

November 19, 2010



***Thank President Obama for his support of a peaceful and stable Sudan;
Urge him to continue to press for peace***

Take Action Now! Contact President Obama now (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) and thank him for his personal engagement in support of peace in Sudan. Urge him to continue his efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan.

Why is action important now? Sudan is at a critical juncture. After decades of war between the north and south, a tenuous peace agreement- known as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)-has been in place since 2005. The CPA stipulates a referendum to be held in January 2011 on whether the south should remain united with or secede from the north. The potential for increased violence, death, and displacement as a result of a renewed north-south war is real. The Catholic Church in Sudan and around the world is taking significant steps to avert a return to war and promote peace.

Why are President Obama's actions important now? President Obama and his Administration have recently increased their engagement to promote stability in Sudan. The President has personally participated in several international high level meetings and spoken out. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Catholics throughout the United States have been actively advocating for the Administration's increased involvement so that our nation is doing all it can to avoid renewed conflict. It is critical for President Obama to continue his leadership and coordinate efforts with the international community so that the responsible actors in Sudan comply with the provisions of the CPA, resolve outstanding issues, and avoid actions that escalate tensions.

What does the situation in Sudan have to do with my Catholic faith? Our Catholic faith calls on us to uphold the life and dignity of every person and to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters everywhere. Conflict in Sudan has already cost millions of lives, displaced millions more, and deepened widespread poverty. As Catholics, we must take action to prevent violence and save lives as well as assist our neighbors in need.

How is the Catholic Church promoting peace and stability in Sudan? The Catholic bishops of Sudan have worked tirelessly with their ecumenical brothers to promote peace. They have raised serious concerns about the risk of increased violence in their country. Twice this year they traveled to the United States to share their concerns with UN and U.S. officials. CRS and USCCB share their concerns and have been working with the Church in Sudan to avert conflict, assist people in need, and promote reconciliation.

CRS has worked in Sudan since 1972 and is currently active in Darfur, south Sudan, and in the capital, Khartoum. Working in partnership with the Catholic Church in Sudan and affected communities, our focus in Darfur is to provide humanitarian assistance such as food and essential household items as well as establishment of shelters for people displaced by the violence. We also promote development assistance through education, agriculture, water and sanitation and health care initiatives and support peace efforts that strengthen civil society and civic education.

The USCCB has made pastoral visits to Sudan, accompanied Catholic delegations from Sudan to our nation, and has actively engaged in the U.S. policy debate. Please join USCCB and CRS in this crucial effort to build peace in Sudan.

For more information, visit PeaceinSudan.org or contact:

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