

## BACKGROUND

### CANADIAN ACTIONS ON SUDAN

The long-running civil war and tribal fighting, exacerbated by drought, continue to cause famine and large-scale movements of people in southern Sudan. Fighting is preventing relief organizations from reaching large pockets of the populations most in need in southern Sudan. There are reports of widespread torture, executions, religious persecution, and detention of civilians without trial. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have died from the fighting and famine, and many more have been displaced.

The 10-year civil war between the southern rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudanese government continues to interfere with relief efforts, with both sides using control of food as a weapon. Since 1991, the SPLA has splintered into several factions, and recent fighting among them has added to the bloodshed.

Civil conflict continues to cause large-scale population movements, driving tens of thousands of refugees into Kenya, Uganda, Zaire and Ethiopia and leaving hundreds of thousands more trapped in inaccessible areas of Sudan. An estimated 2.8 million displaced and drought-affected persons will require food aid this year.

In December 1992, discussions between the United Nations, the Sudanese government and three SPLA factions resulted in an agreement allowing relief agencies improved access to southern Sudan. Nevertheless, the situation remains precarious; the civil war persists as does fighting among the SPLA factions.

#### **Where Canada Stands**

The situation in Sudan poses a humanitarian and human rights challenge to the international community.

Canada is deeply concerned about the continuing conflict and deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan. Canada maintains that a negotiated peace among all parties is the only avenue toward a resolution of the conflict.

With this in mind, Canada continues to provide humanitarian assistance, make representations in international forums, and support UN initiatives on peace and human rights.