solidarity with the Church, people in Sudan, and Returnees, we express our deepest concerns over the immense disruption and human rights abuses; we appeal for dialogue between all the stakeholders and urge the parties in the conflict to pursue peaceful means and options to resolve the crisis, initiate a permanent ceasefire process and open humanitarian corridors.

We call upon the International Community and the Region not to abandon the innocent and voiceless people of Sudan and the Returnees in their hopelessness and desperation, but also work towards building synergies for unity and return normalcy.

Our hearts and thoughts are with the returnees and refugees who are forced out of their homes by the violence. We pray that God will help them to settle peacefully in South Sudan and in other countries where they find refuge. We appreciate the efforts of citizens, people of goodwill and Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organizations, like the friends of the *Act Alliance (Action of Churches Together)* and the *Caritas Group* who have already responded to the needs of these conflict-affected people. However, we still call and urge our friends and other Humanitarian agencies to respond and assist these vulnerable people in recovering from the traumatic experiences and harsh conditions.

South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) supports all other peace initiatives and adds its voice to all the existing voices of the warring parties to put the welfare and interest of their citizens before their differences, stop the war, and embrace dialogue and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

