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SUDAN DEFIES US AND UNSC, ESCALATES ETHNIC VIOLENCE Bishop Andudu speaks out against ethnic cleansing, Activists urge strong consequences

WASHINGTON, DC – MAY 10, 2012 – Act for Sudan urges the United States, the United Nations, the African Union and the Arab League to issue a strong warning to the Government of Sudan that if it carries out an attack on Kauda Valley, it can expect immediate and debilitating consequences.

While activists appreciate recent efforts by the United Nations to address the humanitarian crisis and to resolve the outstanding issues that have instigated violent conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan, these measures will not save the lives of Sudanese living in Kauda Valley and throughout the Nuba Mountains who are in grave danger.

In January, George Clooney's Satellite Sentinel Project provided clear <u>evidence</u> that the Government of Sudan was preparing a final assault against the Nuba people living in Kauda Valley, Southern Kordofan.

President Omar al-Bashir and his assistant, Nafie Ali Nafie, confirmed the government's intentions and the Satellite Sentinel Project's predictions. According to a *Sudan Tribune* article dated May 8, 2012, Nafie indicated that the army is close to taking control of the area and Bashir threatened to hold prayers in Kauda this Friday.

While Kauda Valley is the stronghold of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement North, a member of the Sudan Revolutionary Front which has vowed to overthrow Bashir's regime, the tactics of the Government of Sudan violate international norms and the spirit of the United Nations Resolution 2046 dated May 2, 2012.

Since June 2011, the Government of Sudan has indiscriminately and continuously bombed Kauda Valley. It has blocked humanitarian aid from reaching civilians and it has cut-off the main evacuation route for those attempting to escape. The Government of Sudan has trapped and subjected its citizens to months of terror and violence. Before the rainy season begins, it intends to carry out a final military campaign to eliminate those who have not succumbed to starvation.

According to <u>Bishop Andudu</u>, the Anglican Bishop of the capital of Southern Kordofan, Kauda Valley in the Nuba Mountains was home to a diverse population, a place where Muslims and Christians lived and worked together peacefully. He noted, "however, the people who are being killed by the Sudanese government in the Nuba Mountains are mostly black Africans – both Christians and Muslims and animists."

Act for Sudan has consistently sounded the alarm about the spectre of the Government of Sudan's systematic behavior of breaking agreements to allow humanitarian aid as well as those that require a cessation of violence, most recently in a <u>letter</u> to the United Nations Security Council dated April 24, 2012.

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Act for Sudan is an alliance of 68 American and Sudanese grassroots organizations that advocate for an end to genocide and mass atrocities in Sudan. Act for Sudan is dedicated to advocacy that is directly informed by the situation on the ground and by Sudanese people who urgently seek protection, justice, and peace. For more information please visit www.actforsudan.org.