

**A COMPENDIUM OF
ACTS OF CONVENTION
AND
THE RESOLVES OF COUNCIL
OF
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOCUS: THE SUDAN
1976-2003**

**Sources: *The Archives of the Episcopal Church Digital Archives*
www.episcopalarchives.org/digital_archives.html
Executive Offices of the General Convention
www.episcopalchurch.org/gc/**

Prepared by:
Tracy R. Andrés, World Mission Interpretation and Networks, The Episcopal Church Center

EXC061980.18 Allocation of VIM Funds

Committee: Venture in Mission (report 14)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 4-6, 1980, Greenwich, CT, pp. 35-36.

Resolved, That the \$16,100 received from the Diocese of Pennsylvania for Venture in Mission Opportunity 035 be appropriated for the Community Conference Center Project Juba, the Republic of the Sudan.

EXC111981.38 Companion Diocese Relationships

Committee: World Mission (report 1)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Nov. 18-20, 1981, Greenwich, CT, p. 39.

Resolved, That at the joint request of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and the Episcopal Church of The Sudan, a companion relationship be established between them, as set forth in the memorandum on companion diocese approved by the National Council at its April 1959, meeting, such relationship to be in effect until November of 1984, unless sooner terminated by mutual consent; and be it further

Resolved, That at the joint request of the same Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and the Diocese of Bradford, Church of England, the companion diocese relationship established between them in September 1977, according to the memorandum on companion diocese relationships approved by the National Council at its April 1959, meeting, be renewed and in effect until November 1984, unless sooner terminated by mutual consent.

It is further recognized that the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and the Diocese of Bradford, Church of England, have both established companion relationships with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan so that a three-way companion relationship is understood by the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia to exist between the parties.

It is suggested that, in the process of establishing their relationships, these companion partners avail themselves of previous learnings and guidelines, through consultation with the Church Center staff. Finally, it is requested that each partnership build in a procedure for sharing of experiences and learnings so that others can benefit from their initiatives.

EXC021982.35 Acceptance of the PIM Report -- Sudan

Committee: World Mission (report 6)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Feb. 17-19, 1982, Greenwich, CT, p. 44.

Whereas, We have participated in the life of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan through a second Partners in Mission Consultation; therefore be it

Resolved, That we accept the report of that Consultation and re-affirm our continuing commitment to, concern for, and relationships with the Church in the Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That this Executive Council expresses its deep appreciation for the slide presentation and for the "word painting" of the people and places of the Sudan, the descriptive narrative of the processes of this Consultation, the affirmations, challenges and personal testimony of renewal, spread before us in the report made to us by the Rev. Denis O'Pray.

EXC061983.16 Allocation of Venture in Mission Funds

Committee: Venture in Mission

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 16-17, 1983, Des Moines, pp. 22-23.

Resolved, That accumulated current funds, and subsequent funds as received, for The Sudan, VIM Project 035, be released for that purpose.

Resolution Number: 1985-D069

Title: Affirm Guidelines for Working for Religious Liberty

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 68th General Convention affirm its support for religious freedom for all persons by speaking out on behalf of and supporting through advocacy, intercession and prayer all persons deprived or threatened with the loss of their religious liberty; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm the following guidelines in working on behalf of religious liberty and commend them to the ecumenical groups in which the Episcopal Church participates:

We will affirm religious freedom as a goal to be sought in all societies, regardless of their political creeds.

We will encourage forms of governance that guarantee freedom of association, speech, and self-determination, believing them to be the most supportive environment for religious independence and tolerance for all.

We will advocate such other support to the persecuted and their families as is deemed appropriate in order that they may know our concern, love and prayerful support.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985 (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 264.

EXC061986.17 New Missionary Appointments

Committee: World Mission (report 4)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 17-20, 1986, Atlanta, pp. 44-45.

Resolved, That the Executive Council express its appreciation for the following appointments made by the Presiding Bishop:

Raymond W. Allman of the Diocese of New York, Diocesan Administrative Secretary, Diocese of Maseno North, the Church of the Province of Kenya.

Joanne Elaine Heckman Blyler of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, registered nurse in Khalispur, Bangladesh.

Christopher John Carr, manager of mechanical workshops in Juba, Lainya and Yei, Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Alexander Hitz and Sharon Ann Hitz of the Diocese of Southern Virginia to serve at Iglesia Y Centro Episcopal de Barrio Cuba, Costa Rica.

Ronald Jay Howell of the Diocese of Indianapolis, accountant in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Rebecca Chandler Luce of the Diocese of Vermont, teacher at Escuela del Espiritu Santo, Tela, Honduras.

The Rev. Richard Edward Shields of the Diocese of Nebraska, pastor and youth director at Escuela del Espiritu Santo, Tela, Honduras.

Jean Hunt Tucker of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, teacher at El Buen Pastor School, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Robert Watson Turner of the Diocese of Los Angeles, accountant for the Diocese of Eldoret, Church of the Province of Kenya.

Herbert John Wostrel of the Diocese of Massachusetts, school supervisor at El Buen Pastor School, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

EXC111986.17 Returned Appointed Missionaries and Volunteers

Committee: World Mission

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Nov. 12-14, 1986, New York, pp. 49-50.

Resolved, That the Executive Council express its appreciation to the following Appointed Missionaries and Volunteers for Mission who have faithfully completed their terms of service:

Lois Imogene Bishop, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Episcopal Church in Venezuela.

Evelyn C. Fortna, after eight months of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.

The Rev. Robert T. Fortna, After eight months of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.

Cheryl Lynn Hester, after one year of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Anglican Consultative Council, London.

Sarah Borum Honaman, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church of Bangladesh.

Walter Hugh Honaman III, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church of Bangladesh.

Ronald Jay Howell, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Episcopal Church in the Sudan.

Lisa Keppeler, after seven months of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church of the Province of Kenya.

The Rev. Herbert C. McMurtry, after three years of service as an Appointed Missionary in the Episcopal Church in Micronesia.

The Rev. Livingston T. Merchant, Jr., Ph.D., after three years of service as an Appointed Missionary in the Diocese of Taiwan.

William K. Monroe, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Diocese of Honduras.

Peter Prewandowski, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church in the Province of Tanzania.

Dr. William Price Rennie M.D., after seven months of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Church of the Province of Kenya.

Nancy Carr Robertson, after one year of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Episcopal Church in the Sudan.

William Henry Scott, Ph.D., retiring after thirty-three years of service as an Appointed Missionary in the Philippine Episcopal Church.

Thomas A. Violett, after one year and four months of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Diocese of Haiti.

Bertram Edward Wilson, after two years of service as a Volunteer for Mission in the Diocese of Honduras.

EXC051988.27 Returned Appointed Missionaries

Committee: World Mission (report 4)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, May 18-20, 1988, Rapid City, SD, p. 24.

Resolved, That the Executive Council express its appreciation to the following Appointed Missionaries who have faithfully completed their terms of service:

The Rev. Dr. Paul Clasper, Diocese of California, retirement after thirteen years of service in the Diocese of Hong Kong as Professor, and as Canon and Dean of St. John's Cathedral.

The Rev. Canon Maurice Allen Garrison, Diocese of Long Island, after one and a half years interim service as Anglican Tutor at St. Paul's United Theological College, Limuru, Kenya.

The Rev. Marc Nikkel, Diocese of Newark, after six years service as Tutor at Bishop Gwynne Theological College, Mundri, Diocese of Juba, Sudan.

EXC101991.13 Returned Appointed Missionaries

Committee: Program (report 4)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 1991, New York, pp. 16-17.

Resolved, That the Executive Council express its appreciation to the following Appointed Missionaries and their families [who] have faithfully completed their terms of service:

The Rev. Marc Nikkel completed his service as an appointed missionary in the Sudan and is finishing a doctoral program in Mission at the University of Edinborough.

The Rev. Georg Retzlaff completed his service as an appointed missionary in Tanzania and is now working as a professor at Voorhees College in South Carolina.

Mrs. Joy Retzlaff completed her service as an appointed missionary in Tanzania.

The Rev. Ralph Moore completed his service as an appointed missionary in Costa Rica.

Mrs. Bridget Moore Buck completed her service as an appointed missionary in Costa Rica and is now working as a licensed midwife in Cambridge.

The Rt. Rev. Telesforo A. Isaac completed his service as an appointed missionary Dominican Republic and is now working as the Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

The Rev. Daryl Canfill completed his service as an appointed missionary in Namibia and is now serving as the rector of Holy Comforter Church.

EXC061993.15 Support for Peace Process in Sudan

Committee: Program (report 6)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 14-17, 1993, Minneapolis, pp. 16-17.

Resolved, That the Executive Council urge the Clinton Administration to work with the UN to make the negotiation and monitoring of a comprehensive cease-fire the number one diplomatic priority in Sudan, and put the required energy and resources into building a legitimate peace process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council urge the Clinton Administration to appoint a U.S. special negotiator to work with the Organization of African Unity, the Sudanese government and factions of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA); and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council support legislation in the U.S. Congress which would call for UN human rights monitors in areas of Sudan affected by the fighting and human rights abuses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council request the Washington Office to send copies of this resolution to appropriate members of the American government, to the appropriate offices at the United Nations and to our appropriate church partners.

EXC011994.06 New Missionary Appointments

Committee: Program (report 4)

Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 1994, Norfolk, VA, p. 22.

Resolved, That Executive Council express its appreciation for the following recent appointments made by the Presiding Bishop:

The Rev. Dr. Marc Nikkel, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, to serve for two years in a joint appointment with Church Missionary Society, London, England, and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, beginning December 15, 1993, as Theological Education Adviser. If the political situation in the Sudan does not warrant the placement of Dr. Nikkel there, he will serve displaced communities on the border of Uganda.

The Rev. William Schwartz, Diocese of Rio Grande, to serve for three years in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, beginning December 1, 1993, as Diocesan Secretary and a non-stipendiary priest.

Resolution Number: 1994-D012

Title: Support Human Rights and Church Relations in Sudan

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 71st General Convention commends the Archbishop of Canterbury for his Christmas 1993 visit to Nimule, Sudan, in which he demonstrated pastoral encouragement of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop be requested to urge the U.S. Secretary of State to respond appropriately to the Special Rapporteur's March 1994 report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission of violations of the rights of displaced persons and of defendants in legal proceedings; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop request the Secretary-General of the Anglican Consultative Council to inform donor agencies worldwide of our confidence in the New

Sudan Council of Churches as a channel for relief assistance of victims of the Sudan civil war; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council be instructed to find means of communication which will stimulate American public awareness of the precarious status of human rights of the people of the Nuba mountains and southern Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council be instructed to encourage the forming of additional Companion Relations between dioceses of this Church and dioceses of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994 (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 184-85.

Resolution Number: 1997-D016

Title: Take Actions to Express Church's Support of Religious Freedom

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention declare the Episcopal Church's solidarity with those who experience persecution by reason of the practice of their faith; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention reaffirm the 1988 General Convention's "support of the United Nations' work for religious freedom worldwide" as it is carried out by the United Nations' Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Religious Freedom, and High Commissioner for Refugees; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention affirm the mission partnership of the Provinces of the Anglican Communion, responding to their guidance as to the most appropriate help this Church can provide to combat religious persecution in their home countries; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Peace with Justice to review the most appropriate ways in which this Church can respond to religious persecution abroad, taking into consideration the Anglican mission partnership and previous resolutions of the General Convention and Executive Council on religious liberty; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention urge the United States Government to increase the admission of refugees to the United States to respond to those refugees escaping religious persecution, while maintaining the current or higher levels of admissions for other refugee categories; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention:

- Encourage the Anglican and Global Relations Office of the Episcopal Church to continue its sensitive and persistent response to the needs of Anglican churches experiencing persecution;
- Encourage the office of Episcopal Migration Ministries to continue to advocate for victims of religious persecution;
- Commend to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief the material needs of Anglican Churches and other Church bodies experiencing persecution;
- Request the Standing Commission on Peace with Justice to explore ways in which the sufferings of persecuted Christians and other religious groups can be addressed through international diplomacy;
- Encourage Diocesan and Parish groups concerned with international mission to develop links of communication, prayer, and support with those experiencing religious persecution;
- Commend to the Church the Consultation on Persecuted Churches to be convened by the Episcopal Council for Global Mission in April 1998; and
- Request the Planning Committee for the 1998 Lambeth Conference to include the sufferings of persecuted Christians as a major item for discussion and action for the bishops of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention request the Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations to explore, in concert with the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies, ways in which inter-religious understanding can be advanced in specific situations so as to alleviate the persecution of Christians and other religious groups.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997 (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 780-781.

Resolution Number: 1997-D081

Title: Develop Advocacy Agenda of Refugee Admissions and Asylum

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church charge Episcopal Migration Ministries with the responsibility for developing and implementing an advocacy agenda which reflects the concern of the Episcopal Church that the U.S. Government uphold a generous program of refugee admissions in response to the worldwide refugee crisis, maintain a just system of asylum for persecuted persons seeking safety in the United States, and ensure that needy immigrants are not unfairly denied access to essential services and benefits.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997 (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 250.

Resolution Number: 2000-A130

Title: Affirm Solidarity with and Support for Persecuted Christians in Sudan

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 2000 General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America continue to affirm its solidarity through prayer and witness with the Episcopal Church of Sudan in support of Christians suffering from the effects of the longest civil war in recent history; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge local and national advocacy efforts to raise awareness of people in this Church to the persecution being inflicted upon the people of Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church through its Office of Government Relations urge that the U.S. government assign the highest priority to advancing a just peace in Sudan by applying pressure on the government of Sudan, and working with our allies, especially Egypt, to end the war; and be it further

Resolved, That all Episcopalians are urged to work against the genocide occurring in Sudan, caused by the National Islamic Front, the current ruling regime, and other contributing warring factions' use of food as a weapon, abduction and enslavement of human beings, aerial bombardment of and raids on civilian targets, denial of religious freedom, and other acts of terror and harassment; and be it further

Resolved, That Episcopalians are encouraged to give generously to enable the people of Sudan to rebuild their lives, by providing the means to train people in areas of expertise that will help them to live full, productive lives, allowing women and men equally to have access to small business endeavors; encouraging the gift of medical drugs, medical equipment and human resources; and finally, by supporting the restoration of the educational system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention continue to reaffirm the Episcopal Church's solidarity with all Christians in all places who suffer persecution and all persons, of whatever religion, who suffer persecution by reason of their faith.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000 (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 577f.

June 20, 2001

The following is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Executive Council at its meeting on June 8 - 11, 2001, in Salt Lake City, Utah, at which a quorum was present and voting.

Resolved, that the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Salt Lake City in June, 2001, join with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, and the Presiding Bishop, in condemning the April 11, 2001 actions of the authorities in Khartoum, Sudan, in their discrimination, harassment and obstruction of Christians seeking to celebrate Easter together peacefully and in public, specifically the reported use of tear gas, high explosive hand grenades and live bullets directed at those gathered in All Saints Cathedral and the subsequent detention, flogging and imprisonment of many who had been inside the cathedral; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council reaffirm the action of the 73rd General Convention in its Resolution A130 (Human Rights: Solidarity with Persecuted Christians in the Sudan) calling on the U.S. government to assign the highest priority to advancing a just peace in Sudan by applying pressure on the government of Sudan to end the war; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council commend the Bush administration's intention to appoint a special envoy to work on the peace process and to work for reconciliation within the Sudan, and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution, the Executive Council resolution of February 12, 2001 on the Sudanese oil industry, and Resolution A130 of the 73rd General Convention be sent to the President of the United States and to members of the United States Congress as they consider Senate Bill 180 -The Sudan Peace Act.

October 23, 2001

The following is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Executive Council at its meeting on October 15-19, 2001, in Jacksonville, Florida, at which a quorum was present and voting.

Resolved, That the Executive Council meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, October 15-18, 2001, hereby adopts a policy of disinvestment from any company with direct operations in Sudan until such time that there is peace and justice in that country and directs the Treasurer to divest from any such company currently held in DFMS portfolios; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to any company from which this Church disinvests in accordance with this policy; and be it further

Resolved, That other church investors, including the Church Pension Fund, parishes, and dioceses, are urged to adopt a similar policy to the extent permissible under laws governing fiduciaries.

Explanation

The civil war in Sudan has laid waste to the country's economy, with little economic production or western corporate involvement in any sector except for oil. Oil revenues, which earn Sudan between \$450-500 million per year, allow the Sudanese army to purchase weapons and prosecute the war (*Multinational Monitor*, October 2000). In February 2001, the Executive Council noted that investments in the Sudanese oil industry "fuels the government's military efforts and systematic violence against the Sudanese people." The involvement of western oil companies-including Talisman Energy (a Canadian company)-pose serious ethical issues for shareholders in such companies. A May 2000 report by Amnesty International entitled "Sudan: The Human Price of Oil" concluded that "massive human rights violations by Sudanese security forces, various government-allied militias, and armed opposition groups are clearly linked to foreign companies' oil operations."

Further, it is clear that not only do oil revenues allow the Sudanese army to purchase armaments and continue to pay its armed forces, but that the generation of such revenues directly leads to human rights violations. In 1999, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur to Sudan, Leonardo Franco, stated that "long-term efforts by the various governments of the Sudan to protect oil production have included a policy of forcible population displacement in order to clear oil-producing areas and transportation of southern civilians" (cited in the *Multinational Monitor*, October 2000). This Church has witnessed to its belief that economic development and activity must first and foremost serve human needs, and it is clear that that current oil exploration and extraction activities do not serve human needs in Sudan, but rather enable continued war and genocide.

The entire population of Sudan has suffered during a civil war that has ranged for 34 of the last 45 years. We affirm our opposition to the religious persecution of Sudanese Christians, the abduction and enslavement of human beings, and attacks on civilian targets-all of which are ongoing in the Sudan.

Peace and security for all of Sudan's citizens is not possible while the civil war continues. The amount of money that Sudan earns every year from oil revenue is almost identical to the amount it spends on the war. Just as this Church disinvested from South Africa and Namibia in 1985-not just to protest against apartheid but also to make a statement that it would not profit from apartheid, this Church undertakes a similar policy with regard to Sudan.

This policy is consistent with this Church's witness on issues related to the Sudan. The General Conventions of 1994 and 2000 affirmed the Episcopal Church of the United States of America's continuing solidarity, through prayer and witness, with the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Further, the Executive Council, at its February 2001 meeting, called upon church investors to review their financial holdings and to consider divestment, shareholder resolutions and other appropriate strategies to deter investment by companies materially engaged in the Sudanese oil industry.

This Church adopts this policy with sorrow and is hopeful that it can be reversed when there is lasting peace and justice for all of the people of Sudan. At present the only companies currently held in Episcopal Church portfolios with direct involvement and investment in Sudan are BP Amoco and Talisman Energy. BP Amoco invested \$578 million in PetroChina's initial public offering; PetroChina owns 40 percent of the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company, which is the main entity extracting oil in Sudan. Talisman Energy owns 25 percent of the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company.

June 18, 2002

The following is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Executive Council at its meeting on June 10-13, 2002 in Durham, New Hampshire, at which a quorum was present and voting.

Resolved, that the Executive Council, meeting in Durham, New Hampshire, June 10-13, 2002 reaffirms its existing Sudan policy of the 2000 General Convention (A130) and the resolution adopted by the Executive Council on October 17, 2001 in Jacksonville, FL; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council is committed to monitoring the peace process in Sudan to ensure that the Episcopal Church supports policies consistent with a just and fair peace and the aspirations of our Church partners; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council commends The Rev. John C. Danforth from Missouri and special envoy for the United States, for his efforts in helping to bring about a cease-fire in the Nuba Mountain region of Sudan, as well as the adoption by the warring parties of related "confidence building" measures intended to reduce civilian deaths and disease; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council joins Senator Danforth in urging the United States Government to increase its involvement in bringing about meaningful peace negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement, with a particularly emphasis on:

- Bringing about an early cease fire in the Upper Nile region, particularly in the oil producing and oil exploration areas where heavy fighting and government sponsored ethnic cleansing have taken place over the past several years;
- Protecting the legitimate rights of the southern Sudanese to oil and water resources in their part of Sudan against unjust exploitation by the Government of Sudan, third countries, and foreign commercial interests;
- Stopping religious persecution by the Government of Sudan and its militias
- Assuring that Sharia law is not imposed on southern Sudan or on Christians elsewhere in Sudan.

Explanation

Late in April 2002, Senator John Danforth, special envoy for the United States to Sudan presented a detailed report to President Bush, outlining his efforts to date in promoting peace in Sudan, and urging continued and increased U.S. Government involvement in bringing about peace there. Among Senator Danforth's notable accomplishments in this bloody and intractable conflict are helping to bring about a cease-fire in the Nuba Mountains, an area especially hard-hit by the fighting. Other measures to help reduce civilian deaths and suffering were also adopted as a result of his team's efforts.

Senator Danforth recommends strong further U.S. involvement, a call echoed by many others, as the only way to bring about peace. Two million have perished so far in this conflict, and the church has been heavily persecuted by the government, with the imprisonment of clergy, the arbitrary arrest of southern Christians, the illegal seizure of church property and buildings, and widespread discrimination against Christians by the National Islamic Front government, often under the rubric of Sharia law. Indeed, the imposition of Sharia law in 1983 sparked the current conflict by the south.

The ongoing persecution of the church has led to widespread conversions of many to Christianity, so that there are now several million Christians in southern Sudan, bearing the brunt of the civil war. The Executive Council, on behalf of the Church, needs to be clear about the need to bring about a cease-fire in the area of heaviest fighting, to protect southerner's legitimate rights in oil and water resources in southern Sudan against unjust exploitation by the Government, commercial interests, and third countries, and to protect against further religious persecution and violations of human rights. The Southern Sudanese, including the church, are deeply afraid that any peace with the Khartoum Government will be a sell-out of their rights as Christians and of their legitimate aspirations for local resources. If peace is to last, it must protect these rights and prevent the imposition of Sharia law on Southern Sudan. Otherwise, warfare and bloodshed will continue.

Resolution Number: 2003-A028

Title: Encourage Support for Women and Children in War-Torn Areas

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses to assist all Episcopalians to learn about the plight of and provide support for women and children of all faiths in war torn areas, recent examples including Israel/Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, Sudan, and Liberia.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003 (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 327.

Resolution Number: 2003-D020

Title: Oppose Legal Systems Which Violate Human Rights

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention support the Archbishop of Canterbury and other Anglican leaders who have jointly affirmed with Islamic leaders in various countries our shared desire to honor those teachings in our respective traditions which work to avoid coercion and respect individual liberty; and be it further

Resolved, That in further dialogue, particular attention be paid to vigorously oppose any nation's or other governmental body's imposition or continuation of a legal system which violates fundamental human rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the application of these principles by the United States government to the reconstruction underway in Iraq and Afghanistan, in peace negotiations in Sudan, and in ongoing discussions with Nigeria and Indonesia, with particular attention to the rights of religious minorities, women, and those seeking to change their faith.

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003 (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 677.

END