

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan,

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TO ALL OUR FRIENDS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

Subject: Updates on Malakal and request for prayers.

on the situation in Malakal after the recent December attack/incident.

The Current Situation

The situation on the ground at the moment is covered with conflicting news. The Government is saying one thing and the rebels another. But all in all we have heard of a renewed fighting in the town; the rebels had launch new major offensive and as a result the Government forces withdrew from the town leaving the rebel in control. This was proceeded by huge propaganda that made many people panic and fled their homes and some went as far as Renk in hope to get towards Sudan borders if the situation get worse (if peace does not come back to the country) then they can take refuge in Sudan. Many people; families, especially from Dinka, Shuluk and other nationalities including Sudanese nationals went to that direction.

Up to date stead of Malakal.

This morning, the 20th of Jan. 2014, the Minister of Information, Upper Nile State stated that the rebels have started breaking into private homes in search for food and looting properties. He said that there are number of houses and shops were set on fire and lots of mismanagement is going on.

He said many people are beloved to have left the town and some few are still in their homes. There is still fear that fighting is going to get started because the Government forces are

preparing to retake the city from the hands of rebels. This would mean more suffering and death is going to take place and the nation is going to lose on both side it's men and women that died because of "POWER-STROGLE". None of us is unhappy with the continuation of violence. It is not only death nor politics but it is a manifestation of evil overtaking goodness, love and righteousness of God in our nation. We pray that God will immediately intervene and pour down up our leader the abundant of his grace and spirit in order to bring this nation together again.

Humanitarian Aid Affected also.

Furthermore, what we have observed is that, there has not been any chance given by this fighting to the NGOs operating in Malakal on the ground; national and international, to reach people who were affected by this war with basic needs, which made things difficult. Each one was on run for his/her lives for they could be targets on both sides, in this conflict. Some were still on holidays and they had to stay outside far from their duties in relation to the area of operations, in fear of their security in the town.

Now most of our population has felt to Renk. Some have come to Juba and then other parts of Equatorial cities to join their relative who have been there for year settle or because of work and Government assignment. But there are still some of our members also remaining in Malakal and they would need food and medicine as soon as the routes are opened. We have learned that the town has been recaptured by the Government though the reels are still denying it.

The Ferry which sank in Malakal.

The incident of the ferry that sank at the river, overloaded with too many people, who were fleeing an imminent fighting that was expected at the advancement of the rebels. Mostly women and children (families) happened to have been in the boat, while everybody was at run and the story has not come out clearly up to now. It is said: that "over two hundred got dawned except two children who were found alive!" We have tried to reach key people there to tell us how the incident took place and the causers, but could not go through because all telephones lines have been cut off from service in most parts of Upper Nile State. Up to this time, the network in Malakal is cut off and this might continue for sometimes! It had been an intended move, maybe, by the government, because of fear of quick spread of rumors and lies that keep fear and frustration strong in people. It keeps worsening the situation in the whole Country, as part of war monger that the both sides take advantage to keep war continue and cause panic among the citizens of the state and the country.

Contaminations and Outbreaks of Diseases Expected.

It has been noted with a lot of concern and cautions that the health conditions/ situation would not be good for sometimes in the areas that has conflicts in this crisis. They would, for sure, face many challenges in the years to come, I don't know, if it is not well handled with technical knowhow.

I repeat, Most parts of Greater Upper Nile, Bor, Bantiu, Malakal, Adaar, Kokpiot and Parieng where major battles and fighting took place in between the rebels and the government forces are expected to be facing many health problems this year even peace comes back to South Sudan. The reason is that many people died in big numbers, whether from the battles or from any other reason. Since the many wars that have taken place in Sudan no death of such kind has happened like this before...in large scales like this. It would be advisable for the world health bodies responsible in the country and internationally to keep watch for any outbreaks of diseases that can cause another tragedy in those areas. Many bodies have not yet been buried up to this time and that can cause contaminations. I think it would take time for these towns to be restore and used for within this year even if peace come back to the country.

The stead and conditions of Bor town after the Government recaptured it is said to be horrible and terrible. The Government is camping outside the town , a distant around the airport, 'Pakuaw" and this is because of fear of the smelts and seeing bodies that are all over the place. It is not healthy at all. It is horrible and dangerous for living there. So if even the peace is signed today it will take time for Bor to be inhabited soon otherwise it would need cleaning and proper care.

In Bantiu, one of our Archdeacons came back and has stated to organize the congregations and last Sunday he prayed with 45 people. His name is Rev. Simon Maliah, he is a Nuer and he is a good well organized person he needs support and help especially as this time of need I can give you his contact if you need his contact(cell).

I am planning to take my family abroad.

I am currently in Juba, working on migration documents for my family to see where I can settle them outside South Sudan, since the situation has not yet shown any change or improvement.

In Juba, I am sleeping on floor at Bishop Gwynne, with my kids. I am walking, searching and looking for "Good Samaritans" to offer me something to eat with my family. The Church is still looking for donors to come for our help. I determining to take my family to either Uganda or Kenya as did some of the other Church Leaders to settle them so that I can come back to concentrate on how to support our staff on the ground.

I am doing this because, If the two parties are not able to reach any deal up to this time; narrow their differences within this long week; not willing to compromise, to bring peace to their people, then I think, I need to do something immediately. If God would help me with long term funding for the family basic needs.... such as renting, school fee, medicine, up-keeping costs for the times ahead, then I can do that. Attached is the budget of cost of estimates, expected to cover up the up-keeping of my family expenses in either Kenya or Uganda

Final request is for prayers.

We know our leaders have been always far from God and their emptiness can be an obstacle to the development of this nation. They believe in God but deny his power to save or to guide them.

They live far away from the fear of God and that can make them lack wisdom and knowledge. And this is why this temptation had overtaken them seriously. Many people are dying on both sides .Many innocent people, especially on the side of rebels who were advancing towards Juba, have died in big numbers in hope overthrow the government by force in Juba. It is sad.

I think, if there will be a strong presence and massive intervention from wise regional and international neutral powers there will be peace coming quickly into our country. The reason is simply because the whole problem lies within the leadership circles and not the public. No Nuer or Dinka intended to kill one another though they had those bitter memories of hostilities of the past. One indicator is that the family of the late Dr. John Garang whom Riak Machar use to rivaled is today siding with him which no one would expect this to happen. But it is the case now. Mabior John Garang (Mabior Garang as the Media call him) is the spoke person of rebels group. There would be no viable South Sudan; whereby all South Sudanese people find themselves, regardless of what tribe they belonged or tongue they speak (as people of this land) without their lives, dignity, privileges, rights and property are not protected. Our politicians have failed us to let us overcome this because. They have kept us over years victims of divisions and tribal conflicts and affiliation. Unfortunately they don't end up there but they work hard to influence many of us as well as our neighbours and international friends, to take side with them in violence, instead of us to giving pressure from the legal and moral point of view to stop hatred and dividing tradition, since there are principles s of governing countries with their diversities.

Budget.(for bishop's resettlement in Uganda)..

The following budget is a six(6) month budget; what could be an estimated budget for the basic costs of needs for my family up-keep(Bp. Hilary Garang), after displacement from Malakal to re-

settle in Uganda. I have seen and heard that Uganda is cheaper and access than Kenya at the moment and nearer to Juba, especially when one has private car to help facilitate his movements.

As many might not know, I lost my vehicle during the Malakal first crisis and to get a new car it would need many efforts and parties to (be involved) contribute towards that because that would make easy get this funds and would make my movements and ministry easy (run smoothly) in between Sudan and Uganda during this time of test. One needs to move frequently, in between to visit these scattered flocks (Christians), in the company of other bishops and Archbishop Daniel to appeal for calm and so reconciliation as well as giving hope to them during this coated time of our national crisis.

The cost of a good car,(4-Wheel drive car/ Land-cruiser, hard-top) could be around \$ 80,000 (150.000ssps) in the country today.

S/No	Items	Qty	Unit cost \$	Total cost \$	Total cost \$
1	Renting(six month)	6	300	1,800	
2	Furniture		1,000	1,000	
	➤ Beds double	2			
	➤ Beds normal	4			
	➤ Mats	6			
	➤ Bed sheets	6			
	➤ Cupboards	2			
	➤ Chairs	4			
	➤ others	Var.			
3	Gas & cooking Unt.	Var.	150	150	
	Sub-total			2,950	2,950
4	Transport (Juba-Kampala/Couches	8	50	400	
	Vehicle (4 wh. drive.)		80,000	80,000	80,000
5	School fees(8/children				
	➤ University	3	3,000	9,000	
	➤ Secondary sch.	1	1,500	1,500	
	➤ Primary sch.	3	1,200	3,600	
	➤ Preschool	1	1,000	1,000	
	Sub-total			15,500	15,500
6	Communication	6	100	600	

7	English courses	3	100	300	
	Sub-total			900	900
8	Medical care	6	150	600	
9	Migration expense	8	50	400	
10	Feeding expenses	6	200	1,200	
	Sub-total			2,200	2.200
	Grand total				\$101,550

My appeal is all our friends to see how best they can help in supporting this budget as I am going to leave for Uganda next week to begin renting a house there for my family in Kampala.

May God continue to bless you as you continue to remember us in your prayers.

The Rt. Rev. Hilary Garang Deng.

Bishop of Diocese of Malakal, ECSS&S, C/O Box 110,

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Bishop's & MU Diocesan cars burnt during the first fighting in Malakal



Standing Committee Meeting, in Bor, Nov.2013.



Malakal after the first incident 24-27th Dec.2013.



Mother's Union vehicle after the fire got it burnt.