

## REMEMBERING THE ONES WE LOST Press Statement For Immediate Release

27 January 2020

Remembering The Ones We Lost has been working on documentation of conflict related deaths, killings and disappearances in South Sudan. The organization was established in 2014 as a response to renewed conflict; its founders resolved to collect the names of those lost dating back to 1955. To date we have documented 10,050 names. The percentage of confirmed deaths is 96.1% of the total number, while missing persons constitute 3.9% of the total cases documented. South Sudanese conflict victims are the majority amounting to 99.4% and people of other nationalities who lost their lives in South Sudan due to conflict is 0.6% of the total cases documented. Male victims constitute 83.5% and female victims are 16.5% of the total losses. The average age of the deceased and missing persons is 39.97 years. The youngest victim was 2 weeks old baby and oldest 103 years old. Names are submitted by close family members of friends of the missing and deceased people. Each submission require number of details to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy.

The latest round of violence that started on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to date, contributed to 81.0% of total cases documented. Most of the killings documented occurred in Greater Equatoria Region 52.3% followed by Greater Upper Nile Region with 42.5% and lastly Greater Bahr el Ghazal Region with 5.2% of the total cases documented. Central Equatoria State has registered the highest number of cases followed by Jonglei State and Unity State.

The main cause of death was gunshot totaling 90.2%. Other causes of death included burning people inside houses, torture, slaughter by knife or machete, landmine and cases of women who died from child birth complications as a result of being unable to access a medical facility due to active conflict.

Enforced disappearance and abduction are the main reasons for missing persons. Most cases of abduction happened to children between the ages of 6 years to 12 years and young girls of age between 18 years and 25 years.

The number we have documented, 10,050, is a significant number and yet this accounts for a very small proportion of the total number of people killed as a result of armed conflict since 1955. To document and honor all the names of victims of violence, we need everyone's contribution. If your loved ones names are not on this list, please help us document them by filling the testimonial form on our website:

https://www.rememberingoneswelost.com/testimonyform.

South Sudan has lost too many lives due to numerous conflicts that spans for 65 years. The average age of death is 40 meaning the country is losing people at an age when they are old to provide wisdom and experience but still young enough to contribute energetically and significantly to the development of the country. The people of South Sudan deserve better life and a better future. Let us work together to stop violence in this country. Violence will never bring peace only more violence. Join us and together let us stand against violence.

Daud Gideon Executive Director,

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