

Greetings to our Brothers and Sister in Christ in America,

Here in Southern Sudan, we are rejoicing that our citizens have voted for independence and an opportunity to begin a new democracy that will have freedoms like the United States. Southern Sudanese owe a great debt to the leadership of the United States in bringing peace and stability to our country and our prayer is that peace will last this time.

As we begin to build a new country, there will be many challenges and we will continue to need the prayers of our brothers and sisters in the U.S. America is a role model to us as we work on rule of law and international protection to keep things peaceful here. As you pray for us, please pray that the churches in Sudan can set a good example of turning "our weapons into ploughshares" and teaching our children that education and not guns will change the future. It is time for guns to be buried and churches, schools and medic clinics to be built on the graves of guns instead.

If this is to happen and a lasting peace stay upon us, we will need the international community to keep weapons and ammunition for our old weapons out of our country. Although there is great unity in southern Sudan and great desires to build a fine country, there are people who want to disturb the peace and enlist innocent children to do their dirty work. We need people like this to have a hard time bringing in new weapons and ammunitions so we are asking churches in the U.S. and Christian leaders in the U.S. government to help us by supporting international laws like an Arms Trade Treaty we heard is being discussed. Human rights in Sudan have been violated terribly and we do not need weapons continuing to get into the hands of evil people and troublemakers that will violate our humanity in the days ahead of us now.

We rejoice that a Day of Prayer for this important Arms Trading Treaty will be done on February 28<sup>th</sup> because it is important to us and our future. We would like to ask churches in America to not forget about Southern Sudan now that our referendum vote has been successful . We need your continued prayers for the peace of Sudan and our region so we ask you to pray that this treaty will also pass and provide protection for countries like ours as we face the many challenges ahead of us and our children.

May our Mighty Lord be praised for eternity and may we lift up Jesus, the Prince of Peace to the world.

With Humble thanks,

Bishop Elias Taban

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elias Taban', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sudan Evangelical Alliance/ Evangelical Presbyterian Churches of Sudan