



November 1, 2009

**U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan General Scott Gration
Remarks at All Saints Day, Juba Cathedral
Sunday, November 1, 2009**

Archbishop Paolino Lukudu Loro, Your Excellency, President Salva Kiir, distinguished guests, my brothers and sisters, my friends. Thank you for that kind introduction. I feel so very much at home in Africa. I lived in Congo, Uganda, Kenya for almost twenty years in my youth.

My parents came to Africa in 1952 as missionary teachers. I lived in northeast Congo until severe conflicts broke out following independence and we were forced to flee the country for safety.

In 1964, we became refugees. We lost all of our possessions as we escaped with just our lives. My parents had to establish a new home; we had to start again. I still remember the pain and loss of that difficult experience, but it's helped me to understand in a very small way the suffering, pain, and loss many of you have experienced here in Sudan for decades.

In 1979, I went back to Uganda as Idi Amin was leaving and President Binaisa was coming to power. The Ugandan people had suffered so much pain and loss during that period. One woman told me how she had escaped from a burning Catholic church that had been lit on fire by Idi Amin's soldiers as the congregation worshipped inside.

Hundreds of thousands were killed during Idi Amin's time, so I was a little surprised one Sunday morning in church like this one when I heard the Bishop say, "we must look forward to the future; we must forgive and move beyond the past."

Yes, the church has been instrumental in promoting reconciliation and restoration across Africa—not only in Uganda, but in places like South Africa and Congo. The church as a whole, each one of you as individuals, can continue to play an instrumental role in bringing reconciliation and peace to Sudan.

As the president said, we urge you to register to vote, to express your will, to do this in peace and for peace. Almost 800 years ago, Saint Francis of Assisi gave us this prayer that we should pray every day. He said:

For further information, please contact the U.S.
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ولمزيد من الاستفسار، المرجو الاتصال بمكتب الشؤون العامة
بالسفارة الأمريكية بالخرطوم على الهواتف:
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**Embassy of the United States of America
Khartoum, Sudan**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy;

May God bless each one of you as you serve Him as "instruments of his peace;" as you spread love, forgiveness, faith, hope, light, and joy as you register to vote, and bring peace to this very special land. Thank you very much.

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