

Christianity and other religions are allowed as long as they remain irrelevant to political and social life in Sudan. Christians are tolerated so long as they don't claim citizenship as Muslims do.

What is so remarkable about the genocide and religious persecution in Sudan is not so much its unique brutality, or its high casualty figures. Rather, it is the degree to which it is being carried out under the noses of - and at times the consent of - the international community. It is being done slowly and consistently. But it is being carried out with precision. Christianity and other non-Muslim religions have no place in the "ideal Islamic state", as defined by Muslim extremists.

Even in the capital of Khartoum, churches in the shanty areas have been bulldozed and Christians transported by force to the desert outside the town and dumped there with no basic provisions. Christians are constantly denied permission to erect schools and places of worship, while mosques and kalwas are subsidized by the state.

Yet the most serious aspect of the genocide and religious persecution comes in the form of "forced Islamization. This strategy of the Islamic extremists is as clever as it is insidious:

The strategic use of famine and civil conflict;

Deflecting attention away from government activities and hiding the truth from the international community through careful manipulation and control of information.

4.1. The strategic use of famine and civil conflict.

The creation of displacement and vulnerability among the non Islamic peoples through bombing of civilian targets, combing raids, the arming of local militias, and fueling inter-ethnic and factional fighting has become a major feature of the civil war. Once populations have fled their homes, they have no means of support and become dependent upon outside assistance.

When assistance from the international community is denied (as it is now in the Nuba Mountains and other parts of Southern Sudan), the people are forced to migrate to the government garrisons where they can receive assistance from the government (through the UN and international NGOs who often partner with Islamic groups allied to the government), upon acceptance of Islam.

Those who don't go to the government towns face starvation and death. Others are captured and sold into slavery, while women are routinely raped, and forced to marry soldiers and members of local militia groups.

The Sudan government has employed the term "jihad" (holy war), in the context of the civil war, in order to mobilize the northern Muslim population to take up arms against