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N U B A M O U N T A I N S C R I S I S

Tens of thousands of Nuba people, caught in the cross-fire of a bitter civil war, are being subjected to systematic "ethnic cleansing" by the Sudan government, as reports from AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, AFRICA WATCH, AFRICAN RIGHTS and SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL confirm. Their thousand-year-old civilisation, once made famous by photographs of their distinctive body painting and wrestling, is being wiped out.

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: The Nuba Mountains, home to over a million Nuba, are sealed off from the outside world while their villages are devastated by helicopter gunships, bomber aircraft and armed militias. Survivors are forced into "resettlement" camps in the desert where hunger and disease are rampant. International aid agencies are forbidden to bring relief to the area. Women in the camps are raped, and children subjected to indoctrination to strip them of their cultural identity.

Nuba farmers have been robbed of their land. It is sold to businessmen for giant mechanised farming schemes, for which they provide a pool of cheap labour. Educated Nuba have been arrested and murdered by the security forces.

The 'African' identity of the Nuba contrasts with neighbouring 'Arab' nomads. Both are suffering from drought and the expansion of the mechanised farms, which bring desertification in their wake. By arming the 'Arab' tribes, the Sudan government has set one marginalised group against another for its own benefit, while claiming that it is fighting insurgents from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The government calls this a 'holy war', yet equal numbers of Nuba are Muslim, Christian, or follow traditional religions. This is an ethnic and ecological war, driven by greed for land and a hatred of cultural diversity.

STOP THIS GENOCIDE! The Nuba Mountains must be opened to international human rights observers and relief agencies. Please lend your voice to this appeal.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Ask your MP to support measures in Parliament to put pressure on the Sudan government to open up the Nuba Mountains.

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