

The GOS has recently established an internal commission to study complaints of human rights abuses. It also reportedly released approximately 130 detainees in November.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has consistently called for a halt to hostilities between the GOS and SPLA. A just, negotiated political solution is the only way to ensure a lasting peace. Canada supports the Nigerian efforts to broker an agreement between all sides but recognizes the difficulties in the way of short-term success. The effective delivery of humanitarian assistance continues to be a concern for donor countries, including Canada. New channels must be found in order that aid gets to those most in need. We cannot accept the use of food as a weapon against civilian populations. Canada supports the UNDHA in its attempts to secure channels for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Canada was at the forefront of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) which provided safe passage for relief workers operating in the South. (OLS has recently encountered obstacles, largely due to in-fighting among the SPLA factions.)

Canada has suspended bilateral development aid to Sudan and encourages other donor countries to suspend both development aid and arms shipments to any side in the conflict.

The intransigence of the GOS and its self-justification through resort to claims of Islamic principles (as opposed to Western "human rights") remain major obstacles in the effort to pressure the Sudanese Government into accepting responsibility for respecting of human rights. We must find new avenues through which we may press the point that human rights cannot be ignored.

The splintering of the opposition SPLA and human rights abuses attributed to the opposition factions are equally matters of great concern. All sides, including Southern opposition groups, must be made to observe basic, internationally accepted human rights.

The Canadian Government has repeatedly made its concerns about human rights known to Sudanese officials. Representations have been made both in Khartoum and to the Sudanese chargé in Ottawa. The Minister for External Relations and International Development, Monique Landry, raised Canada's strong concerns at a meeting of la Francophonie.

Canada has also called for the UN to apply pressure on the GOS to respect human rights. In December 1992, Canada co-sponsored a General Assembly resolution which called on the CHR to consider appointing a Special Rapporteur for Sudan.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Sudan remains under consideration in the 1503 confidential procedure, but pursuant to the UNGA resolution which we co-sponsored, we will support the appointment of a

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