CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF TOMBURA - YAMBIO
Greater Western Equatoria
Republic of South Sudan

الكنيسة الكاثوليكية
مطرانية طمبرة - يامبيو
غرب الاستوائية الكبرى
جمهورية جنوب السودان

BISHOP'S OFFICE

PLEASE STOP FUELING THE A ALREADY DETERIORATED SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL PEACE WITH YOUR HOPELESS HATE SPEECH AND EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Appeal by Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio

August 26, 2021

"Do not use abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement or grace to those who hear you..."(Ephesians 4:29)

We are and have been so much complex insecurity which has been yielding so nasty deadly results with extremely huge loss of innocent lives, displacement, destructions of all types, hate, disunity, hunger and suffering of every kind! We cannot afford much more any longer, let us do all we can do better to stop the flow of violence.

I cannot hold back from what I am seeing and reading, than appealing for it to stop instantly! Today in our nation, social media is full of hate emotional expressions. On the social media such as WhatsApp, Tweeter, Facebook and so on, we read a lot of hate speeches. South Sudanese insult one another in the media and the world is looking at us as bunches of enemies inhabiting South Sudan. This mentality is against our unity and mutual co-existence. Inadequate national leadership influences in all spheres, failure of the justice system, unemployment, corruption and lack of internal cohesion in political parties and various institutions as causes of community and national violence in the country.

The trended violence taking place now in Western Equatoria which is breaking up our long admired peace traditions must never be destroyed at all and it must not be handled in isolation from the South Sudan national picture! All what I am seeing here is similar everywhere! So it is a national duty!

The inadequate security, poverty, lack of a peaceful culture and lack of integrity by us all are also fertile grounds for community and national violence. I call on all of us as religious leaders from all divides in the country to continue to raise awareness and influence attitudes, behaviour and practices in order to curtail community and national violence.

Each one of us as national, have the power to promote and support public policy, and to promote the well-being of our members such as re-echoing to the authorities the voices of the poor. It is the moral duty of

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religious bodies to encourage members to see opponents as fellow human beings as it is evident in the teachings of the Holy Bible and also in the Holy Quran

All south Sudanese of all walks of life, government, private, and religious leaders have a great moral obligation not to promote hate speech, and to be extremely cautious in what we say, write, forward, and do

As human beings we share a common destiny Our tears are the same, our blood is the same All of us must avoid all hate speech!

Here is the basic truth which can never change and which has been as old as human race, every human being must feel the oneness of all life Even a death of a leaf shall shatter a human heart For a compassionate heart there is no 'other ' Everyone is part of me, and I am part of everyone!

Hate speech, writings and attitudes poison the mind, heart and only helps the "merchants of death "

We in South Sudan have suffered for years since time memorial . Hatred must give way to dreams Hate speech and writings frighten our national and personal friends, tourists, investors and even our friends who supported us all through these years We need them in our journey

We, as a nation need to turn our attention to some of our great challenges Poverty of the majority of South Sudanese citizens, the suffering of millions of our youths – citizens – but treated as modern-day slaves by whoever takes advantages of us, in dangerous tasks, the unresolved conflicts in other areas, the mutilating menace of shorthand arms or guns and drugs in border areas

South Sudanese youth, full-fledged citizens of this great nation, [are] expecting all of us to provide them quality education and employment opportunities. We need to hear their silent cries We cannot divert our attention from issues and chronic problems of this long-suffering nation

There is an encouraging dialogue between the national unity government and hold out functions by the Vatican, also the desire for repatnating refugees. Our government needs our appreciation and support to a very challenging process of implementing the Revitalized Peace Agreement in the Country

War and conflict would only further loss of lives, chronic poverty and suffering of all our people, citizens and others Therefore, please stop anything which fuels this already detenorating situation any further, much more through social media!

NB. I also direct as an honour to this appeal I am making to the public, all Diocesan owned or administered media channels (FM Radios, forums, pages, etc) of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, should never be allowed to communicate any piece of information which can incite ill-feeling or lead to abuse! All messages must be by and large for peace in all totality!

May Christ the Prince of Peace rein on all of us His Eternal Peace to rule our hearts and minds

Continue to pray and work for peace in all you do!

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Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio,

Cuna – CDTY, August 26, 2021

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOMBURA YAMBIO
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN