

Organization for Nonviolence and Development



PRESS RELEASE

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"We are here again this year to celebrate International Day of Nonviolence. This year with a lot of pain in our hearts but also with hope for peaceful future. Lets join our hearts, minds and hands together to make peace a reality."

ONAD Organization for Nonviolence and Development joins the world to celebrate the day with calls for just peace and reconciliation. The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Nonviolence is a global observance that promotes the culture of nonviolence through public awareness. It is annually held on the birth day of Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi in remembrance for his wisdom, fight for freedom and justice to independence of India. Commenting about the day, Moses Monday John, the Executive Director of ONAD said. *"This day is important to the organization because it is the ideal that we stand and labour for. At the heart of nonviolence is the principle that everyone can change, and that there is something good in all people. This is the day to remind ourselves that we are all humans regardless of our ethnicity, gender, faith, political and religious identities. The people of South Sudan need peace and there is no way we can achieve peace without dialogue."*

We are encouraged with the progress being made at the peace talks. ONAD wishes to take this opportunity to urge the political leadership in the Republic of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A IO) and other stakeholders engaged on the IGAD led peace talks to stick to continuous political dialogue to address the ongoing crisis in the country. Any return to the vicious circle of violence will not bring lasting solutions but can only increase loss of life and further destruction. Dialogue is the way of nonviolence and experiences have shown that Nonviolence brings more sustainable results.

We therefore, would like to encourage the negotiators particularly the principal parties to consider compromises in order to narrow the differences and achieve peace. This will no doubt restore smiles in the faces of the people of South Sudan, its neighbours and the entire international community. **HAPPY INTERNATIONAL NONVIOLENCE DAY!!**

Its worthnoting that ONAD was initiated in 1994 by Southern Students activists at University of Juba in Khartoum and over 19 years has attracted large and diversified members in terms of ethnicity, religion and gender from all across South Sudan. The organization works for a nonviolent, peaceful and democratic country through trainings and advocacy in; Nonviolence and Peacebuilding, Governance and Civic Education, Community Empowerment and Gender and Organizational Development.

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