

DOCUMENT: NUBA1.TXT

NUBA MOUNTAINS SOLIDARITY ABROAD

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PRESS RELEASE  
U.N., Geneva  
26th of July 1993

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

THE NUBA

The Nuba people of Northern Sudan, who number over one million, are the descendants of the old Kush Kingdom from the 8th Century BC. They have a distinctive cultural heritage, one of the oldest in Africa. They occupy most of Southern Kordofan Province in Central Sudan, which covers some thirty thousands square miles, roughly the area of Scotland. They are farmers and herders.

Early this century the Nuba managed to resolve their difficulties with their Arab neighbours, the Baggar tribes, after years of slavery and raiding. They subsequently have lived together side by side in relative peace and relationship between the two communities into mutual trust and understanding over the years, with inter-marriage and exchange of culture.

However, during the last two decades the central governments engineered a situation by arming the Arab tribes and setting them against Nuba for their own benefit under the pretext of fighting insurgents from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). This has led to a systematic genocidal campaign which was motivated by religious, racial conflicts and land acquisition motive.

Since the current government of General al-Bashir came to power in June 1989, Nuba people are being systematically persecuted, dispossessed of their lands, customs and traditions and their future is very much under threat. There is a deliberate policy by the national Islamic Front Fundamentalist regime in Khartoum, to eradicate Nuba identity and their culture, which they called it "the ugly culture which must be removed".

To achieve this, the government armed forces and their allied Arab Militias sealed off the Nuba Mountains region from the outside world since October 1990. United Nations food aid and medicines have been forbidden entering into the area until this very moment, while the sufferings of Nuba people continue. The food is used as a weapon.

In addition a secret war has been carried out, which mounts to



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