

SAAF Update 9-2011
August 18, 2011

Dear Friends of the Sudanese People and Sudanese Friends,

Do you believe that anger is wicked? Certainly it can be and probably normally is. Indeed, various listings refer to anger as a Cardinal Sin or one of the Seven Deadly Sins. I grew up thinking that anger was wrong.

A better understanding of anger suggests that there is also righteous anger. God was angry with Moses who resisted returning to Egypt to confront Pharaoh. Moses was angry with the Israelites for worshiping a golden calf. Jesus was angry that the Temple was defiled by merchants and for the hard heartedness of the Pharisees. [Bob Deffinbaugh](#), in his study on Righteous Anger, notes that anger as an expression of God's righteousness is indeed appropriate and required. He provides some guidelines:

1. Godly people are angry when God is angry
2. Righteous anger is based upon people's violation of God's law, and must be lawfully expressed
3. Godly anger is not explosive, but is slow to be provoked
4. Righteous anger does not take pleasure in anger
5. Godly anger does not lose its temper, but is always under control.

Our update today arouses anger in me....anger which I believe is righteous. Ethnic cleansing, genocide, bombing civilians, tens - perhaps hundreds of thousands of Sudanese need aid because of their government's insane and inhumane treatment of them. The evidence is plain to see (witnesses' reports, satellite images, UN reports...).

We must take action.

If you did not receive our recent request to contact your Congressman and Senators, please let us know.

If you did receive it and have not made contact, please do.

More action requests will be forthcoming very soon. We must rise up in righteous anger; we must not simply deplore what is happening. **If we do not, who will?**

In His Service,

Bill

Andress

Bill Andress

Sudan Advocacy Action Forum

News Summary provided by Dr. Eleanor Wright, Sudan Advocacy Action Forum

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US congressional hearing on South Kordofan's ethnic cleansing. Accounts of atrocities allegedly committed by Sudan's army in South Kordofan were recited in a hearing August 4 organized by a US congressional committee. Sudan's army has been fighting a war since June 5 against the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (not part of the SPLA of South Sudan) in South Kordofan, which borders Darfur and the newly independent South Sudan. More than 72,000 people, according to UN figures, were displaced by the fighting as it intensified with heavy aerial bombardment by Sudan's army. A large number of people are believed to be killed amid reports that Sudan's army has been targeting the African Nuba population. UN agencies accused Sudan of hampering access of humanitarian aid to the affected population.

US congressman Chris Smith, chair of the house congressional panel on African issues and international human rights, convened the emergency hearing of three witnesses who recounted claims of "ethnic cleansing, murders, rapes" and a burgeoning humanitarian crisis in the area. Testimonies were received from Andudu Adam Elnail, a bishop at the Anglican Diocese of Kadugli in South Kordofan, Bradford Phillips, President of Persecution Project, and Luka Biong Deng a member of South Sudan's ruling SPLM party. All three witnesses spoke of wide-ranging atrocities committed by Sudan's army against the Nuba population, and called on the US Administration to rally international efforts to stem the crisis. Bishop Andudu said his own Anglican cathedral, offices and home in South Kordofan's state capital of Kadugli were ransacked and looted. He also said a member of his congregation reported seeing mass graves less than a mile away. He called on the US and other members of the international community to begin to "translate moral outrage into effective action" to save lives. (Sudan Tribune, 08/04/2011)

Khartoum strikes South Kordofan again. A survivor says people are routinely fleeing to the mountains in search of shelter. The Sudanese Air Force (SAF) bombed the village of Cock in South Salra in South Kordofan August 17, a survivor of the attack told Radio Dabanga. The survivor, who was able to escape the attacks and took refuge in the Nuba Mountains, told Radio Dabanga that government aircrafts bombed an area of South Salra.

Two powerful blasts rocked the area. The incident left an estimated 80 cows and 180 goats dead due to poisonous chemicals released by the blasts, according to him. The SPLM-North had confirmed earlier in August of repeated shelling carried out by SAF in South Kordofan. Meanwhile, the SPLM-North welcomed the United Nations' report on human rights violations committed by the Sudanese government in the state.

Abdul Aziz Adam Al-Hilu, the president of the movement in South Kordofan told Radio Dabanga, "It is a positive sign that the UN has called these human rights violations war crimes or crimes against humanity." He added there were three (3) mass graves inside the city of Kakulai. He blamed Ahmed Harun, the governor of South Kordofan who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, for the mass graves. Al-Hilu also pointed out that this is not a new crime for Khartoum and that such mass killings have become a norm in South Kordofan. He called all the people of Sudan and various political forces and civil movements to unite and overthrow the regime. He told Radio Dabanga, "The massacres and ethnic cleansing must stop. So must the rape and scorched-earth policies adopted by the regime." (BorGlobe, 08/17/2011)

Russia, China blocked calls to condemn Khartoum's fighting in South Kordofan. Russia and China watered down a US-proposed statement to bring before the UN Security Council (UNSC) to condemn the ongoing war by Khartoum in South Kordofan, diplomats said. Sudan saw it as a diplomatic victory after a closed-door meeting held between the UNSC's 15 members on August 11 failed to issue a statement calling for a ceasefire in South Kordofan. Sudan's army has used aerial bombardment to quell what it termed as a rebellion against Khartoum by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North amid reports of indiscriminate shelling and targeting of the indigenous Nuba population. According to Amanda Pitt, a spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, at least 200,000 people in South Kordofan have been killed, injured or forced to flee their homes since the fighting erupted in early June. Sudan's permanent envoy to the UN, Dafa'a Allah Al-Haj Ali, said that China, Russia, India and Lebanon objected to the demand, casting doubts on the veracity of the information on atrocities committed in the region. Russia and China are both allies of Khartoum, and Beijing is the dominant investor in Sudan's oil sector. (Sudan Tribune, 08/12/2011)

UN chief mourns death of four peacekeepers in Abyei. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon expressed sadness over the death of four Ethiopian peacekeepers in Abyei. "The secretary general expresses his deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those killed, as well to the government of Ethiopia," said Ban's spokesperson. "He also expresses his concern for the well-being of the seven other peacekeepers who were injured in the land mine explosion."

Abyei is a contested region that lies on the border of Sudan and South Sudan. Both sides agreed to withdraw all their forces from the oil rich district and allow for the deployment of peacekeepers from Ethiopia. The UN Security Council last June authorized the 4,200 strong force as the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Abyei's status was supposed to be decided in a referendum last January but the vote stalled due to disagreements between Khartoum and Juba on who is eligible to vote. It has yet to be determined how this will be resolved. (Sudan Tribune, 08/02/2011)

South African UNAMID troops to remain in Darfur. South Africa will continue to maintain its troop deployment in Darfur and will further assist through bilateral mechanisms in contributing to the attainment of peace in Khartoum, South Africa's Ambassador Baso Sangqu said. He spoke at the UN Security Council following the adoption of a resolution on the Renewal of the AU/UN Operation in Darfur. Sangqu said the presence of UN peace keeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was crucial, given that its mandate included the protection of civilians and the facilitation of a Darfur peace process. "It is for this reason that my delegation voted in favour of

resolution 2003, extending the mandate of UNAMID for a further 12 months," he said. "South Africa welcomes the conclusion of the Doha Peace Process (DPP). It is indeed a step in the right direction in building peace in Darfur. To make this process inclusive, we look forward to the launch of the Darfur Political Process which is complimentary to the Doha Document For Peace In Darfur (DDPD)," said Sangqu. He added that the African Union meeting at its highest level in Malabo recently, has endorsed the launch of the DDPD as a process which, from the perspective of the African Union, was "the best opportunity to consolidate gains made so far". South Africa expressed its full and unequivocal support to the AU High Level Implementation Panel, with the support of UNAMID to launch the DPP. (AIIAfrica, 08/04/2011)

Thousands found in need of aid in remote area of Darfur. As many as 400,000 people living in a remote and mountainous part of Darfur need urgent humanitarian assistance, according to a UN assessment of an area that has been largely cut off for two years because of ongoing conflict. A week-long UNAMID mission west of Jebel Marra wrapped up on August 14 after team members distributed food, medical supplies and relief items to communities in the area. Oriano Micaletti, the head of UNAMID'S humanitarian protection strategy division, said assessments conducted by the mission team confirmed that about 400,000 people are displaced in the Jebel Marra area, which straddles the three states in the Darfur region.

"They have received very limited assistance during the last few years and are in urgent need of humanitarian aid," he said. Visiting the towns and villages of Golo, Killin, Sarong, Golol, Thur and Nertiti, the mission also set up committees among the local population to support aid workers in distributing humanitarian relief.

International aid organizations withdrew from the west of Jebel Marra in 2009 because of the precarious security situation.

Aside from UNAMID, the mission team comprised staff from OCHA, the UN Children's Fund, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, as well as the Danish Refugee Council. (AIIAfrica, 08/16/2011)

1.5 million South Sudanese still in the North. Insecurity, threats and inadequate transport have hindered the repatriation of South Sudanese from Khartoum, the South Sudan Minister of Disaster and Humanitarian Affairs, James Kok, has said. The minister told Gurtong that nearly 1.5 million South Sudanese displaced during the civil war are still in the North. He said that insecurity along the borders of the two countries has greatly affected the repatriation exercise. Last month, the United Nations said nearly 300,000 IDPs from South Sudan have so far been repatriated to back home, but a bigger population remains in North Sudan. Over 4 million South Sudanese were displaced to the North during the long civil war between the now neighboring countries. (Gurtong, 08/13/2011)

Former UNMIS chief to become UN envoy. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Haile Menkerios, the former head of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), to the newly created position of Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. Mr. Menkerios, a South African who served as the Secretary-General's special representative and head of UNMIS from March 2010 until early July 2011, will "continue to assist the parties reach a negotiated settlement to residual Comprehensive Peace Agreement and post-secession issues," according to a press statement. In his new post Mr. Menkerios will be based in New York with frequent travel to Sudan and South Sudan. (UN News Service, 07/29/2011)

Nafie chides Sudan's NCP defectors. The Sudanese presidential assistant and the

Vice Chairman of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), Nafie Ali Nafie, had tough words for the party's defectors calling them "frail hearted". The powerful Sudanese official urged his party members to stick to Shura (consultation) among themselves for decision making and refrain from creating lobbies and consecrating disagreements. The statements by the senior NCP official indicate divisions within the ruling party though its extent is unknown. Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir last month berated Nafie for signing an agreement with Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North that was brokered by the African Union in late June. The accord was aimed at paving the way for a ceasefire in South Kordofan. Bashir instructed the army to ignore the deal and continue the military offensive and arrest former deputy governor Abdel-Aziz al-Hilu so he could be brought to trial. Many observers in Sudan saw Bashir's remarks as a huge embarrassment for Nafie who is a hardliner within the NCP. (Sudan Tribune, 08/13/2011)

Islamic scholars say Khartoum not to blame for rising prices. The board of Islamic scholars cleared the Sudanese government from any blame in the wave of the rising cost of living and soaring prices of basic goods. The highest religious authority said that individuals along with the society bear equal responsibility for the situation. The remarks came during a meeting of the board's delegation led by secretary general Mohammed Osman Saleh with the parliament speaker Ahmed Ibrahim al-Tahir on August 15. South Sudan's breakaway denied the North of 75% of the country's oil production of 500,000 barrels a day. Oil exports accounted for most of the revenue and hard currency in pre-separation Sudan. Officials in Khartoum adopted tough austerity measures earlier this year which included reducing subsidies on sugar and petroleum products. The Islamic clerics said that merchants should repent, seek forgiveness and work in accordance with the principles of Islamic law adding that nothing justifies the high prices. With many food items imported and fertilizers also needed from abroad to cultivate farm land, ordinary Sudanese citizens are feeling the price increases. (Sudan Tribune, 08/15/2011)

**"We have no divine right to be heard, but we do have a divine requirement to speak."
John Grayston**