



## REMEMBERING THE ONES WE LOST

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### **Let us remember all lost to South Sudan's conflicts and violence: Over 19,000 victims named**

South Sudan is marking its 11<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022. As we celebrate the independence of our country, let us remember millions of lives lost in a series of brutal conflicts since 1955, with the latest wave of violence starting in December 2013 to date, despite the signing of two peace agreements. Many lives have been lost and continue to be lost on daily basis, leaving countless families grieving; children without parents, parents without children, widows and widowers, treasured friends and colleagues lost to violence.

Remembering the One We Lost has a vision for us to be “A nation of South Sudanese people who honour 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”.

Remembering The Ones We Lost has been documenting conflict related deaths, killings and disappearances in South Sudan since 2014, as a direct response to renewed conflict. The organization has developed an [online public memorial](#) to honor lives lost due to conflict in the country, ensuring that their names are not lost to history.

To date we have documented, verified and published over 19,237 names from various nationalities, religions, genders, ethnic groups, professions and ages from days old newborns to centenarians. Each and every one of them belonged to someone, cherished by their families and communities, a person who gave love and meaning to others. We remember them as a reminder that such losses are senseless, and that the impact of this scale of violence is costly.

Data collected shows that 97% persons were either killed during violence or died due to conflict related factors and 3% were either missing or abducted during wars. About 86% of missing and deceased were male and 14% being females. Majority of people 91% were killed using guns. Other means of killings include torture, burnt inside rooms, slaughtered by knife etc.

Remembering The Ones We Lost believes that as a nation, South Sudan can work towards finding solace and move forward together as a nation, by acknowledging the cost of war, and by remembering the ones we have lost as a consequence of violence. With this in mind, we would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of South Sudan:

1. Declare an annual National Day of Mourning where we remember all those we have lost to violence. It should be a day set aside for the people of South Sudan to reflect on the human cost of violence, and to remember the millions of South Sudanese people who have lost their lives in the fight for freedom, equality, and justice in South Sudan;
2. Make steps to prioritize healing and reconciliation amongst South Sudanese providing the population with non-violent and non-divisive tools that address conflict to ensure that the nation is better able to cultivate, promote and maintain peace.
3. Start consultation with communities, academia, research institutions and people of South Sudan to identify sites across the country to be declared as National Memorial Centers in honor of memory of the lives lost to violence;
4. Encourage and promote research on traditional and indigenous memorialization and mourning traditions among various communities.

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