



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

War crimes: refugee women and girls targeted

The more than 2 million refugees forced from their homes in South Sudan are in desperate need of food, clean water and medical care. With the help of caring friends like you, the **Sudan Relief Fund** is able to provide vital humanitarian aid to those living in refugee camps.

But many of the women and young girls among the displaced are also suffering from the trauma of the assaults they faced fleeing the brutal warfare in their homeland.

Earlier this year, U.N. human rights officials said the number of sexual assaults reported had reached “epic proportions” in the conflict in South Sudan.

Ken Scott is an experienced war crimes prosecutor who’s worked on tribunals for many conflicts. **He says the sexual violence in South Sudan is the worst he’s ever seen.**

“It’s such a high level of incidents, widespread, been going on for a substantial period of time, not isolated incidents,” he says. “One can only conclude that war crimes involving sexual violence are taking place.”

A recent human rights report found “thousands of South Sudanese have been subjected to sexual violence including rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, sexual mutilation, torture, castration, or forced nudity.”

These war crimes, along with all the



other violence stemming from the war, have resulted in Africa’s largest refugee crisis since the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Of the more than a million refugees who sought sanctuary in neighboring Uganda, 61 percent are children. The numbers of children traveling alone, or with no one but other children, are staggering. Officials estimate the number is as high as 36,000.

Most risk going hungry as they flee for their lives. Many are raped. One 15-year-old girl gave birth in the bush on the way to Uganda and nearly died of hunger. Another 15-year-old girl, walking with her 6-year-old sister, was raped by an armed group. Later she was accosted by more armed men and raped again.

When kids like this make it to the refugee camps, they haven’t had a meal in days or weeks. They’re emotionally numb. Most of them have seen their parents or siblings killed right before their eyes. They’ve suffered more in their young lives than most of us would suffer in a thousand lifetimes.



The Catholic Church is making it a priority to care for the suffering South Sudanese masses huddled in refugee camps in Uganda. The Church is literally the only functioning institution left in South Sudan, along with the Sudan Relief Fund.

This is where your prayerful support of the Sudan Relief Fund saves lives. Through your Christian generosity, we are able to fund

continued on Page 2

INSIDE

A Message from SRF’s President.....	2
Damaging flood hits Mother of Mercy Hospital	3
Bishop Kussala addresses Sudanese youth on International Day of Peace.....	3
SRF supports Brother Bernhard’s selfless work for God’s children in South Sudan.....	3



A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

I wanted to update you on a matter of great concern.

The Trump administration announced it would lift longstanding sanctions against the government of Sudan — led by radical Arab Islamic President Omar Bashir. The administration cited “positive actions” by the Sudanese government addressing terrorism, lack of humanitarian aid and cooperation with the U.S. government.

But as Dr. Tom Catena — the lone surgeon at the Sudan Relief Fund-supported Mother of Mercy Hospital — wrote in the *Washington Post*:

“Lifting the sanctions will, in fact, serve to reward the bad behavior of a government that has not allowed humanitarian aid to enter our region. It would reward a government that has targeted civilian areas of the Nuba Mountains with indiscriminate aerial bombardments and artillery shelling for the better part of the past six years.”

The Sudan Relief Fund is disappointed by the Trump administration’s decision to permanently lift U.S. trade and economic sanctions on Sudan. We have been diligently working to impress upon the U.S. government the critical importance of comprehensive sanctions and the crucial role they play in a plan for peace.

In September, Sudan Relief Fund wrote Secretary State Rex Tillerson and urged all sanctions be reinstated, stating:

“The government of Sudan continues to flagrantly defy the stipulations agreed upon with the U.S. as conditions to lifting economic sanctions. The only hope for progress toward a better future for the Nuba Mountains would be the reinstatement of sanctions.”

Sudan Relief Fund demands greater respect for human rights in Sudan, and we will continue to help the defenseless until there is an end to the longstanding genocide and war crimes in the region.

Thank you for your caring support of the Sudan Relief Fund. May God bless you.

Yours in faith,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Corkery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Corkery

War crimes ... continued from Page 1

Church projects that heal the body and nourish the spirit of the world’s most desperate people.

In the largest of the refugee camps in Uganda — called Bidi Bidi camp — we’ve supported the local Catholic Church’s outreach to refugee families by covering the costs of two Toyota Land Cruisers for priests hauling humanitarian aid to reach the camp and 200 bicycles for catechists helping these priests. And Sudan Relief Fund contributed \$100,000 to build wells providing clean water to our thirsty, suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.



This crisis in South Sudan remains as urgent as ever. The unrelenting turmoil and bloodshed shows little sign of letting up any time soon. But your sacrificial gifts make it possible for us to feed the hungry, heal the sick, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and provide other emergency support to the most remote parts of South Sudan. Most of all, you help us show the love of Jesus Christ to these downtrodden souls and give them hope they can return home in peace.

Damaging flood hits Mother of Mercy Hospital

Unprecedented rainfall has caused devastating flooding at the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains — the Catholic hospital built and sustained by the generosity of Sudan Relief Fund donors like you.

The floodwaters have destroyed more than half of the medical supplies and medicine stored in the hospital.



The Sudan Relief Fund is working around-the-clock to restock the medical supplies and medicine the hospital's patients desperately need.

The Nuba people rely on Dr. Tom Catena and his staff at Mother of Mercy to receive urgently-needed medical care. **Please keep Dr. Tom, his staff and the Nuba people in prayer.**

Bishop Kussala addresses Sudanese youth on International Day of Peace

The constant war and death in South Sudan has robbed young people of their childhood and given them challenges unknown to their peers in most other countries, said Bishop Kussala, speaking as the head of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference, in his September 21st statement marking the International Day of Peace.

"My heart breaks at the thought that your childhoods are being taken away from you daily, but I know that you have not lost your vision or your hope for a better future," Bishop Kussala said.



Barely three years after its independence from Sudan, South Sudan was plunged into civil war. **The war has killed thousands, displaced nearly a third of the population, set off rampant starvation and destroyed the country's economy.**

The bishop called on young people to "invite peace into [your] hearts, because we have lost everything to wars."

"Let us work together to make sure that our children do not receive the same painful experiences you did and to build a nation all can be proud of," he added.

"People everywhere are praying for peace and happiness. Jesus Christ is called the Prince of Peace, and his message is a message of peace to the individual and to the world," Bishop Kussala said. "It is peace that makes us really appreciate mortal life and enables us to bear heartbreaking situations and tribulations."

"Young people, YES, we can transform our violent nations into a PEACEFUL world!"

Bishop Kussala and the Sudan Relief Fund are working to save lives and provide a better future for the youth of South Sudan. Thank you for supporting our lifesaving mission with your generous donations.

SRF supports Brother Bernhard's selfless work for God's children in South Sudan

As a bloody civil war engulfs the world's youngest country, the death and destruction are nothing less than a human catastrophe. The crisis demands more humanitarian aid than ever. Yet the sheer level of violence is forcing most relief groups to leave the country.

The Sudan Relief Fund is committed to partnering with those who selflessly remain in the heart of this man-made disaster — heroic men and women who serve the community and who deliver lifesaving aid to these desperate people.

Brother Bernhard Hengl is one of these heroes. He serves as development director of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference. A Comboni Brother originally from Bavaria, he refuses to leave our brothers and sisters behind in war-torn South Sudan.

A close partner of Sudan Relief Fund, Br. Bernhard has

been instrumental in procuring and distributing food and emergency relief to those in dire need since 2012.

“Day and night I receive knocks on my door from distraught people, young and old, with an overwhelming amount of requests,” Br. Bernhard says. **“Tens of thousands are suffering greatly, especially children.** The situation is appalling. They are dying of hunger and sickness and it’s becoming more acute. They need our help!”

“Never in my life have I met such a committed and inspiring missionary, who is also living in a very uncertain community,” says Sudan Relief Fund President Neil Corkery. “Experiencing a mission in a war zone is no easy task and demands more than just courage.”

As the violence grows more chaotic and sadistic — with continuous bombings, burning of villages and ethnic cleansing — Br. Bernhard remains dedicated to these children of God. Thanks to the support of generous Sudan Relief Fund supporters, he oversees work that saves lives, feeds the hungry, provides shelter and keeps parish communities intact.

“These people are cut off and are relying entirely on humanitarian aid from outside sources,” he says. “There is no question that hundreds and even thousands of people have received new hope, where they had lost hope, had survived, where they would of died of hunger

and sickness, were sent to school, when they would have ended on the street, just because of the remarkable and kind donations received.”

Please pray for the brave souls like Br. Bernhard who remain on the ground to ensure food distributions are made, to secure deliveries of lifesaving medicine and medical supplies, and to provide orphans with shelter and clothing.

The need for food, water, shelter, clothes, blankets, medicine and school supplies is greater than ever in South Sudan. The lives of millions are hanging in the balance. And Sudan Relief Fund will continue standing by Br. Bernhard as he serves the poor people of this suffering country — as long as generous friends like you continue standing with us.



SRF President Neil Corkery (left) and Brother Bernhard

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT WILL SAVE LIVES IN SOUTH SUDAN

Your monthly gift will have a tremendous impact on Sudan Relief Fund's lifesaving mission.

You can make a tax-deductible gift every month by an automatic draft from your checking account or credit card. Your donation will be made on or about the 15th of each month, and it will be clearly itemized on your bank or credit card statement. Plus, you have total control: you decide how much you want to donate — and you can stop making monthly donations at any time.

Every dollar makes a difference. To sign up for monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund simply check the box on the “MY GIFT FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN” reply form included with your newsletter, indicate the amount of your monthly gift and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope enclosed. Thank you!



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P.O. Box 7084 • Merrifield, VA 22116 • 1-888-488-0348
www.sudanreliefund.com