

Pray for the South Sudan

There is massive unrest in South Sudan after the quashing of an attempted coup. BBC News reports today (December 17) that more than 60 soldiers have been killed in two days of clashes in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, according to doctors at a military hospital*.

The Diocese of Down and Dromore and the Diocese of Salisbury have links with the Church in South Sudan. Down and Dromore is linked with Maridi Diocese.

The alleged attempted coup is a manifestation of months of political unrest.

Prayer Points from Salisbury Diocese

British Christians currently in Juba have asked us to focus our prayers particularly on the following issues.

For political stability; for wisdom and the right kind of authority for the South Sudan's leaders, for the security forces to use a minimum of violence, and for progress towards a true, just and lasting settlement.

For the many people who have been injured and the families of those who were killed in the cross-fire and revenge killings.

For the role of the Church leaders – who were involved in facilitating yesterday's talks – and that their influence helps to bring calm and sense to the situation.

For the way forward to be found in effective dialogue rather than violent conflict.

For shops to be able to open tomorrow so people can get supplies and water can be distributed.

That the violence won't spread to other towns and especially that it won't escalate into a tribal war.

To help inform your prayers

* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25417630#TWEET987330>

Gurtong.net: Religious Leaders Urge Parties Involved In Juba Clashes To Use Democratic Means (includes comment from Archbishop Daniel). <http://www.gurtong.net/ECM/Editorial/tabid/124/ctl/ArticleView/mid/519/articleId/14164/Religious-Leaders-Urge-Parties-Involved-In-Juba-Clashes-To-Use-Democratic-Means.aspx>

Sudan Tribune: Three killed in Bor as Juba fighting spreads <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article49215>

Sudan Tribune: South Sudan says military clashes contained, despite continuous gunfire <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article49214>

The Guardian: South Sudan president says military has foiled coup <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/16/south-sudan-capital-gunfire-coup-reports-machar>

BBC: South Sudan quashes coup attempt, says President Kiir <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25396853>