



REMEMBERING THE ONES WE LOST

COMMEMORATION OF LIVES LOST DUE TO CONFLICT AND ARMED VIOLENCE

15 December 2022



They were fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children. Each of them cherished by their families and communities. They are the people killed or missing in the conflicts that have ravaged South Sudan.

Founded in 2014, Remembering The Ones We Lost (ROWL) started documenting names of conflict related killings and deaths starting from the Torit Revolution of August 1955 in an online public memorial www.rememberingoneswelost.org to acknowledge the collective loss and suffering of South Sudanese due to armed violence.

The vision of ROWL is “A nation of South Sudanese people who honor the memories of all those who have died in violent circumstances in the Republic of South Sudan, and a population which believes that never again should violence be used to resolve differences.”

Memorialization is an important part of every South Sudanese community, and it is fitting that losses due to conflict and violence be acknowledged publicly and regularly. ROWL believes that

public acknowledgement of collective loss can create a better chance of preventing the use of violence to address disputes and issues in the future.

With over 20,750 named and verified victims documented on the website, this number remains a fraction of the actual victims. The work remains to ensure they do not remain nameless and lost to history.

The Preamble of the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, 2018 states:

“Accepting the immediate need to bring an end to the tragic conflict on-going in the Republic of South Sudan since 15 December 2013 which has had such disastrous economic, political and social consequences for the people of South Sudan.”

However, despite the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, violence is still widespread.

Names submitted to the website by living relatives and through media following verification indicates that loss of life is at an all-time high for times of ‘peace’. Within this year of 2022, ROWL has documented over 2,730 lives and with ongoing violence, particularly in Jonglei and Upper Nile, this number is likely to exceed previous years by thousands.

However, ROWL believes that South Sudan can put an end to the use of the force against and amongst its citizens.

ROWL urges the Government of South Sudan to bring this above statement to the forefront, acknowledge, not only past atrocities, but current and ongoing ones and perhaps the culture of violence can start to be in our past.

ROWL is therefore appealing for the Government and Parliament to declare 15th December as “**Remembrance Day**” to remind us to never use violence to resolve differences again. ROWL calls on **ALL** citizens to take time on 15 December to acknowledge, honor and remember all those were lost due to conflicts in South Sudan, historically and to the present day.

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