



Communique of the Jieng and Naath Elders on Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan

26th - 27th February 2026

We, the representatives of Jieng and Nuer (Naath) Elders, invited by the South Sudan Council of Churches, and having met in Juba at the premises of the Council of Churches from the 26th - 27th of February 2026 to deliberate on the urgent need to undertake peace and reconciliation at the grassroots.

Expressing our gratitude to the South Sudan Council of Churches for successfully planning and organizing this very important and timely two-day event.

Mindful of the reasons why we fought the war of liberation, which was fundamentally informed by the desire of our people and communities to enjoy a dignified living characterized by peace, harmony and prosperity.

Cognizant of our shared cultural norms, values, traditions and beliefs that were and remain fundamental when it comes to resolving differences among our communities.

Concerned by the current state of affairs in our country, which is characterized by vicious cycles of intra and inter-communal and political violence that together with climate induced factors result in the displacement of our people and communities;

Applauding ourselves for having spoken frankly and bravely about the need for peace and reconciliation at the grassroots and wholeheartedly endorse the South Sudan Council Churches' *Initiative for National Peace and Reconciliation*;

Having also considered the important role we can all play in order to advance and promote peace and unity among our peoples and communities;

Determined to restore peace and stability in our country through the unity of our people;



We resolved the following:

- 1) We call upon our government of national unity to prioritize peace, and we equally call upon all armed groups to cease hostilities
- 2) We urge our communities to embrace the culture of dialogue and cooperation as critical ways of strengthening trust and understanding.
- 3) We call upon our people and communities to take forgiveness and reconciliation as an essential basis for healing the past wounds.
- 4) We urge our communities to embrace peaceful coexistence by rejecting the use of hate speech and violence.
- 5) All should endeavor at all times to refrain from using stereotypes, abusive and divisive language that threaten to destroy peace and unity among our peoples and communities, as well as destroying national progress and stability.
- 6) All pledge to sensitize others about the destructive role of hate and violence speech in the society, especially the inherent corrosive nature when it comes to destruction of the social fabric, peace and unity.
- 7) The cooperation between the government at all levels with faith-based institutions, media, civil society and community-based organizations is an imperative that must be ensured and advanced at all times, as doing this is essential for the promotion and attainment of the security and interests of all South Sudanese.
- 8) There is an urgent need to continue to do public sensitization and awareness campaigns in the communities using radio talk shows. regarding the responsible use of social media and to hold accountable the violators of the same to the fullest extent of the law.
- 9) We call upon relevant government authorities to undertake civic education that aims at sensitizing the public on the rights, duties and obligations that are to be observed when it comes to exercising freedom of expression.



10) We recognize the need for all facets of our society to be involved in combating hate speech, and urge all relevant government authorities to leverage traditional conflict resolution mechanisms to help reduce tensions as soon as they arise.

11) We call upon the government to empower the traditional authority and allow it to effectively manage matters at the grassroots levels

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Sign.....27th Feb 2026

1. Hon. Charles Majak Aleer, Co-chair, Jieng Council of Elders (JCE)


Sign.....27th Feb 2026

2. Hon. Gen James Hoth Mai, Chairperson, Nuer Leadership Peace Forum (NLPF)

Witness:

Sign.....27th Feb 2026

3. The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Badi Arama – SSCC Chair of Board of Trustees and ECSS Primate

