

2.2 Mechanisms for Canada to Support Human Rights and Civil Society in Sudan

1. The severity of human rights abuses in Sudan, in all regions, requires more vigorous action by the international community. Systematic monitoring and consistent follow-up means that Canada should balance its office in Khartoum with equal presence to effectively monitor human rights abuses in the South. The consensus is that the Government of Sudan (GOS) only responds to strong and persistent international pressure; correcting the Government of Sudan's attempts to polish its image (dubbed the "charm offensive") with the truth about the scope and severity of human rights abuses is essential to support the Sudanese people who are fighting for their basic human rights. Identified areas requiring more international attention include:

- forced removals and inhumane conditions for displaced persons;
- bombardment of civilian centres, e.g. hospitals and schools, and denied access to humanitarian assistance;
- slavery and the inadequacy of the work by the committee appointed to eradicate abductions as a response;
- systemic violations of women's rights;
- discrimination and inadequacy in meeting the right to basic education;
- inequitable access to health care - none in many areas of the south;
- the GOS's Public Order Law as a violation of basic human rights;
- violations of the security and rights of children, which requires immediate attention;
- torture and denial of the most basic rights for people in prisons;
- systemic violations of the right to religious freedom;
- denial of civil rights, such as democratic rights, freedom of association, failure to implement rights recognized in the constitution which the GOS uses as a cover for its abuses.

2. The Government of Canada (GOC) is urged to convince the Government of Sudan (GOS) to allow international and national NGOs to help internally displaced persons (IDPs) and that planning of the IDP camps and provision of goods and services to the camps be greatly improved. The Government of Canada should do all it can to secure the right and freedom of Sudanese NGOs to help displaced people throughout the country. Of particular concern is the flow of assistance to the Nuba people and people in the Southern Blue Nile region.

3. Action is urgently required to enable Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) to resolve with the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) all outstanding issues between these two parties with regard to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so that the flow of assistance to people in southern Sudan by OLS can recommence immediately. The GOC is urged to seek, through multilateral channels, the earliest possible resolution of issues regarding the MOU and ensure the renewed flow of assistance to southern Sudan.

4. The GOC and Canadian NGOs are urged to work closely together as a matter of urgency to develop a protocol for the extension of international (including Canadian) assistance to Sudan so that support can be provided to Sudanese civil society organizations and Sudanese NGOs. Due to problematic aspects of the OLS structure and methods, particular effort should be made to ensure that assistance flows to NGOs that are autonomous of the GOS.

5. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) should convene as soon as possible a full-day consultation with NGOs which work in Sudan on all aspects related to the control and access to assistance within both south and north Sudan, including the impact of the OLS system itself, in order to ensure consistency in CIDA's policy and implementation in Sudan.