

OSJ PRAYERS

Friday, January 6, 2012

Egypt

Several thousand women demanding the end of military rule marched through downtown Cairo in an extraordinary expression of anger over images of soldiers beating, stripping and kicking female demonstrators in Tahrir Square. Violent protests against military rule in Egypt have continued over the past week, inciting responses from U.S. Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, condemning the violence and beating of women. Please pray for Egypt. Pray that peace will be restored, and that justice will prevail for the humiliated and injured women. Ask that Egypt's leaders will show compassion and be receptive to the voice of the people.

Ethnic violence in South Sudan

Ethnic violence has erupted in South Sudan between the Lou Nuer and Murle ethnic groups, with reports emerging of over 3,000 deaths. Ethnic conflict between the two groups goes back generations, but has recently escalated out of control. This week, a band of 6,000 heavily armed Luo Nuer fighters marched on Pibor, the hometown of their Murle rivals, and killed over 2,100 women and children and 900 men. UN peacekeepers and South Sudan's Army tried to stop the fighters from storming the town, but were greatly outnumbered. Please pray for peace in South Sudan. Pray for reconciliation between these two ethnic groups, that forgiveness and peace will prevail. Ask that the Church will lead the way towards reconciliation. Uplift the many women and children who have been displaced, and the families of those who have lost loved ones. Pray that God's love and grace will be deeply felt.

Uncertainty after the death of Kim Jong-il

The death of Kim Jong-il provoked uncertainty, anxiety and calls for a peaceful succession as governments within the region and beyond awaited some signal from North Korea about its nuclear intentions and the prospects, if any, for a new relationship with the world beyond its borders. Several world leaders, especially China and South Korea, have reached out to North Korea in hopes of maintain stability in the region. Please pray for this country as it mourns the loss of its leader. Pray that they may transition to a more just society that recognizes the voices of its people and responds to the needs of the poor and suffering. Uplift world leaders as they reach out, that peace and stability may be maintained.

Threat of disease following flooding in Philippines

Philippine President Benigno Aquino declared a state of national calamity following flooding that has claimed over 900 lives, and has left thousands homeless. About 45,000 people affected by the floods that ripped through the southern Philippines were packed into crowded evacuation centers, which health officials worried could become breeding grounds for cholera, typhoid, respiratory infections and other communicable illnesses. They are organizing vaccinations to try to stem the infections. Pray for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones. Pray for healing of the injured, and restoration for those who have lost their homes. Uplift the many health officials working to address the threat of disease.

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