

Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Recent News on Sudan.

There are further signs that the momentum in the struggle between the two main combatants in the civil war, the SAF and RSF, may be shifting in favour of the SAF. Radio Dabanga reports SAF sources as claiming that on 27 March they cleared the last remaining pockets of the RSF from Khartoum and freed dozens of prisoners from RSF-run detention centres in Jebel Aulia several miles south of the capital. These claims are disputed by the RSF, who deny they have been defeated.

SAF's claims do not mean peace is imminent. RSF have considerable forces across Sudan, including notably the Kadugli/Nuba Mountains area, and even if SAF do emerge the victors it would take some time to establish an effective and stable government that would enforce peace.

It may be worth noting that both SAF and RSF have the support of certain outside countries representing different streams of Islam. Please pray that whichever side wins, freedom of religion will be respected.

Beyond the area of Khartoum, violence continues, some of it unspeakable. Although it is generally accepted that the worst of this is perpetrated by RSF, it is also generally reported that the SAF is by no means innocent.

There is another major player in all this - the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North (SPLM - N). They add another level of confusion to a complicated situation but seem to be active chiefly in the region of Kadugli Diocese.. Reports suggest they were allied with SAF but may now be supporting RSF. The Sudanese Human Rights and Development Organisation (HUDO) has accused the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North of bombarding the South Kordofan capital Kadugli on February 3, in response to an SAF attack. This may be the reason for Bishop Hassan's request last month for protection against bombing. There is some doubt over the accuracy of HUDO's accusation; while SAF has an airforce, there are no reports that RSF or SPLM-N also have one.

As previously reported by Radio Dabanga, the SPLM EI-Hilu fiercely denied the allegations at the time, and in turn condemned the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) for attacking their sites. At least 44 people died, and 28 others were injured, according to figures received by Radio Dabanga, in an artillery bombardment on the city of Kadugli in South Kordofan in early February. Many of the casualties happened when a bomb or missile exploded near “Kadugli Church” (the cathedral?). The figures would not have been so bad if there had been even the normal level of medical facilities available to treat the injured.

Overall, sadly the violence seems to continue.

And What of the Church in Sudan?

To us in England, the situation in Sudan seems very depressing, yet in his requests for our prayers (see below), the first thing Bishop Hassan says is “We thank God for the success

of training the servants of men and women in the Church of Salvation and was very very happy and they asked to continue training from time to time in order to help them in the written knowledge and some leadership skills. They were 115 individuals.” Surely we must be moved by their commitment to the Lord Jesus.

Another source of encouragement comes from the Mothers’ Union. In a recent newsletter the UK-based MU say “The displaced Sudanese now based in the Nuba Mountains have been facing huge challenges in terms of food, water, health and education. Mothers’ Union has a strong presence and has been key in providing practical and spiritual support to those fleeing the crisis in other parts of Sudan.” Let us give thanks for the Mothers’ Union in Sudan.



Members of the Mothers’ Union (plus a few others) Kadugli 2019.

What about Kadugli?

Aside from the references to Kadugli already in this newsletter, further information can be gleaned from the matters about which Bishop Hassan has requested prayer. These are:

- 1 the evident enthusiasm for learning more about their faith and how to share it.
- 2 security is very difficult in Sudan, especially in conflict areas in the Nuba Mountains.
- 3 peace and stability are lacking in Sudan.
- 4 the Church needs to be visible in the midst of these dangerous circumstances, and needs to maintain its witness and live as a light, salt, and a pleasure for every human being, but at present this is very difficult.

5 families, especially children, are a constant concern and need God's protection and provision so they may have success in their schools.

The last point, about families, brings home the natural concern all families feel for their children. Bishop Hassan has his share of these worries. Last month we shared the need for money to pay for university fees for Hassan's son Yassa. Thanks to some remarkable generosity, the fees for the first six months have been donated, and we are faced with the need to raise a further amount of £650 for the next half year's fees due in the autumn. Please consider how you might support this.

We also need to support the desperate need for food and other essentials. Can we help? For administrative and other reasons any money given for Yassa would need to be kept distinct from other funds, so anyone wishing to donate for Yassa can use the same payment details as for other funds for Kadugli, but with the reference "Yassa" instead of Kadugli."

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a continuous warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. Please continue to give via your church if you can, or directly. The account details are:

Bank:	Lloyds Bank Trowbridge
Name of Account:	Bradford Deanery
Sort Code:	30-98-75
Account No.	00710285
Reference	Kadugli. Or, as mentioned above, Yassa. <u>(N.B. This is important)</u>

Please also consider ways of raising funds for Kadugli.

And as always, we ask you to pray.

Prayer Diary

"Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan" (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Bishop Hassan has written:

1 We thank God for the success of training the servants of men and women in the Church of Salvation and was very very happy and they asked to continue training from time to time in order to help them in the written knowledge and some leadership skills. They were 115 individuals.

2 Pray for the security situation which is very difficult in Sudan, especially the conflict areas in the Nuba Mountains.

3 Pray for peace and stability in Sudan.

4 Pray for the Church to be visible in the midst of these circumstances; it needs to maintain its witness and live as a light, salt, and a pleasure for every human being, but at present this is very difficult.

5 Pray for Hassan's family and children, and all families and their children, and may God protect and provide for them so they may have in their schools.

In addition to Bishop Hassan's requests, please give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union, and ask God to bless and protect it.