



Genocide Watch Alert: Sudan

August 2015

Genocide Watch is issuing a genocide alert for the regions of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur in the Republic of Sudan. Genocide and other atrocities in these regions are the result of the Sudan regime's policy to transform Sudan into an Islamic Arab State.

These regions are strategically important because of their oil reserves. Similar to Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile have suffered from long-term political and economic marginalization.

The conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile is between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). The conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile have left 1.2 million people internally displaced since June 2011, and another 246,500 have taken refuge in South Sudan and Ethiopia.

South Kordofan, including the Nuba Mountains, and the Blue Nile region are home to over fifty major ethnic groups. The Nuba population has been subjected to three genocidal campaigns. In the early 1980's, growing discontent with the government's Arabist policies drove many in South Kordofan and Blue Nile to join the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/A) seeking autonomy from the Sudanese government.

In efforts to weaken the SPLM/A, the government in Khartoum launched attacks on the Nuba and on the Blue Nile region. The National Islamic Front initiated a jihadist campaign intended to eradicate the Nuba population. Government forces, especially the Air Force, along with government-armed militias, committed mass atrocities in the Nuba Mountains. Under the Genocide Convention, the atrocities committed in the 1990's against the Nuba constituted genocide.

Violence in the Nuba Mountains continued until a ceasefire agreement was signed in 2002. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement failed to address many of the issues concerning the Nuba, who were not permitted to vote in the January 2011 referendum on southern secession from Sudan.

In May 2011, the National Elections Commission appointed by fellow war criminal Omar al-Bashir announced that Ahmad Harun had won the election for Governor of South Kordofan. The SPLM/A has stated that the election outcome was fraudulent. The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Harun in April 2007 for 20 counts of crimes against humanity and 22 counts of war crimes in Darfur. The Sudanese government has refused to surrender Harun. Naming him the winner of the South Kordofan elections demonstrates the vindictiveness and genocidal intentions of the Sudanese regime, as well as the culture of impunity in Sudan. Harun lives in Khartoum where he is assured protection by the Sudanese government.



The Sudanese government systematically bombs Nuba civilians, and supplies Arab militias with arms to murder Nuba civilians. The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Arab militia attacks on the Nuba are intended to destroy, in part, the Nuba ethnic group. These acts constitute genocide and crimes against humanity.

In South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, civilians are subjected to sexual violence, forced displacement, extrajudicial killings, and bombardment. Starvation in these regions has resulted from the Sudanese government's policy of genocide by attrition. The Sudanese government claims that the SPLM-N has recruited children and attacked UN peacekeepers.

In the Blue Nile region, rape of women is common by both the SAF and the Popular Defense Force (PDF) especially while women perform daily tasks like collecting water and firewood. Many women and girls subjected to rape and sexual violence by government forces do not report the crimes for fear of retaliation to themselves and their families.

The most recent genocide in Darfur began in 2003, when the Sudanese government and Arab militias (Janjaweed) destroyed over 400 villages, allegedly in response to two opposition groups: the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The genocide in Darfur has killed at least 450,000 people since 2003. Sudanese Air Force bombing and army attacks in Darfur displaced another 450,000 people in 2014 and 43,000 more in 2015. A total of 2.5 million people have been displaced in Darfur from 2003 to 2015, where they remain in squalid IDP camps and cannot safely return to their homes, which are being resettled by Arabs from neighboring African countries.

The hybrid United Nations and African Union peacekeeping operation (UNAMID), established through the Security Council's Resolution 1769 in July of 2007 operates under a Chapter VII mandate to protect civilian populations in Darfur. Nevertheless, humanitarian access by UN peacekeeping operations in many parts of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur has been regularly blocked by the Sudanese government. UN peacekeepers are additionally subject to targeted attacks by the rebel groups. UNAMID has suffered 216 fatalities. UNAMID was reauthorized by UNSC Resolution 2228 on 28 June 2015. Although it was authorized under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, UNAMID could protect civilians with much greater force than it has utilized thus far. In fact, UNAMID currently operates as though its every decision requires approval from the Sudanese government.

Currently, five ICC arrest warrants have been issued for the situation in Darfur, Sudan, two of which are for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, and South Kordofan Governor Ahmad Harun. The most recent attempt to deliver al-Bashir to the ICC occurred during al-Bashir's presence at the African Union Summit in South Africa in June 2015. South Africa's High Court ruled that South Africa was legally required as a state-party to the Rome Treaty of the ICC as well as the country's own constitution to arrest al-Bashir. In spite of its ruling, on 15 June 2015, al-Bashir's



plane left South Africa, returning the President to Sudan, again allowing him to evade arrest by the ICC for crimes against humanity and genocide.

Genocide Watch is issuing a Genocide Emergency Alert for Sudan

Genocide Watch has declared that the massacres in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur constitute a Genocide Emergency. In accord with our ten stages of genocide, Sudan is ranked at *Stage 9: Extermination* and *Stage 10: Denial*.

Genocide Watch recommends the following for the situation in Sudan:

- All armed parties should declare an immediate cease-fire.
- The UN Security Council must strengthen the mandates of UNAMIS and UNAMID to operate as full Chapter VII operations. They should not operate like Chapter VI operations which require approval by the Sudanese government. which is not required for Chapter VII operations, with mandates to protect all vulnerable populations, including the Nuba population.
- We urge the UN Security Council to mandate and uphold UN peacekeepers' role as impartial, *not* neutral, parties in their mandate to protect civilians.
- Active measures must be taken to stop bombing of civilians by the Sudanese government. If the UN will not approve, the US and other nations should convene a conference to discuss use of force to stop aerial bombings and the use of helicopter gunships on civilians.
- A "passive" no fly zone should be imposed over South Kordofan, including the Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile and Darfur, even without UN authorization, in which any planes used by the Sudanese Air Force to bomb or strafe civilians would be destroyed by mortars when they return to their bases at night.
- The US should resist extending an arms embargo to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions. Such an embargo would handicap rebel forces that combat the Sudanese government. Self-defense is the best defense against genocide.
- We urge the UN Human Rights Council to send a Commission of Inquiry to South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states.
- We call upon the African Union and the League of Arab States, to condemn the crimes against humanity being perpetrated by the Sudanese government in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur. Both regional organizations should expel Sudan.
- We call on all state-parties of the ICC to abide by their obligations under the Rome Treaty, prohibit Sudanese officials charged by the ICC from traveling to their countries, arrest them if they do enter into their territory, and turn them over to the ICC to be tried in the Hague.

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