

prevent them from exposing human rights abuses. Khartoum is thus able to lean on the aid community, and silence open opposition.

5.0 A CALL FOR ACTION

For decades, the campaign against Christians in Sudan has continued unchecked by the world. More recently, this campaign has spread to anyone with different religious beliefs from the state, including moderate Muslims.

Almost 2 million people have died - the vast majority of them southern Christians. Millions more are displaced, either internally, or in refugee camps outside the country.

The genocide continues.

Up until recently, the conventional wisdom has been that no side could win the civil war. Now, thanks in part to Canadian Oil Companies, this is no longer likely to be true. With the oil flowing, the NIF could very well, achieve its objectives. Once the oil pipeline starts flowing, (around June 1999) an estimated 150,000 barrels a day will provide sufficient resources for the Khartoum junta to wage its war against its own people successfully.

It is said that Confucius was once asked how to solve all the problems in the world. His reply: "to insist on the exact definition of words".

We have all seen what happens when the world community refuses to call genocide by its name. The 800,000 Rwandans who were hacked to death by drunk, machete wielding Interahamwe militia remain a tragic reminder of the price for international indolence.

Why was no country prepared to "insist on the exact definition of words", and use the "G" word in Rwanda, when it was obvious to the world what was happening? There is a growing awareness now that the Rwandan tragedy could have been prevented, or drastically curtailed, if some country had had the courage to use the word "genocide" in time. Imagine the number of lives that could have been saved, let alone the unbelievable expense of dealing with the humanitarian aftermath.

Yet in Sudan, the tragedy in terms of sheer numbers, is even greater than Rwanda. While the people are not being hacked to death in front of CNN they are, nevertheless, dying in larger numbers. It is clearly a GENOCIDE by attrition, with famine and civil conflict as its primary tools.

The 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide outlines the obligations of the International Community when a member state commits genocide. But the experiences of Rwanda and Sudan begs the questions:

"Does this Convention only apply to European countries?"