Sarah Cleto Rial is a native of South Sudan who has spent her life committed to peace and justice for her nation. She left South Sudan during the second civil war (1983-2005) to earn a Master’s degree in Political Science from the American University of Cairo, and then went on to receive refugee resettlement in Massachusetts. She has worked in numerous community and global rights organizations, including the Lynn Community Health Center, Refugee and Immigration Services, the American Anti-Slavery Group, the Sudanese Women Alliance, and the Fertit Association, as well as the co-founder and President of the African Women’s Empowerment Group. In 2010, she received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award at the White House.

On July 9th, 2011, South Sudan obtained its independence from Sudan after two civil wars and decades of suffering. By 2013, however, the new country faced new waves of violence from within. As in all wars, the burden of death, displacement, and slave-taking fell on women and children.

Sarah Cleto Rial’s talk will focus on the current crisis in South Sudan, its implications for women, and the role of women in peace building efforts.

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