PRESS RELEASE
A Step Together: Shared Journeys of Listening and Dialogue in South Sudan

30 September 2014 - Yei, South Sudan

From the 1st to the 28th of October 2014, South Sudan’s Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation will be hosting an intensive four-week training in Yei, Central Equatoria. The training, titled ‘A Step Together: Shared Journeys of Listening and Dialogue’ brings together more than 80 community and faith-based practitioners from across South Sudan to share their knowledge and experiences with each other. The participants will also be equipped with concrete skills and knowledge on facilitation as well as on theories and approaches to reconciliation. The workshops will be facilitated by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), from South Africa.

Members of the media are invited to a welcoming ceremony on Wednesday, 1 October at the ECS Guest House in Yei at from 08:30 – 13:00.

About the Committee

The Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation (CNHPR), chaired by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, was formed in April 2013. The independent national process began with a day of prayer on 8 July 2013—the eve of the anniversary of Independence. The Deputy Chair of the CNHPR, Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban, emphasizes that this ongoing reconciliation process “must be built on spirituality and also on our [South Sudan’s] rich traditional culture.”

Over the next three years, the Committee aims to facilitate a three-year nation-wide consultation process at the grassroots level. The purpose will be to document the diverse narratives from communities to ensure that South Sudan’s future reconciliation is driven and shaped by the people’s rich experiences, knowledge and needs. ‘A Step Together: Shared Journeys of Listening and Dialogue’ marks the start of the CNHPR’s planned consultation process, which will eventuate in 550 peace mobilisers traveling to most, if not all, payams across South Sudan to listen to the people in order to develop a people-driven National Reconciliation Agenda.

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