

Holy Trinity Peace Village (HTPV) Kuron

Where is Kuron?

Kuron is located in Kauto Payam, Eastern Kapoeta County, in Eastern Equatoria State. Kuron is located along a mountainous ridge, by Kuron River which comes from areas bordering Ethiopia. The track used by cars from Narus to Boma is passing through Kuron, a distance of 190 km from Narus to Kuron, and 75 km to Boma.

*Holy Trinity Peace Village location
in Kuron*



*Kuron River with the bridge made by
HTPV in the year 2000*

Representation of South Sudan authorities

The Governor and State administration is located in Torit Eastern Equatoria State. The Commissioner with his administration for the county is located in Narus. This includes headquarters for Police, Health and Education. The Payam administrator with representation of the army is located in Nanyangachor, over 80 kms from Kuron.

What is HTPV

In the year 2004, Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban of the Catholic Diocese of Torit founded the Holy Trinity Peace Village. In March 2012 HTPV was registered as a NGO in South Sudan.

Kuron is a very remote area; the people here have never had the opportunities provided by modern civilization and the current technological advancement of the 21st century. Pastoral communities

occupy the area with the Toposa ethnic group being the single largest tribe, bordering the tribes Nyangatom, Murla, Kachipo and Jiye in Boma and Koroma in Ethiopia

Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban and Nakwar in Kuron 2012 in a village



Core Values of HTPV:

1. A world of peaceful coexistence in the context of ethnical, national, racial and religious plurality.
2. Be committed to peace building among Sudanese communities, beginning from the pastoral community in Eastern Equatoria State.
3. Strive to build a culture of peace of its own, based on equality, transparency, accountability and respect for the human person as created in God's image.
4. Be a non-political, non-profitmaking institution committed to peace building by example and teaching.

What is the impact of HTPV – What are the challenges of the Toposa

The Toposa and the surrounding tribes are pastoralists, moving with their cattle. However they do some farming, growing the traditional sorghum using very traditional farming methods. The illiteracy rate is estimated to 99%.

The presence and activities of HTPV has clearly had an impact on the lifestyle and values of the Toposa, however still to a limited extent. Cattle raiding and conflict between local tribes is significantly reduced. Use of modern health methods have greatly increased due to the services provided by Fr Haumann PHCC. Till August 2012 more than 5500 patients have been treated at the clinic.

Also the interest in education has increased. At present nearly 200 pupils are taught in St Thomas Primary School, most of them from the nearby areas, and both boys and girls. Still it is a great challenge to motivate parents to send their children to school: Boys are needed for looking after animals, and girls are given away young for a dowry of cattle, then having responsibility for home activities, children and farming.

Due to poor communication possibilities South Sudan Authorities are practically not represented in a larger area around Kuron. The presence of HTPV is somehow creating an environment of monitoring, and is to some extent challenging some unfavorable cultural practices. Still there is no enforcement of law and order, nor implementation of governmental policies.

What problems are HTPV facing

2012 the greatest problem has been, and still is the lack of road access. The track which is in practice the road from Narus to Kuron and further to Boma is in a very poor condition, not allowing any vehicle to pass. Practically the road has been closed for the last two months. HTPV are in need of transporting personnel in and out from Kuron, there are needs for various supplies, including food

for the staff and pupils in the boarding school, fuel, construction material and other important supplies. In addition to this there are needs to visit commissioner's offices for formal documents, reporting, collection of salaries, supplies of drugs, food for patients in the clinic etc.

This year it was also particular difficult to get food from WFP in to Kuron. Still some of the food which is allocated for the boarding school and clinic is in Narus and Kapoeta.

HTPV were completely running out of food with two occasions. Luckily HTPV were able to plead some emergency donations to charter flights for bringing supplies to Kuron, mainly food. The DC3 plane can land in Kuron Airstrip each time with 3 tons of food.

What are the reasons behind the problem

During rainy season the road between Narus and Kuron has generally been difficult to pass, however possible with good vehicles of 8 wheel drive.

This year construction work has started. A proper road is to be constructed from Narus to Boma, and gradually further into Ethiopia.

A result of this work with heavy machinery is that the bridge at Lokurwa is washed down by the river. Some wet areas have also become significantly worse to pass.



*The "road" between Narus and Kuron
July 2012*



The bridge at Lokurwa

*The “road” between Narus and Kuron
July 2012*



The road contractor Jamus International have parked the equipment and evacuated the area until rainy season ends, due to lack of access. All machines parked in compound of HTPV Kuron.



*Emergency food
supplies arriving
at Kuron
Airstrip, the
Caravan
carrying 1 ton,
the DC3 3 tons.*



Support to improve the working conditions

Economically

Due to the extraordinary access situation extra funding is needed to cover costs for another approximately 5 flights, and also for additional extra costs due to lack of materials, spare parts and fuel.

We are seeking \$ 12 500 US for flights, and also food from WFP.

Prioritizing/ flexibility

The lack of access is of course a big challenge for the Payam administrator and various sections in Commissioners office, as well as for HTPV.

HTPV will request that commissioners' office make all possible documents available for presentation on Internet and by e-mail, so that HTPV might fill in, sign, scan and return documents for official uses via Internet.

Visits to Kuron

HTPV will urge the government representatives to travel to Kuron from time to time to monitor the situation, support the chiefs and maintain a closer cooperation with HTPV Kuron and Chiefs of the area. We need also partners to visit HTPV Kuron to understand our situation. We are people of Faith and Hope. We shall never abandon these poor innocent people because of difficulties!

God Bless You

Kuron 13.08.2012

Paride Taban
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