

# The Episcopal Diocese of Liwolo



Central Equatoria Internal Province  
The Episcopal Church of South Sudan,  
ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

11<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

### An Open Letter to:

**H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni** – President of the Republic of Uganda

**H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit** – President of the Republic of South Sudan

**Subject:** *Love Your Neighbor – A United Call for Peace, Justice, and Lasting Goodwill Along Our Shared Border*

### Your Excellencies,

With the deepest respect for your esteemed offices and the weight of responsibility you carry for your nations, I extend this open letter as a **plea for decisive and statesmanlike leadership** at a moment that will be remembered in history.

I write as a servant of God, entrusted with the pastoral care of borderland communities—**Kuku, Ma'di, and Aringa**—who, for centuries, have been bound together by **shared heritage, intermarriage, trade, and mutual respect**. These ties have endured across colonial borders, sustained through hardship, and celebrated in times of peace.

Uganda has stood as a **brother and ally** in South Sudan's journey—from the years of liberation struggle beginning in 1955, to the birth of independence in 2011, and continuing as a haven for refugees, students, and traders. This bond is more than diplomatic—it is **familial and historical**.

### The Current Reality

In recent years, the unresolved and **undelimited border from Magwi of Eastern to Kaya of the central Equatoria** has shifted from a technical matter into a humanitarian and security crisis. The impact has been grave:

- **Loss of countless lives** in avoidable confrontations.
- **Displacement** of families from ancestral homes.
- **Interruption of livelihoods**, with farmers and traders unable to access their fields or markets.

- **Erosion of trust** between communities who once considered each other family.

This situation serves neither the people of Uganda nor South Sudan. Instead, it threatens regional stability, economic cooperation, and the **spirit of Pan-African unity** that has long defined our relationship.

### **The Danger of Prolonged Inaction**

Your Excellencies, moments like this test the **moral courage and political wisdom of leaders**. If left unaddressed, tensions will deepen, resentment will harden, and future generations will inherit a legacy of hostility instead of hope.

It is in such moments that history measures leadership—not by how conflicts are avoided, but by how they are **confronted with truth, resolved with justice, and concluded with dignity** for all.

### **A Shared Mandate for Peace**

The words of Scripture remain relevant to statesmanship:

**“Love your neighbor as yourself”** (Mark 12:31) calls us to prioritize the well-being of people over the politics of territory.

**Esther 4:14** reminds us that positions of influence are entrusted for moments such as these—to act courageously when silence would cost lives.

Africa, and indeed the watching world, looks to you both to **demonstrate a model of peaceful conflict resolution** that strengthens—not fractures—the bonds between nations.

### **Our Recommendations for Immediate Action**

1. **Joint Commitment to Nonviolence** – Publicly reaffirm that disputes will be resolved without military escalation.
2. **Establishment of a Joint Boundary Commission** – Include elders, historians, religious leaders, civil society, and technical experts from both nations.
3. **Protection of Civilians** – Guarantee safety, land access, and livelihood continuity for all communities in contested areas while discussions proceed.
4. **Diplomatic Engagement** – Utilize African Union frameworks and neutral mediators to ensure a transparent, fair, and durable resolution.
5. **People-to-People Peace Initiatives** – Support cross-border reconciliation forums, trade cooperation, and community dialogue led by trusted local leaders.

### **An Appeal to Statesmanship**

Your Excellencies, you have the opportunity to **leave a legacy of wisdom and peace**—to show Africa and the world that disputes can be resolved through dialogue, mutual respect, and a shared vision for the future.

The decision before you is not simply about where a line is drawn on a map; it is about whether the history between Uganda and South Sudan will be defined by **brotherhood or bitterness**, by **collaboration or confrontation**.

In the name of peace, in the spirit of African unity, and in the fear of Almighty God, we urge you to **act now**—with courage, humility, and foresight.

May this moment be remembered not as the beginning of a rift, but as the point where both nations chose the **higher path of reconciliation** for the sake of their people and posterity.

With prayerful respect and unwavering hope,



**Rt. Rev. Joseph Aba Nicanor**

*Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Liwolo, Republic of South Sudan.*

On behalf of the Body of Christ in South Sudan and Uganda

