



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Committee on
International Justice
and Peace

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July 28, 2026

The Most Reverend Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala
Bishop of Tombura-Yambio
President of the Integral Human Development Commission
Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference
Wilson St., Yambio
South Sudan

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, I write to express our continued solidarity and fraternal unity with the bishops and faithful of South Sudan.

I read, with great concern, the Communiqué issued by the Catholic Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Juba, following their meeting, hosted from July 15-17th at the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Country Office. The U.S. Catholic community, through CRS, is privileged to have tangibly accompanied the bishops' prayerful reflections and deliberations amid such acute challenges. Be assured of our steadfast prayers for the South Sudanese people at this time of severe economic hardship, deadly violence, environmental and food insecurity, and contestation surrounding the country's Transitional Constitution framework.

We mourn with the South Sudanese people, afflicted by violence between local communities, as well as conflict between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces and opposition groups. We implore God, as ever, to bring justice, healing, and lasting peace to your land!

We are aware that the National Elections Commission in South Sudan has announced that voting will take place on December 22nd, 2026, during the Christmas season, which will make full democratic participation extremely difficult. We share the bishops' concern that "there is a looming transitional and constitutional crisis whether elections are conducted or not," and echo their call for comprehensive implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS). We likewise urge the international community to support a democratic election process characterized by clarity, transparency, and civic trust.

Through the intercession of Our Lady Queen of Peace, I pray that the aspirations of the people of South Sudan for peace, good governance, and flourishing—expressed with such hope in 2011—may be realized in abundance.



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In Christ,

The Most Reverend A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace