



# SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

*Bring the Gospel of Christ, and providing food, clean water, shelter, and medical care, to the people of South Sudan*

## Mother of Mercy Hospital Bombed by North Sudan Fighter Jet

On May 1 the Sudan government sent a Sukhoi 24 fighter jet to bomb the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains. Another bombing followed on May 2. The government of North Sudan has been bombing civilian and military targets since the war started three years ago but this is the first time the hospital has been directly targeted.



The only hospital in the region, Mother of Mercy provides vital care to 150,000 patients annually in a region where humanitarian relief continues to be banned by North Sudan. It is staffed by one doctor, a handful of nurses and locally trained orderlies.

Some members of the hospital's staff suffered injuries. Patients fled into the bush and into caves. Windows were shattered, doors blown off and the roof buckled from the force of the blasts. No one was killed. And while one bomb fell near the doctor's residence and caused considerable damage, Dr. Tom Catena was unharmed.

This is the first time the hospital has come under attack. Now like hundreds of villages, churches and schools in the El Obeid Diocese, the Mother of Mercy Hospital has suffered the murderous wrath of indicted war criminal President Omar al-Bashir.

Immediately after the bombing, Dr. Catena and the medical staff began treating people injured by flying



***"They want to drive people out of here. This is the only thing that makes any sense; there's nothing military here. There's no military objective to destroying this place."***

— Dr. Tom Catena, Nuba Reports

shrapnel. In the weeks since the bombings, patients that were in the hospital at the time of the bombing have returned, and new patients have arrived seeking the hope and healing offered there.

Despite the possibility of more attacks upon them as the government of North Sudan pushes southward, Dr. Tom and the staff refuse to leave. They are resolved to remain. So, too, is the Sudan Relief Fund.

## UPDATE: North Sudan Increases Attacks in the Nuba Mountains

The first half of 2014 has been cruel to the people of the Nuba Mountains of Sudan. Increased bombings have killed hundreds



and left tens of thousands homeless in just South Kordofan alone. In the first half of 2014, 300 bombs were dropped in the Blue Nile region—more than double the number dropped the previous six months.

According to international reports, more

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*UPDATE: North Sudan Increases Attacks in the Nuba Mountains continued from page 1 ...*

than 450 artillery shells and 365 aerial bombs have been dropped into Um Dorein County by North Sudanese forces. Attacks have intensified in both frequency and barbarity as the annual fighting season draws to an end. With the rainy season fighting will subside, but torrential rains will make it more difficult to harvest crops, scavenge for food, and deliver aid to the refugees who desperately need it for survival.

The intense and violent aerial bombings and ground attacks are not limited to military installations but are also aimed at civilian targets; villages, clinics, churches, and families' homes are all targets in this horrific war.

Civilians have been caught between the warring factions and have become targets of the violence. Because the areas affected are very rural, and humanitarian aid is scarce, civilians are forced to live off what they can harvest or scavenge.

Journalists visiting the area have reported about whole villages and communities completely void of residents. Eighty thousand citizens call the region home, but nearly all have been forced to leave for their own safety and the safety of their families. Once thriving villages have been turned into ghost towns, The displaced have taken to small caves, dry riverbeds and other natural cover in an effort to avoid the bombings.

## A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

### **PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND**

Dear Friend in Christ,

In South Sudan, famine and fighting are resulting in mass displacement and great suffering.

**1.5 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UPROOTED BY CONFLICT IN THE PAST 7 MONTHS.**

**According to the UN, 50,000 children could die in the months ahead from lack of adequate nutrition.**

In this time of crisis for the new nation of South Sudan, the Sudan Relief Fund and our beloved Catholic Church are staying with the people, struggling to save lives, feed the hungry and keep our parish communities intact.

It's not an easy task. It takes courage, perseverance, prayer and money.

As war and famine persist with no end in sight, we're being overwhelmed with urgent calls for emergency feeding programs for infants and small children, and basic life-sustaining food rations for adults. Hence, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

You've been so very generous to us in the past. You've shown real Christian charity and love for these suffering people. And I'm so very grateful to you for all you've done! But circumstances here are dire, so I must ask you to generously help us once more, NOW, when so many lives are hanging in the balance.

Thank you and God bless you for your love, prayers and urgently needed gift, today!

Yours in faith,



Neil Corkery  
President

## HOPE IN THE DIOCESE OF TOMBURA-YAMBIO



Today, in the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio in South Sudan, at the request of Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, the Sudan Relief Fund, thanks to your donations, is providing funding for:

1. The purchase of books and equipment for the John Paul II Philosophicum Seminary, and food for the seminarians.
2. Development of a diocesan center for technological training.
3. Establishment of the Saint Bahkita Cultural Center for peace building.
4. A carpentry workshop
5. Construction of two classrooms at the Abangite Secondary School
6. Construction of one classroom and equipment for a computer center at the Abangite Secondary School
7. Construction of a specialized health center for dental care and eye and ear care
8. Provision of a car for the bishop and a secure garage

The Diocese of Tombura-Yambio and the rest of South Sudan continue to struggle with the consequences of decades of war, forced starvation, torture and enslavement committed against them by what is now the Arab Islamist state of North Sudan.

There is an 80% illiteracy rate and 30-40% infant mortality rate. **The current population in the diocese is 1,000,000 Catholics – nearly 60% of the entire population.** The vast majority of Christians are low-income wage earners, or earn no income at all. Hence, they are unable to support themselves, much less the diocese's priests, nuns, catechists and seminarians.

Tombura-Yambio is currently served by 45 priests, a number of religious and over 400 catechists, as well as lay persons who render both pastoral and social services to the entire Western Equatoria State of which the diocese is a part. The Sudan Relief Fund is committed to providing the resources, services and humanitarian aid programs the diocese needs. Like the Church, the Sudan Relief Fund will not leave the region.

## ROADS TO PEACE IN JUBA

Through programs funded by Sudan Relief Fund, Christian missionaries have been successful in reaching many of the rural communities of the Juba region, celebrating Mass in the villages and performing catechetical work with the villagers and wonderful people of the Juba region.

With assistance from Sudan Relief Fund, Franciscan friars were able to rent a house next to the Holy Trinity Chapel in Juba. The Sudan Relief Fund will pay living expenses for the Franciscans for the year, including food, personal expenses, liturgical supplies, medical expenses, ongoing formation and office supplies.

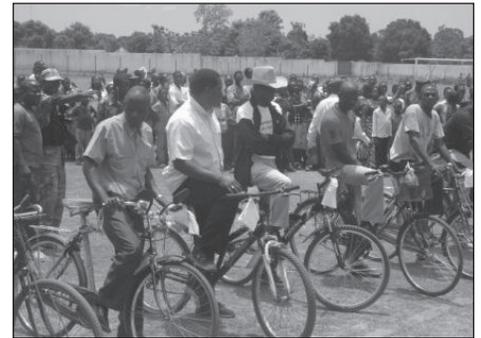
Sudan Relief Fund also provided the friars with the money needed

to purchase a 4X4 vehicle including maintenance, insurance, registration and permits allowing them to reach rural villages and other places in the countryside on bad or non-existent roads and during the rainy season. The vehicle allowed them to make 52 trips on the weekends to celebrate Mass in the villages, and also to do catechetical work with the communities. The friars also work to address the critical needs of displaced persons who took refuge in UN compounds in the area.

With the civil war and violence that plagues the area, it has been difficult for the friars. But with help from the Sudan Relief Fund, they are able to remain in Juba among the people there.

## BISHOP KUSSALA LEADS BIKE RIDE FOR PEACE

On Easter Monday in Yambio, Western Equatoria State, Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala led a peace-building initiative named "Bicycle Riding for Peace" in South Sudan.



At about 9:00 a.m. people gathered with their bicycles at two locations approximately 4 km from Yambio. They rode their bicycles slowly through the town into Gbudue Stadium of Yambio.

There riders competed in a variety of bicycle riding events.. The crowds enjoyed the contests immensely, which for a time dispelled thoughts of the tragedies of war.

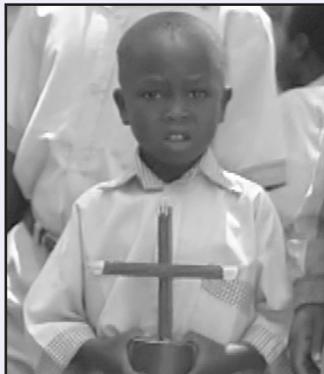
In the words of Bishop Kussala, *"As the wheels of the bicycle turn - it implies people have to change from a culture of violence, hate, tribalism, segregation etc.; to a culture of peace. Secondly, as the wheels turn it is seen as two wheels turning at the same time to make movement possible, so all should be one or united to move ahead in a peaceful manner with development of South Sudan."*

This was the first event of its kind in Yambio, which was initiated by the Bishop. All the top dignitaries of the government joined in the bicycle ride including the State Governor, Speaker of the State Assembly, Ministers, and the Yambio County Commissioner.



# PLANNED GIVING, LEGACY GIFTS, BEQUEST, WILLS & ESTATE DONATIONS

Please consider remembering Sudan Relief Fund in your estate planning.



Planned giving or legacy gifts are one of the most generous ways you can help your favorite charitable organization. At the Sudan Relief Fund we know we have the most generous donors in the world. Please consult your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer for details on remembering Sudan Relief Fund.

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## Pope Francis in a letter to Archbishop Paulino Lukudu Loro of Juba, South Sudan



*"We see daily how armed conflicts are generating poverty, hunger, sickness and death, and we cannot remain indifferent to these realities. We are likewise deeply grieved by the dramatic situation of those many men, women and children forced to flee their native lands and live in camps as refugees or exiles, in conditions unworthy of their human dignity and in which they are no longer seen as persons but as nameless statistics."*



### SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ENABLES US TO GO FORTH AND REMAIN IN COUNTLESS PLACES IN SUDAN TO BRING HELP,  
HOPE AND CHRIST'S LOVE.

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