

# Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

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

## The War in Sudan

With so much violence in different places in the world, these words of Jesus come to mind: “You will hear of wars and rumours of wars” (Matt. 24:6). Certainly at the moment Gaza seems to dominate the news reports, and there is little reference to the civil war in Sudan, so a recent programme on the BBC was welcome publicity. In addition, BBC News reported the United Nations as saying 1.1 million people are starving in Gaza; for Sudan 18 million were facing “acute food insecurity”.

Alongside the acute food shortages we must recognise shortages of other essentials such as medicine, and underlying it all the violence of the civil war.

The conflict in Sudan is causing a large-scale humanitarian crisis. More than 14,000 people have been killed, cholera is rife, and 5.6 million people have been forced out of their homes.

A BBC journalist this week visited the capital, Khartoum, and heard stories from survivors of ethnic violence, rape, and street executions. UN officials have described it as “one of the worst humanitarian nightmares in recent history”.

It is heartening therefore that UK parliamentarians have called for an immediate ceasefire in Sudan. The Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sudan and South Sudan, Conservative Party MP Rt Hon Vicky Ford, alongside her colleagues, issued a call for urgent action to address the escalating crisis in Sudan and South Sudan. A copy of the statement is in the appendix to this newsletter.

## The Church in Sudan

The Church Times reports the secretary-general of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, has visited Sudan, which is ravaged by civil war, to tell the population that they have not been forgotten by their fellow Christians.

Bishop Poggo made a “solidarity visit” to the country this week, almost a year after the conflict began. He preached in the Episcopal Cathedral in Port Sudan — sited in one of the few areas untouched so far by the conflict — and at an iftar as part of an interfaith meeting during Ramadan.

He told the congregation: “I have come to encourage you and to tell you that Sudan is not forgotten by the Anglican Communion. We pray for you often that peace comes to Sudan.”

Bishop Poggo is South Sudanese, and spoke of his own experience of war and displacement. “I know first-hand what it means to be a refugee or to be displaced. I have been displaced three times in the various conflicts in South Sudan.

The Archbishop of Sudan, the Most Revd Ezekiel Kondo, said that Bishop Poggo was the first senior Anglican to visit the country since the conflict began — and an important symbol of solidarity for people who were suffering.

“Other conflicts in the world can divert media attention from the situation in Sudan,” he said, “but peace is urgently needed as well as humanitarian aid for displaced people within Sudan and for refugees in the neighbouring countries.”

## Kadugli

News from Kadugli Diocese echoes themes of violence and debility. An Antonov of the Sudanese Air Force bombed villages in the Nuba Mountains, to the north-east of Kadugli. Fourteen people, eleven of them children, were killed. Meanwhile, in camps for displaced people near Dilling, twenty-seven children have measles; there are also reports of rabies. The health services in the area are calling out for medicines.

Communication with Sudan remains difficult. We don't know if the siege of Kadugli is continuing. We believe Bishop Hassan continues to minister to his flock at least outside the city of Kadugli, and that the church is standing firm. We have, however, been able to send some money to try to alleviate the shortages.

At this Easter time, as we remember the suffering of Jesus, especially in Holy Week, and his raising from the dead in triumph on Easter Day, let us join in praise with our brothers and sisters in Kadugli Diocese and throughout Sudan, and pray for peace in that land.

# Prayer Diary

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

Bishop Hassan James has asked that we pray for Sudan as a whole:

“Pray for peace and stability in the country, and for peace agreements to be reached between the warring parties. Pray for displaced people, the dire humanitarian situation, and the health of children. Pray for the people of Darfur.

Pray for believing men and women to remain steadfast in faith amid difficult circumstances.”

Please also share in the rejoicing of our brothers and sisters in Christ at the resurrection of our Lord.

## **Appendix: All Party Parliamentary Group Call for Action on the Crisis in Sudan.**

The Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sudan and South Sudan, Conservative Party MP Rt Hon Vicky Ford, alongside her colleagues, issued a call for urgent action to address the escalating crisis in Sudan and South Sudan.

In a recent statement posted on her X page (formerly Twitter), Ford shared the decisions taken during their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, the bipartisan group of UK parliamentarians expressed deep concern over the dire situation unfolding in the region.

“We remain deeply concerned about the dire and escalating situation in Sudan and South Sudan,” the APPG statement read.

The group urged for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire from all parties involved in the conflict in Sudan. They also called upon external countries, including the United Arab Emirates, to halt all funding and arms provision to the warring factions.

“For all external countries, including the UAE, to end all funding to the warring parties and end all provision of arms to the conflict in Sudan,” said by the British parliamentary group.

The APPG stressed the critical need for unrestricted humanitarian access to all areas of Sudan to assist civilians in need. They emphasised the urgency of addressing the dire food security situation and increasing financial contributions to humanitarian aid efforts.

“The international community must step up their financial contributions to humanitarian aid,” the statement read.

Additionally, the group demanded an end to the culture of impunity, advocating for accountability for those responsible for crimes against humanity, including those committed during the previous genocide in Darfur.