



## **ROWL Hopes for Holiness Pope Francis' Visit to Juba, South Sudan**

Remembering the Ones We Lost (ROWL) welcomes the Pope to Juba, South Sudan. We would like to share our gratitude to the Pope's continuous support to the people of South Sudan and its leadership to pursue meaningful and last peace.

ROWL documents names of conflict related killings and deaths starting from 1955 in an online public memorial (lets add a hyperlink - [www.rememberingoneswelost.org](http://www.rememberingoneswelost.org)) to acknowledge the collective loss and suffering of South Sudanese. ROWL believes that South Sudan can put an end to the use of the force against and amongst its citizens. Memorialization is an important part of South Sudanese culture and ROWL calls on conflict related losses to be acknowledged publicly and regularly so that the culture of the use of violence can relinquished to our past. To date, ROWL has documented 20,889 victim names.

ROWL hopes that the visit of Pope Francis may herald renewed hope and new reflection for South Sudanese leadership and people to recognize that violence only opens doors to more separation between our communities, more pain and suffering for our people, that it ultimately leads to more violence, trapping us in a spiral that is only growing larger and harder to break.

In this light, ROWL would like to take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the pain from loss of loved ones due to conflict and armed violence experienced by South Sudanese, past and current. We believe that unacknowledged and unaddressed pain is the cause of ongoing issues of injustices, tribal and corrupt politics, distrust, and stalemate in the implementation of the R-ARCISS. We urge the government to heed the words and prayers of the Pope and give peace, humility, trust, forgiveness, and love for one's enemies a chance so that a better future is a possibility for South Sudan.

God bless the Pope and God bless South Sudan and all its people.

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