

SAAF Update 11-2011
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October 26, 2011

Dear Sudanese Friends and Friends of the Sudanese people,

At least for our own purposes, let's simplify the situation in (northern) Sudan: The problems never have been southern Sudan, Darfur, Blue Nile, the Beja people or the Nuba people. The problem is and has been the ruling leadership in Khartoum. Brilliant, evil, radical, dishonest men who use strategies of divide and conquer (race, culture, religion...) and have so little regard for human beings that they are willing to bomb innocent civilians to maintain their control, increase their wealth and achieve their radical agenda. Currently the victims are those who live in Darfur, Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains. Here are some facts that help paint the picture:

- The NCP military has been actively engaged in recruiting Janjaweed militias from other areas in Africa and transporting them to help accomplish the destruction of the African people along the southern border.
- Ryan Boyette organized a network of 15 people to gather information including photos and videos, documenting atrocities and transmitting them to the West. He also supplied eyewitness interviews that helped others find evidence of atrocities, including mass graves, on satellite images. He has discussed this with White House officials and others in the U.S. government.
- While officially illegal, the government actively condones slavery. Slavery did not end with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Although exact numbers cannot be determined, at least 35,000 South Sudanese are estimated to remain enslaved in (north) Sudan.
- Perhaps President Obama has decided he needs questionable intelligence from the Government of Sudan more than we need to stop the genocide. How many lives is the intelligence worth? It is no coincidence that the lives being lost are those of Black Africans. Are their lives not so valuable as ours!
- Christians in the north, who number about one million, have come under increased persecution since the government call for a Sudan based on Islamic law.

This is a horrible situation! Everyone is against genocide, but is the President willing to do what it takes to stop it? He can! There are two reasons the U.S. should care: humanitarian and our own security. The humanitarian issues are so grievous and the security threat so real that we must take action to change the regime. In recognizing this, the President should order an immediate review of Sudan policy.

And, any proposed policy that does not result in near-term protection for civilians not involved in conflict is aiding and abetting. If we advocate for anything less, we should ask ourselves why we are not being totally honest.

In His Service,
Bill Andress

Sudan Advocacy Action Forum

News Summary provided by Dr. Eleanor Wright, Sudan Advocacy Action Forum
In this issue:

- US Congressmen urged to support no-fly-zone in Sudan
- Khartoum's atrocities in Southern Kordofan State
- Blue Nile refugees flee to Ethiopia
- Blue Nile hospital struggles to treat wounds
- Khartoum rocked by protests
- Church faces increasing hostility in Sudan
- Sudan deports Eritrean refugees
- Sudan remains on terror list
- Renault Trucks cancels contract with Sudan
- Sudan's economy seen shrinking
- Murle and Lou Nuer hold peace meeting in Jonglei
- Khartoum Hands Over 140 South Sudanese Women Prisoners
- US troops to help hunt LRA leader
- US to build drone base in Ethiopia

US Congressmen urged to support no-fly-zone in Sudan. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), September 23, urged US Congressmen to support the imposition of a no-fly zone in Sudan. The SPLM-N Secretary General Yasir Arman accused the Sudanese government of killing thousands of civilians in the war affected regions and reiterated before the Congressmen his appeal for a no-fly-zone in the three regions. Arman pressed the US lawmakers to put more pressures on the government in Khartoum. He stressed that Sudan's ruling "National Congress does not respond to niceties; they respond only to pressures". He went on to say that the "relative peace" the US brought in the Sudan through the independence of the South Sudan is now threatened by the "fanatic leaders" in Khartoum. Among those present were Congressman Frank Wolf and Congressman Jim McGovern, co-chairs of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. Arman told the caucus that they sought in vain to negotiate a peaceful solution to the southern Kordofan conflict but the Sudanese president refused the Addis Ababa deal and the fight extended to the Blue Nile. (Sudan Tribune, 09/23/2011)

Khartoum's atrocities in Southern Kordofan State. The latest reports from Sudan's Southern Kordofan state paint a dire picture. After five months of fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, the humanitarian situation in the state is said to be getting worse. Much of the civilian Nuba population, seen as allied to the SPLM-North, is hiding in caves to escape regular SAF bombing raids. Upwards of 150,000 people have been displaced by the fighting, which was sparked over accusations of rigged state elections this past spring. Ryan Boyette, an aid worker who has been based in Southern Kordofan for nine years, is predicting a large-scale food crisis. He blames Khartoum's blockade on humanitarian access into rebel areas by Khartoum. "The amount of food is extremely low... They are picking grass and leaves from certain trees that they can eat. But now the rainy season is over, so it's going to become a very drastic problem very soon," he said. Boyette is now assisting the Harvard University's "Satellite Sentinel Project," helping them to pin-point mass graves and sites of atrocities carried out by Khartoum's security forces against the local population. Ryan said he has interviewed eye witnesses who have "described very clearly, seeing soldiers enter houses, pulling people out and killing them, in front of their family members, killing them in front of their community." Boyette is currently in Washington, DC meeting with officials in the White House and the US Congress, where he took

part in a Congressional hearing. This is all part of his effort to get the US and the international community to do more to help keep Southern Kordofan from turning into the next Darfur. (VOA News, 10/21/2011)

Blue Nile refugees flee to Ethiopia. The United Nations (UN) has opened a camp in Ethiopia's western town of Tongo to accommodate Sudanese refugees fleeing violence in the border region of Blue Nile. More than 27,500 refugees from Blue Nile have crossed into neighboring Ethiopia since their state plunged into violent clashes on 1 September between Sudan's army (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N), according to UN figures. Adrian Edwards, UNHCR spokesperson, said in a press briefing in Geneva that the new camp is located 200 km southeast of the main border entry point for refugees at Blue Nile's border town of Al-Kurmuk, which is the stronghold of the SPLM-N rebels. "With refugees still arriving, UNHCR is working with the Ethiopian government and the International Organization for Migration to speed the moving of refugees to safer locations," he said. Edwards revealed that the UNHCR plans to move around 400 refugees daily from the border to Tongo, where shelter, water, food and sanitation are provided. He further pointed out that the other main camp in the area at Sherkole reached its full capacity of 8,702 people October 4. (Sudan Tribune, 10/08/2011)

Blue Nile hospital struggles to treat wounds. Kurmuk hospital in Sudan's southern crisis-hit Blue Nile State is struggling to cope with an influx of war wounded, according to hospital doctor Evan Atar. So far he has treated 626 people for shrapnel injuries since clashes began last month. Cotton, gauze and saline solution will run out shortly if aid does not arrive, he says, adding that six months of supplies have been used up in the past six weeks. "The problem is that there is no way we can get the drugs in here now because of the Antonovs bombing the area, making it very dangerous to fly supplies in from Kenya." Atar is the only doctor in Kurmuk, which has the only hospital between state capital Damazin (under SAF control), and neighboring Ethiopia. The lack of blood donors mean that the hospital's 24 nurses donate blood to keep patients alive. The priority is to move patients from the hospital as quickly as possible, either back home or across the border to Ethiopia where other aid agencies can care for them. Food would also become a problem, he noted. "First of all the war will continue and the second thing is, now, hunger will come and it is not going to spare anyone unless the people go and become refugees to be helped, but for the people left within, it is going to be a big problem." (IRIN, 10/12/2011)

Khartoum rocked by protests. The Sudanese capital Khartoum on October 11 experienced massive protests prompted by lack of public transport, leading to rare acts of vandalism and heavy deployment by police forces, eye witnesses told Sudan Tribune. Public discontent over worsening economic conditions and the government's perceived failures has recently given rise to increased dissent and concomitant protests. The wave of intermittent protests started in late September in Burri area of eastern Khartoum and later spread to several parts of the capital. According to eye witnesses, the largest protest to date erupted in and around Jackson square - the epicenter of public transport in downtown Khartoum - after thousands of citizens found themselves without buses to take them home. The witnesses also said that protesting students and citizens were chanting anti-government slogans and clogged traffic on the bridge for several hours. According to the witnesses, the protestors burned a car on the bridge and later attempted to burn an office of the national electricity corporation but police

forces repelled them. The protestors were also shattering windscreen of cars, the witnesses added. Meanwhile, anti-riot police units deployed heavily on all roads leading to the center of the metropolis as thousands of citizens had to go back home on foot. (Sudan Tribune, 10/11/2011)

Church faces increasing hostility in Sudan. Emboldened by government calls for a Sudan based on Islamic law since the secession of South Sudan, Muslims long opposed to a church near Khartoum have attacked Christians trying to finish constructing their building, sources said. The Sudanese Church of Christ (SCOC) congregation in Omdurman West has continued to meet for Sunday worship in a building without a roof in spite of opposition from area Muslims and local authorities, the sources told Compass. The SCOC has been trying to erect a church building on the site since it obtained the land in 1997, but both government officials and area Muslim residents have used delay tactics to prevent it, according to a Christian who lives in the area. The church had filed a complaint with the Ministry of Guidance and Religious Endowments, which last month informed the SCOC that officials will investigate the matter, though they gave no time frame. All religious groups must obtain permits from the Ministry of Guidance and Social Endowments, as well as from the state ministry of construction and planning and the local planning office before constructing new houses of worship, according to the US Department of State's 2010 International Religious Freedom Report. (Compass Direct News, 10/24/2011)

Sudan deports Eritrean refugees. The United Nations refugee agency condemned the deportation of more than 300 Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers by Sudan after weeks of detention and in spite of a previous agreement with the UN. Adrian Edwards, a spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters at a press briefing in Geneva that his agency was concerned that the rights of refugees were not being respected, even though Sudanese authorities had assured otherwise, and said Sudan's actions breached the agreement between his agency and the Government. Upon arrival, the refugees were convicted on charges of illegal entry and movement in Sudan, and were subsequently detained for several weeks in Dongola in the country's north, before being deported. Mr. Edwards said deportations like these violate the 1951 UN Refugee Convention as well as the 1974 Sudanese Asylum Act. According to UNHCR, Sudan has recently forced asylum-seekers on various occasions to return to Eritrea, where they risk persecution. (UN News Service, 10/18/2011)

Sudan remains on terror list. The United States has kept Sudan on its list of terrorist sponsors despite findings that the Arab state was helping in counter-insurgency (CI) operations. The US State Department said Sudan has been cooperating against Al Qaida and CI operations that threatened US interests. But the department kept Khartoum on the list of terrorist sponsors, a designation that began in 1993. "Sudanese officials have indicated that they viewed continued cooperation with the United States as important and recognized the potential benefits of US training and information-sharing." The report, released on Aug. 18, reviewed Sudan's CI efforts with the US. The State Department said Khartoum was trying to restrict unidentified foreign insurgency movements, including recruitment for the war in Iraq. "Nonetheless, elements of designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including Al Qaida-inspired terrorists, remained in Sudan, as gaps remained in the Sudanese government's knowledge of and ability to identify and capture these individuals as well as prevent them from exploiting the territory for smuggling activities," the report said. (World Tribune,

09/19/2011)

Renault Trucks cancels contract with Sudan. French Renault Trucks said it has cancelled a contract with the Sudanese Giad Motor Company to assemble Renault vehicles. Human rights and advocacy groups mentioned the use of Renault trucks by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and demanded it stop its cooperation with the government-owned Giad industrial complex. GIAD Industrial City is one of 30 state-owned companies whose assets have been blocked by the US administration since May 2007 for their roles in fomenting violence and human rights abuses in Darfur. IPIS, a Belgium based institute focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa, recently released a report about Renault's cooperation with Sudan, including pictures of trucks used by SAF in Darfur. Reacting to this report, the head of Renault Trucks expressed his solidarity with the people of Sudan and Darfur in particular. Giad still assembles vehicles and trucks for the German MAN, and the Japanese Nissan and Toyota. (Sudan Tribune, 10/20/2011)

Sudan's economy seen shrinking. The economy of post-secession Sudan will experience contraction in growth in the years 2011 and 2012, according to data released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sudan lost 75% of its oil reserves after the southern part of the country became an independent nation. Prior to the country's breakup, Sudan produced close to 500,000 barrels per day. In its World Economic Outlook published this week, the IMF projected a negative real GDP growth for Sudan; -0.2% in 2011 and -0.4% in 2012. This is down from the 6.5% growth achieved in 2010 and an average of 6.7% in the years 2003-2009. According to the report, consumer prices will increase by 20% in 2011 before dropping to 17.5% in 2012. The figure was at 13.0% in 2010. Unemployment rate on the other hand will decline from 13.4% in 2011 to 12.2% in 2012. The impact of the economic situation is beginning to be felt by the ordinary citizens in Sudan in the form of rising food prices and persistent shortage in foreign currency available. Earlier this year, the Sudanese government approved an austerity package that partially removed subsidies on sugar and petroleum products, a step welcomed by the IMF. (Sudan Tribune, 09/21/2011)

Murle and Lou Nuer hold peace meeting in Jonglei. A peace building initiative between South Sudan's Lou Nuer and Murle tribes began in Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, on October 7 in an effort to restore relations after fighting and cattle raiding between the two groups has killed an estimated 1,000 people since June. The event brought together at least 100 MPs from both the South Sudan national assembly and Jonglei state legislature. It comes after Murle raiders from Pibor County, in August, attacked Uror County populated mainly by the Luo branch of the Nuer ethnic group. Local reports indicate that over 600 were killed in the raid believed to be a response to attacks by Luo Nuer groups against Murle areas in June that killed around 400 people. Organized by the Sudan Council of Churches and chaired by Archbishop of Episcopal Church of Sudan, Daniel Deng Bul, the purpose of the meeting is to initiate a peace dialogue between the groups and find ways to stop the cycle of violence. Archbishop Deng, in his opening remarks, said the fighting was an insult to South Sudan. Leaders from both communities were encouraged to tell their young men to stop the fighting and not to receive weapons from rebel groups operating in South Sudan. The MPs also agreed that both groups should be disarmed and extra security forces deployed along the borders with the two groups. One of the most disturbing aspects of the raids are reports of the abduction of women and

children. The MPs suggested that a campaign be established to facilitate the return of the women and children to be reunited with their families. (Sudan Tribune, 10/07/2011)

Khartoum Hands Over 140 South Sudanese Women Prisoners. Sudan has released 140 imprisoned South Sudanese Women in Khartoum to the Republic of South Sudan, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Hon. Joseph Lual has said. He said that, on a recent visit to Khartoum, he was commissioned by the President Salva Kiir to take a letter to the President of the Republic of Sudan regarding the fate of South Sudanese there. Lual said that the response was very positive leading to the release of the 140 women who were mostly charged with brewing local alcohol and other misdemeanors. He said many of the released women were unable to come immediately as they had asked to be reunited with their family members who are still in Khartoum before coming to South Sudan. (Gurtong, 10/08/2011)

US troops to help hunt LRA leader. In a letter to Congress, Mr Obama said the first US forces arrived in Uganda on Wednesday and would be deployed to South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo subject to the approval of each respective host nation. Barack Obama said he was sending about 100 US troops to central Africa to help and advise government forces battling Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels accused of murder, rape and kidnapping children. Mr Obama made clear the troops would serve only as trainers and advisers in efforts to hunt down rebel leader Joseph Kony. Obama's decision commits US forces to help confront a rebel group that has drawn international condemnation for decades of chilling violence, including hacking body parts off victims and the abduction of young boys to fight and young girls for use as sex slaves. (Reuters, 10/17/2011)

US to build drone base in Ethiopia. The United States is set to build a new drone base in Ethiopia for counter-terrorism operations in the Horn of Africa, the Washington Post reports. The establishment of the drone base in the East African country will be used to carry out strikes against targets in the region mainly to confront the activities of designated terrorist groups such as Al-Shabab, an al-Qaeda affiliate who are fighting the the weak transitional government of Somalia. Ethiopia has in recent years proved as "a valued counterterrorism partner to deal with the threats posed by al-Shabaab." according to US officials who spoke to the Washington Post. The latest move has proved Washington's interest to extend the range of its drone weapons to Africa. The US has a long established base in Djibouti where it conducts drone attacks over targets inside Somalia and Yemen. The US government had carried out unauthorized deadly drone attacks in at least six countries namely Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. (Sudan Tribune, 09/24/2011)