



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo
Episcopal Church of Sudan

Members of the Sudan Council of
Churches

Ecumenical partners in Sudan

Geneva, 16 May 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The members of the global ecumenical fellowship of the World Council of Churches is concerned about the ongoing violence in Sudan, and pray for peace for the suffering people of Sudan.

We have received with sadness and alarm recent reports of the escalating impacts of the current conflict and insecurity on the churches and religious communities of the country. We lament the news of the attack on worshipers in the Mar Girgis (St George) Coptic church in Omdurman during the service on Sunday 14 May 2023, the serious injuries suffered as a result, and the expulsion of the priests and nuns of the community. We share your grief at the shelling, damage, occupation and vandalism of so many churches and houses of worship, including the Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedrals in Khartoum, as well as churches and mosques in El Obeid, Geneina, El Fashr, Nyalla and no doubt many other places.

Further, the violent destruction of the nation of Sudan continues, despite efforts and appeals for a lasting ceasefire. The people of Sudan are the victims of this conflict between the military leaders, turning the country's humanitarian crisis into a catastrophe.

We pray that you may be strengthened and supported through this ordeal by God's grace. We convey our Christian solidarity to you and to all the people and religious communities of Sudan. We pray that the military leaders will put aside their arms and their rivalries and recognize their responsibility and accountability to the people, against whom they have already done so much harm. We pray that they will realize their moral and legal obligations to protect civilians, and to stop their desecrations of places of worship.

The situation in Sudan, and the reports received of the impacts on your churches and religious communities, will be addressed by the WCC Executive Committee which meets next week.

In the meantime, we lift you, your churches, your families and communities up before our merciful and loving God. May God protect, guide and comfort you, in the midst of these present tribulations.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pillay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'P' being particularly large and stylized.

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay
General Secretary
World Council of Churches