

their non-Muslim countrymen, using the promise of war booty (which includes slaves, concubines, cattle, and land) as incentives;

The first region to feel the effects of this campaign was the Nuba Mountains. This regime has denied humanitarian access to the Nuba Mountains ever since it came to power. The UN, ICRC, and other NGOs have never been able to provide assistance to the more than 300,000 people living in the opposition held areas of the Nuba Mountains. In 1992-93, the world stood by as tens of thousands of Nuba were deported from the mountains and resettled in other areas of northern Sudan. While these deportations have slowed down, the campaign is still continuing, and humanitarian access is still being denied. Many of these have been sold into slavery, others killed. The women are routinely, and systematically raped, or forced to marry northern soldiers. Human rights groups charge that the purpose of this is twofold: 1. To provide incentives to poorly paid soldiers and government militias; and 2. To destroy the ethnic and familial identities of the Nuba people.

In 1994, this campaign of terror spread into northern Bahr El Ghazal, especially around the Heglig and Bentiu oil fields. Local militias, known as Murahaleen, as well as splinter factions under warlords such as Kerubino Kwanyin Bol, and Paulino Matep, were heavily armed by Khartoum, and given the task of creating havoc in the area. These raiders were (and continue to be) very successful in causing widespread displacement and ethnic cleansing of any ethnic groups in the area considered to be a potential opposition to the government. Thousands of internally displaced people began fleeing the oil field sites, and areas within a 200 kilometer proximity radius, such as Gogrial, and Awiel counties.

Many of these arrived at the NGO sites in areas of Southern Sudan where the United Nations agencies were allowed to operate. For years the increasing numbers of these displaced people were creating a major challenge to relief groups in the area who appealed to international donors to increase levels of support.

In 1998, the militia raids and ethnic cleansing hit an all time high, and precipitated the famine last year, in which an estimated 200,000 people died. Thousands more are living in peril, and are still facing death.

4.2 The Tragedy of the International Community's Response

Yet it is the response of the international community which is the most baffling in this whole scenario.

4.2.1 Ignoring Reports of Famine

Since the time of independence, the assault from successive regimes in Khartoum against the people of the south has been well known to the international community. Since 1994, the internally displaced people from the oilfields, Nuba Mountains and other areas where the genocide was taking place, have been telling their stories to the UN, and NGOs working in Sudan. Yet no action has been taken on the part of the international