

in the "transition zone" between the North and South. The social disintegration caused by civil war and economic deterioration can only frustrate the eradication of this practice.

The civil war has virtually destroyed all aspects of civil society, infrastructure and traditional economic and trading systems in the South. The U.S. Committee of refugees estimated in 1993 that 1.3 million Southern Sudanese have died since 1983 as a result of the civil war - one out of every four people in the region. The government and both rebel factions have been guilty of obstructing international humanitarian assistance and abuses against non-combatant populations. There are continued reports of indiscriminate bombing by government forces. As well, all sides have been cited for torture, summary executions and the placing of landmines.

A serious problem is the condition of some 1.8 million squatters displaced by war and drought who have settled in the outskirts of Khartoum. These persons are subject to summary demolition of their shelters, loss of their meagre property and forced relocation to unsuitable areas.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada regularly speaks out at the UN General Assembly on the Sudanese human rights situation and has annually co-sponsored resolutions at the Commission on Human Rights sharply critical of Sudan. The Government of Canada also tries to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Sudanese authorities and rebel factions on questions of peace and security as well as human rights and good governance issues. During such discussions, Canadian officials have raised general human rights issues and specific cases.

Canada has also repeatedly called for a negotiated political settlement to the chronic civil war in the Sudan. Canada helped to found the "Friends of IGADD" group which was established to provide a common focus for international (donor) support for the peace process launched by the Peace Commission of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development.

Canada has the fullest respect for Islam as one of the great world religions and in no way wishes to impede its expression and development in Sudan, consistent with the values of tolerance of diversity and respect for human rights.

Because of the human rights situation, export controls for the sale of military goods and aircraft parts to Sudan remain in effect. As well, Canada's bilateral aid to Sudan remains suspended. However, Sudan continues to be one of the largest recipients of Canadian humanitarian assistance in Africa. Since 1990, CIDA has provided over \$100 million in emergency humanitarian assistance and food aid, including \$6.5 million for 1995, through NGOs and UN agencies. Such funding supports Operation Lifeline Sudan efforts to distribute emergency humanitarian relief to needy groups in both government and rebel held areas.