

AFRECS E-Blast: March 7, 2013

PRAY. TEACH. PARTNER. URGE. GIVE.

In the church:

A Message from AFRECS Executive Director Richard Parkins
A WIDER CONCERTED ADVOCACY EFFORT

The relentless bombardment of South Kordofan and Blue Nile by the Khartoum regime, the failure to resolve the ongoing crisis in Abyei and the festering wounds of Darfurians have prompted a concerted effort to engage the senior most political leaders of the US, UK and Australia in pressing the UN Security Council to give urgent attention to resolving these multiple crises. Spearheaded by the Crisis Action group, foreign policy heads in these nations are being urged by their representatives to press the UN Security Council to take immediate steps towards ending the protracted suffering facing thousands of Sudanese. To date, [98 political leaders from the US, UK and Australia](#) have placed before their foreign policy spokespersons a request that the Security Council give priority attention to ending the several conflicts that plague Sudan. (A summary of action to date is noted on the [AFRECS website.](#))

The key elements of a solution, as expressed in the plea made by representatives of the three nations, are (1) an end to the bombardment of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, (2) the immediate provision of humanitarian aid to South Kordofan and Blue Nile, (3) recognition that the crises in Sudan must be addressed comprehensively and (4) that nations having economic and political ties hold Sudan accountable for its actions against its people in regions where violence and upheaval persist. These issues have been put forth repeatedly by advocates. However, the current initiative intends to pressure three major governments and hopefully others to move the UN Security Council to work toward ending what many see as a neglected humanitarian crisis. If not addressed on an urgent basis, thousands more will be cast into the path of bombardment or starvation. The world will then confront an unparalleled humanitarian disaster which is currently denied the global attention it deserves.

You are asked to be a part of this campaign by writing to your elected representatives urging them to join with other US representatives in petitioning Secretary of State John Kerry to be an active player in moving the UN Security Council to action. A [model letter](#) found on the AFRECS website Advocacy page is offered to assist you in being a part of this effort. PLEASE ACT NOW.

Richard Parkins

In the church (continued):

A resolution from the 218th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia can be found on the AFRECS [Advocacy](#) page. It may be helpful to others who are crafting similar resolutions to be voted on in the coming months. Please send us others and they will be posted as well.

Update: We have added the letters that were sent to Capitol Hill by the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia as the Annual Council held January 25-27 voted unanimously to do. Look [here](#) to find them.

In both Sudan & South Sudan:

Read the [latest analysis](#) of the situation in Sudan/South Sudan recently posted by John Ashworth. In particular, the first article, authored by John Prendergast and published in [Foreign Policy](#), presents a thorough & moving account of the past, present and possibly a regrettable future for these two countries.

This [Sudan Tribune](#) article (published 3/3/13) gives light to the continuing dynamic of: 'Sudan's rhetoric is fooling the international community.' The accompanying analysis John Ashworth posted confirms & strengthens the case made in the article. Both of these may be accessed [here](#).

In South Sudan:

Download these [two documents](#): [Vision for Peace in South Sudan](#) and [The Gathering Storm: The Hidden Crisis of Trauma in South Sudan](#). For anyone interested in South Sudan, they are a valuable resource, worth reading thoroughly.

Excerpts from [Vision for Peace](#): "...written in support of the concept note prepared by the Government of South Sudan & Initiatives of Change International but is more simply a culmination of a decade and a half of reflection on the future of South Sudan based on working, living with and sharing some of the joys and sorrows of the South Sudanese people. ...Additional conversations with a variety of South Sudanese served to build further ideas and thoughts into this reference document - a contribution to the growing debate on reconciliation, domestically and internationally."

A note on the author of these two documents: "Ferdinand von Habsburg-Lothringen has lived and worked 15 years in Sudan and South Sudan. He has worked in both humanitarian response programs as well as broader development work, but his primary focus has been and is on conflict prevention, conflict transformation and peace building. He has supported the development of various programs in South Sudan on governance, community security and arms control, grassroots dialogue and higher level peace processes and has served to advise both Government, civil society, the churches, the United Nations, INGOs and diplomatic missions both in times of peace and conflict. Ferdinand is married to Nyanut (who hails from Warrap State) and they have four children."

Authors Adel Sandrai and Augustino Ting Mayai, both directors of The [Sudd Institute](#), review popular feeling and the process underlying the newly inaugurated truth and reconciliation campaign which the Government of South Sudan is advancing under the leadership of Vice-President Riek Machar. Seen as a positive step, the authors caution that it must be people-centered, not driven by politics.

UNHCR has published an [Update on Emergency Response in South Sudan](#).

In Sudan:

Khartoum government cleanses Nuba Mountains, a report from the Catholic Radio Network.

The [hidden trauma](#) behind the Nuba Mountains bombing becomes very real in the cries of children who live in fear that another attack is on the way, as reported by The Niles.

UNHCR also has a [report](#) on refugee movements within Sudan.

Pray

Pray for an overwhelming response to the advocacy effort detailed in this E-Blast.

Urge

Urge others to write letters to government representatives as outlined above. Write your letter today.

Give

Give a modest amount today to further the work of AFRECS by becoming a member. (See [here](#) for how to join.)

Peace,
Ellen J Hanckel, Editor

This bi-weekly Sudan update is from the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. You are receiving it because you are currently on an AFRECS listserv. Feel free to forward this newsflash to others who may find it helpful. To join the list if you received this email as a forward, please send an email to AFRECS_E-Blasts@AFRECS.org with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email to AFRECS_E-Blasts@AFRECS.org with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. For more information about AFRECS, visit our website <http://www.AFRECS.org> or our Facebook page.