

May 6, 2021

Juba – South Sudan

-----

Dear uncle Kwacakworo,

Greetings from Juba – South Sudan. I hope this message finds you in good health.

My name is David Nyuol Vincent. I was among thousands of children you supported during the war. I don't expect you to remember me at all, but when Joane Holliger mentioned you two knew each other, I thought to take the opportunity to send you this letter to say how grateful I/we (the lost boys) are for the care and love you shown us at the time when we needed it most.

I want to thank you in particular for treating me. I don't think you would remember, but one day I had a terrible fever, and the boys carried me to your compound. After examining me briefly, you gave me some medicine and told the boys to leave me to rest. You gave me something to eat, I think it was biscuits dissolved in cold water, and I ate it. After that, I slept for hours, and when I woke up, I was completely fine. Come to think of it now, and it could have been more of hunger than the actual sickness.

Uncle Kwacakworo, I am sure you are heartbroken. When people like yourself left everything to support South Sudanese during the struggle, you had hoped that after gaining independence, we would remember what it took to achieve it, which will guide us to do better today. I am sure you are disappointed if not disgusted. We have forgotten the

sacrifices many men and women made to deliver the partial freedom we are all enjoying today. As a young boy of twelve years old and others, we were trained, and we had to do what we had to do because we knew why. We were deprived of our childhood. I am lucky to be alive today, but I know many of my close friends did not make it out alive. I feel their souls are watching over us, and they are very disappointed – hopeless and shame is how I feel right now.

I was delighted when I heard you were honoured by Salva Kiir in Juba for the part you played during our struggle. I think you deserve more, but I am happy you were acknowledged that way.

I want you to know all is not lost, though. The majority of the lost boys you supported are exceptionally well after resettling in America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. We owe it to you, too, for advocating on our behalf. We went to our new found homes, and some of us did so well – thanks to you.

Some of the boys/girls (of course, now men/women) are now PhD holders. I know many close friends who have set up projects in their villages, building schools, clinics, and others running very successful businesses. Some have gone into politics, but it is very frustrating to break through the current system, as you know. It will take some time before any significant change happens. I set up several projects in my village, including an annual event call **Sports for Peace**. You can read more about it here – [www.peacepalette.org](http://www.peacepalette.org)

I founded this project when I was still in Australia back in 2012. I am also supporting several children to attend primary and secondary schools by paying their school fees. I run Peace Palette in my spare time with other volunteers, but I am currently part of the team delivering a UK funded programme call **Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund**. We are working directly with the cattle camp armed youth from Murle, Dinka Bor, Lou Nuer and Dinka Agar. Joane and I met through this programme. I met her sometime back, but in the last days of her stay in South Sudan, I had the opportunity to know her well. We travelled to Rumbek and spent a few days together. Many expatriates come to South Sudan for several reasons, but I found Joane genuine and genuinely loves South Sudan. We are sad that she had to leave but hopeful that she will return one day – I applaud her!

Uncle Kwacakworo – yes, I sound pessimistic, but I know there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. I am very hopeful that things will change eventually. Although things seem bleak at present, there are many change-makers out there working away silently. Our challenge is how we can connect and coordinate our efforts – something I am working on it at the moment.

When the House of Nationalities initiative was initiated, I attended several workshops run by Napoleon in Nairobi. I heard you supported it or was behind it. It was an excellent initiative, but unfortunately, I don't know what happened to it until today. I did not get a chance to meet Napoleon for years now. Joane was going to connect us. I want to

discuss what happened to the House of Nationalities and Gurtong when I meet him again. I also want to thank him in person. He paid for my one semester when I was doing a course in Nairobi before I left for Australia.

I don't know what will bring me to Switzerland, but if I do. I want to visit you. It will be great to see you again.

Finally, no words can best express how grateful we (South Sudanese) are for the remarkable role you played during our struggle. When the rest of the world was blind to the inhumane treatment we endured then, you were there throughout and became the voice for our cause. We shall forever remember you as a great friend and humanitarian.

Yours Sincerely,



David Nyuol Vincent

---

My contacts are as below.

Email: [davidnvincent@fastmail.fm](mailto:davidnvincent@fastmail.fm)

Mobile No: +211 915 019 908

WhatsApp No: +61 478 383 403