



Message from Sister Mūmbi

Happy Easter dear friends,

April 15, 2024 marked a year since the people of Sudan woke up to the sound of heavy artillery in the streets of Khartoum between two military factions. Over the following days, many began making the trek to neighboring countries in search of safety and security. The response from the international community was not the greatest, especially in comparison to the response to other ongoing and emergent conflicts, and many countries denied safe passage and/or asylum to our Sudanese siblings. A year later, the war still rages on, but not much is heard of it outside the region.

In my recent trip to South Sudan, I met a number of returnees but also missionaries who were once ministering there. They live with constant worry for those who remained behind due to age, financial inability and a host of other challenges; these people are now destitute and trapped in a war zone .

The region was also experiencing extremely high temperatures -- 105-109 degrees Fahrenheit -- on many days, leading to a two-week school closure to try and protect vulnerable children from heat related problems. In a country where an electric/solar fan is a great luxury for the majority, many resorted to sleeping outdoors in the hope of some cooler air from the intermittent night breeze. This was yet another extra hardship in the face of the dire economic crunch that the people are facing. The value of the South Sudanese pound to the U.S. dollar has almost tripled in depreciation since my visit last February. Civil servants hadn't received salaries since August 2023. All this is shadowed by concern for what the upcoming elections bode for peace efforts, but also tinged with the hope that the country will be blessed with leaders with integrity and a vision for



the country's most vulnerable.

Here at Friends in Solidarity, we are bidding goodbye to Susan Oxley, our communications coordinator, who has been responsible for getting this newsletter to you for the past five years. As she moves on to a wonderful new opportunity, we thank her for her dedication to our mission and all the ways that she beautifully supported us. It also means that we are in search of a new communications coordinator, so please write to us if interested in learning more. A job description will be posted on social media by next week.

I end by thanking you for your friendship and support which is so instrumental in the work of Friends in Solidarity, as we strive to be a harbinger of hope in South Sudan by supporting the ministries of Solidarity with South Sudan.

*Sister Mūmbi Kīgūtha, CPSPS
President, Friends in Solidarity*