



Message from Sister Mūmbi

Hello Friends of FiS,

I can hardly believe that it is already more than eight months since I started at Friends in Solidarity. I reflect on this time with much gratitude, for the wonderful companion colleagues I found who embraced me and have kept on supporting me to this day, for you our wonderful supporters who have continued to demonstrate your love through generous donations, and to new friendships that continue to be forged, sometimes in the most unlikely places.

In recent days, we have been caught up with the horrifying news coming out of the Middle East, of extreme violence and immense suffering. This conflict comes on the heels of many other ongoing conflicts in the world, including the one in Sudan that began on April 15 this year. In various conversations, I have heard many despair about the state of the world both locally and globally. Having gone through a personally challenging time in recent days, I have also found myself despairing at times.

Our faith teaches us to hope even in the midst of trials and tribulations. On Nov. 16, Friends in Solidarity is offering a webinar, "Hope Away from Home in South Sudan," that speaks to hope in the midst of displacement. South Sudan has an extraordinarily large number of its citizens displaced, both internally and externally. During the webinar, we will get a chance to hear from Fr. Tom Tiscornia, MM, and Fr. David Schwinghamer, MM, who have both worked with displaced South Sudanese sisters and brothers in various contexts, and also get a chance to



engage directly with Fr. Mike Bassano, MM, a Maryknoll priest who just finished 10 years of ministry with Solidarity with South Sudan. Fr. Mike chose to stay in Malakal after the 2013 conflict that destroyed the original campus of the Solidarity Teacher Training College, ministering to those who were displaced by the violence at the UN Protection of Civilians (PoC) camp, where more than 30,000 remain to this day. The Malakal camp, currently the only location in South Sudan that is designated as a PoC, has had some outbreaks of violence in recent months.

Please join us Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. Eastern for our free webinar.

Sister Mūmbi Kīgūtha, CPPS
President, Friends in Solidarity

Above: Father Mike Bassano, a Maryknoll priest from the United States, walks through the Protection of Civilians area in the United Nations base in Malakal, South Sudan (September 2021). Photo by Paul Jeffrey