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**A rallying point and  
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**AEA is one of the seven  
regional movements  
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with about 100 million  
individual Christians  
identifying with it.**

## **Congratulatory Message to the Church, the Government and People of South Sudan on the Occasion of Independence and birth of a Nation State on July 9, 2011**

Today, July 9, 2011 will go down in the annals of history of Africa and the people of Southern Sudan in particular. A new nation is carved out of Africa's largest territory of what was the Republic of Sudan before this day, after decades of racial and religious intolerance.

This has come with a price, the shedding of blood, enslavement, displacement of people and dispersion in every part of the world. But today marks the indefatigable resilience of the black race; against racial prejudice, disease, poverty, deprivation, slavery and all the ills that have plagued this continent when the people of South Sudan will take a breath of relief and shout- "IT IS FINISHED".

The Church in Sudan stood with its people to mobilize the rest of the global church in prayer and action- relief, advocacy and care for the displaced and refugees. We join you in praising and thanking God for this day for answered prayers and for liberating the people of South Sudan; at least given the opportunity for self determination as a people. Regardless of whatever challenges may be looming this is a phenomenal achievement and foundational to human dignity and other freedoms.

It is against this background that we join the rest of the world to convey our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the advancement and well being of the new nation and people of South Sudan. We re-echo your anthem of praise to the Almighty God in the refrain:

*Oh God!  
We praise and glorify you  
For your grace on South Sudan...*

As you move into the future, the nation requires godly leaders in every aspect of the nation's development. As the church in South Sudan, there is much you can contribute to building your nation like no other movement can. The great nation of the United States of America and much of the western civilization are testimony of the impact of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in nation building. The church is still the most powerful and

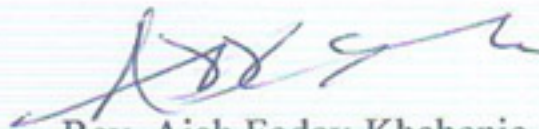
beneficent agency for promoting the cause of morality, to purify, enrich and strengthen mankind, and an ameliorating force that makes life progressive. Take the church out of society and it collapses.

The new nation of South Sudan has the advantage of learning from the experience of the rest of the South Saharan nations with fifty years of self rule behind them. As part of the civil society the church should continue to champion the empowerment of the people as focus of development-

- People discovering for themselves (self-discovery)
- People taking charge of their situation (home grown solutions to problems)
- People having a voice (expressing themselves freely)
- People ultimately determining their destiny
- Release not relief (foreign aid is not the "be all and end all of development)

May God bless you; the people of South Sudan and be an everlasting pride of pride in Africa (Isa. 60:15).

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Aiah Foday-Khabenje  
**General Secretary**

On behalf of the Sudan Forum in Nairobi and the Evangelical Community  
in Africa and round the Globe.

June 29, 2011