

that the Government of Canada is either supportive of or indifferent to that collaboration. In short, they identify oil extraction not as of positive development but as a major grievance with a Canadian label and say it must be stopped.

The underlying reality is that there has been, and probably still is, major displacement of civilian populations related to oil extraction. Furthermore, Oil has become a major focus of the fighting. Worse, the oil operations in GOS-controlled territory are used, even if to a limited extent, and possibly without the knowledge or approval of the oil companies, to directly support GOS military operations. Talisman has now informed us that these are "defensive purposes", and latest reports indicate that, in any event, the GOS denies the facilities were used for military purposes. Which sounds like a state in and of denial. We can only conclude that Sudan is a place of extraordinary suffering and continuing human rights violations, even though some forward progress can be recorded, and the oil operations in which a Canadian company is involved add more suffering.

5 Is there a way forward?

A Cease-fire Now

The dry season is arriving in South Sudan, and with it, fears of renewed ground fighting. Every effort should be made to achieve a cease-fire right now in Western Upper Nile. It would bring respite to thousands of people if a component of any such cease-fire was a removal of the iniquitous Flight Bans which just deprive hungry people of the food they need.

Operation Lifeline Sudan is ready to assume the risks of operating when conditions are less than optimal; the GOS is wrong to hide behind concerns for their safety in applying these bans, and **not only Canada but also Talisman and its oil partners should now put their influence behind efforts to have the bans removed**, but it is best that this be done in the context of the needed cease-fire in Western Upper Nile/Unity State. **And this cease-fire should be monitored by the international community through the use of monitors on the ground**, among other means, particularly at the airstrips used by the oil companies, at Heglig, Rubkona, and Bentiu.

A cease-fire which Talisman, either witnessing or acquiescing in the use of Heglig airstrip for military purposes, should be very firm in advocating and ready to pay a price for, perhaps in the form of foregone revenues. The gunships and Antonovs have taken off from Heglig with their payloads of death and displacement. That this never again occur should be the goal of all concerned; but why not seek to have the gunships and Antonovs grounded, not relocated?

Oil Money

There are only two ways of neutralizing the negative impact of oil. One is to halt production until