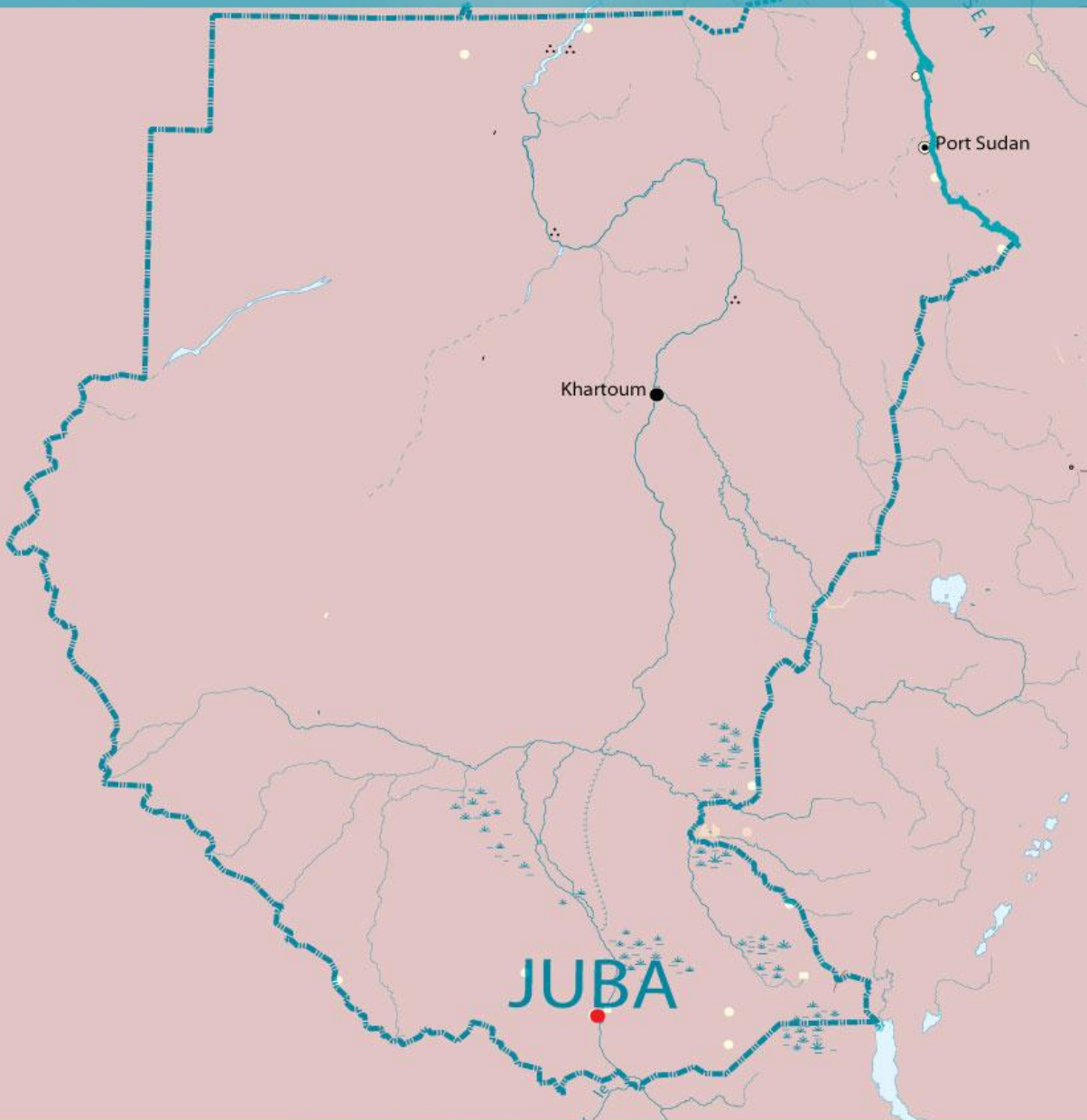




Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



THE SOUTHERN SUDAN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS

COMMUNIQUÉ

JUBA, 21-24 SEPTEMBER 2010

THE SOUTHERN SUDAN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS COMMUNIQUÉ

We, Christian and Muslim leaders drawn from member churches of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and the Southern Sudan Muslim Council (SSMC) from 20 to 22 September 2010, met at the Juba Grand Hotel, under the umbrella of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) and on the invitation of the Sudan Council of Churches.

Having deliberated on the theme 'Christian and Muslim Relations for Peace and Development in Southern Sudan' where crucial issues were identified and frankly discussed

Convinced By the fact that peace is a prime factor for development in Southern Sudan and realising that peace can only be achieved if both Christian and Muslim leaders are fully involved in the process

Aware that challenges and matters concerning the Southern Sudan can only be resolved by Southern Sudanese themselves

Conscious that we are one people with a common destiny and aspirations regardless of our religious and ethnic affiliations

Disturbed by the slow pace of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as it relates to the referendum, that to date the registration and civic education of the voters is delayed with unconvincing explanations, which cause a lot of worry and anxiety among the Southern Sudanese

Wary of internal and external forces that may work to subvert the CPA and the principles it stands for

Pledge to uphold the principles of justice, peace and reconciliation for development in our land

Commit ourselves to educate Christian and Muslim communities and all peoples of Southern Sudan to embrace one another in unity and to desist from associating Islam with Arabism and Christianity as a Western import

Determined to ensure that religious freedom and all that it entails for people of religion and all others in Southern Sudan becomes the norm and not the exception

Resolve to work towards the establishment of a consultative body made up of Christian and Muslim leaders from the Sudan Council of Churches and the Southern Sudan Council of Muslims to facilitate and promote peace in our land.

Call on the government of the Sudan and its constituent political parties to institute pre-emptive measures that will help curtail religious persecution of any kind that may emanate as a result of the outcome of the upcoming referendum.

Call on the International Community and all who mean well for the people of Southern Sudan to be in solidarity with the people of Sudan at this crucial time of its history.

Express our deepest appreciation to PROCMURA and its leadership for keeping faith with us at this crucial time of our history, and urge them to continue to be in solidarity with us and provide us with the much needed guidance on Christian-Muslim constructive engagement for peace and development



Signed by:

By participants of the Christian and Muslim Religious leaders conference on Peace and Development in Southern Sudan

22nd September 2010