



A bomb shelter in South Sudan

Reconciliation Report

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*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name—
Serving Primarily the African
American Church*

Inside this issue:

Praise/Prayer Points 2

www.RMNI.org

Judi's Letter scheduled for December

WebWatch—Sudan:

- **A new Sudan section of our site is appearing soon—please see articles there.**
- **State Dept. Sudan Report <http://www.usis.usemb.se/human/human1999/sudan.html>**
- **Sen. Frist: http://www.senate.gov/~frist/Press_Page/2000_Releases/00-052/00-052.html**

Sudan's Lonely Scream

Jim Sutherland

We hear little from Black Sudanese refugees themselves. They cry in a wind tunnel. Their advocates assist, as illustrated below. But rarely do we hear them. They wonder if the world knows. While they didn't articulate it when we were at the Kiryandongo Sudanese Settlement, they must wonder if we care. Black Sudanese (52% of Sudan) in the South have almost no direct access to the media.

US government figures show that at least 1.5 million Sudanese have died in the civil war that began in 1983, and millions of others have been displaced. The US lists the average Sudanese life span at 57 years, but an African Inland Church worker in the South, connected with healthcare, puts the life span there at 35-40. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS—see <http://www.senate.gov/~brownback/sudan.html>) puts the death figure at 2 million and said that tens of thousands of non-Muslim Sudanese are slaves and

are “branded, beaten, starved and raped at their masters' whim.” (AP, 2/3/99 “Senator says thousands live as slaves in Sudan” — posted on CNN 2/3/99). A special UN observer, Leonardo Franco,



Sudanese women at a feeding station in Southern Sudan

found that in 1998 alone, 1500 children and 800 women were abducted from the South. Senator Bill Frist, M.D. (R-TN), in a speech in the Congressional Record said, “Slavery there is common, so common that the raiding parties the Government of Sudan in Khartoum sponsors accept captive humans as their pay.” Slaves are sold for about \$50.00 each.

According to Samaritans Purse, “The director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, Roger Winter, has called Sudan “absolutely the worst humanitarian situa-

tion in the entire world." (<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/maps/maps.asp?source=Projects&country=Sudan#current>, accessed 11/20/00). Senator Frist, described this Sudanese government bombing:

“What were the strongholds the Government of Sudan hit in those raids yesterday [3/1/00]? What decisive blow did they deliver to those rebels?

Well, there is one location that I know for sure was a civilian hospital. They bombed and destroyed a tuberculosis clinic and one of the only x-ray machines in the entire country. They hit the local marketplace. They hit a feeding center for the starving and displaced.

In three passes over the small bush town, they dropped five antipersonnel bombs. They killed or maimed civilians, many of them patients in the hospital, others in the marketplace, others in a feeding center for the starving. All of these were known civilian centers and all were intentionally targeted. The Government of Sudan knows exactly what is in that town and in those hospitals, and they targeted them anyway.”



Bomb that fell from Antonov bomber at night on 10/13/2000

Uganda provides about an acre of land per Sudanese refugee family in various Settlements. While neither the northern army (GOS-Government of Sudan) nor the SPLA (Sudanese People’s Liberating Army--south) is innocent of crime in the conduct of war, the Arab government continually bombs civilian targets in the rebel-held south. They finance increased weaponry through a new oil pipeline to the Red Sea, reportedly built with China’s help and ongoing protection. Tanks have been their main armament.

The SPLA, I’ve been repeatedly told by Sudanese Christians in Uganda, protects the Church in the South from the North. Talks between the SPLA and Khartoum broke down on 10/5/00, due to the North’s insistence that the entire country, including the Christian South, come under Islamic Law (“Sharia”), according to Reuter’s (The New Vision, 10/5/00, “Sharia fails Sudan talks.”)

I asked an exceptionally articulate Sudanese, with extensive knowledge of the government situation, to write some articles for our website, which he has done. Another Sudanese missionary friend travels for about two months at a time to teach and minister in Christ’s name, leaving his family in Uganda. The roads in southern Sudan, I’m told, are virtually impassable non-roads. He constantly moves in the war zone teaching small groups of Christians. He keeps going back, after spending a week or two with his wife. We’re in contact with this brother, who has provided photos of bombing. These Christians, persecuted by the Islamic government, need your prayers. The refugees we served would sit from 9:30 AM until nearly 5 PM on backless concrete benches to hear God’s Word. Samaritan’s Purse staffs a hospital at Lui , southern Sudan. Africa Christian Training Institute, with whom we travel to Uganda, can also forward aid.



A Sudanese national missionary’s car

Family/Praise & Prayer Points:

- ↑ Ethan slam-dunked his first Cessna solo flight—but not the plane!
- ↑ Please pray that all courses will be completed well by Tim, Ethan & Susanna.
- ↑ God’s Recruitment of the 2001 Ugandan/Sudanese Team—especially of Black US pastors
- ↑ Thanks for teaching opportunities in 3 Black churches & an upcoming Cedine couples’ retreat
- ↑ Praise for 2 years with a great Board of Directors
- ↑ Need greater effectiveness, wisdom & Christ likeness