



## **REMEMBERING THE ONES WE LOST**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Press Statement**

***They were fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children. Each of them cherished by their families and communities. They are the people killed or missing in the conflicts that have ravaged South Sudan.***

Remembering The Ones We Lost (ROWL) has been documenting names of conflict related killings in South Sudan since the Torit Revolution of August 1955. We have so far documented, verified and published 14,200 names. This is a fraction of the actual number of those who lost their lives.

South Sudan got independence from Sudan on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 after many decades of civil war against Government of Khartoum where millions of South Sudanese lost their lives. They lost their lives so that an independent country may be founded on equality, freedom, justice, democracy, good governance and respect for human life.

All these dreams were shattered on December 15, 2013 when our brothers and sisters in uniform turned their guns against one other and against their civilians whom they vowed to protect. Although fighting in the most part has subsided, peace continues to be threatened, despite several signed peace agreements. The people of South Sudan need peace and full implementation of all agreements by all parties and in good faith.

### **To the Leaders of South Sudan:**

1. Declare December 15<sup>th</sup> as a National Day to Denounce Violence to remind us to never use violence to resolve differences again;
2. Make a public apology to the people of South Sudan for allowing its people to suffer the unbearable pain of protracted civil war, adhere to current peace agreements and promise NEVER to drag the country into a war again;
3. Whether in government or opposition, use words of peace and resolution to take our country forward;
4. Protect the children of South Sudan from active conflict and invest on them and the youth.

### **To all People of South Sudan:**

1. Take a moment and reflect on our losses as a nation;

2. We can stop violence in South Sudan if me and you stand up and say **NO TO VIOLENCE**. Let us denounce the use of violence from this day. Let us break cycle of violence in South Sudan;
3. On December 15 at 10 AM East Africa Time, stand in respect for all the souls lost and disappeared in conflict;
4. This December, plant a tree in memory of your loved ones who were killed or went missing. Let us have a living memory to remind us about them.

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