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JULY 29, 2026

THE RT. REV'D ELSIR HASSAN KUKU, BISHOP ORDINARY
THE DIOCESE OF HEIBAN (ECS)
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
HEIBAN, NUBA MOUNTAINS, SUDAN

Dear Bishop Elsir,

In the name of Sudan Church Partners, our Board of Directors, as well as our partner churches and supporters throughout the United States, I would like to convey our deepest condolences and grief for the tragic events that recently took place in your diocese. It was with the utmost sorrow that we learned of attacks on Heiban on July 23 and on Debi on July 24. Particularly disturbing was the news that Pastor Adel Idris Jongool was murdered in Debi and that many others were abducted and held as prisoners by the militant faction responsible for the attack. We are truly sorry to hear of these devastating events and would like to extend our sympathy and support to you and the entire Diocese of Heiban, especially the families of Pastor Adel and the other victims. May Pastor Adel rest in peace and rise in glory.

This morning I learned that 32 of the captive victims have supposedly been released after successful negotiations. This is good news, but I understand that more are still waiting for potential resolution and release. We are very grateful for the release of some and will be in prayer for the remaining captives to be released as soon as possible!

I am reminded of the passage in 1 Samuel 30 where David and his soldiers return to Ziklag to learn of an attack by the Amalekites, with many of their wives and children taken captive. The people are deeply distressed in their anger and grief. But it mentions profoundly that David "strengthened himself in the Lord". May the leaders and people of your diocese, especially those directly affected by the attacks, find immense strength in the Lord! And may the Lord grant incredible wisdom to you and other leaders in dealing with these events and shepherding churches and communities in the work that lies ahead.

Please know that our prayers are with you and keep us informed of further developments as much as you are able.

With our great sympathy and support,

Jared Wensyel
Executive Director, Sudan Church Partners