AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CRISIS IN SUDAN.

Since 1989, the Sudanese people have been oppressed by one of the most violent and racist military regimes in history. Learn more at obsilence.org/why-sudan

Army veteran Omar al-Bashir seized power with the support of the military in 1989. Wielding a Koran and Kalashnikov rifle, he declared that he was going to reengineer Sudan into a country dominated by an ethnic Arab elite and oppressive Islamic law. This twisted worldview only existed to preserve his regime’s own power.

Since the coup three decades ago, this military junta has orchestrated systematic campaigns of oppression against all those who have stood in its way. Ethnic African minorities in Sudan’s oppressed hinterlands are besieged in genocidal wars by Sudan’s military and their paramilitary allies. Mass murder, pillaging, and rape has been committed on such a widespread scale that over 2.5 million Sudanese have been killed, with millions more being driven off from their homes.

It’s absurd that the Sudanese people have been subjected to mass violence for 30 years. Regime leaders and war criminals have hung onto power only because they have rigged the country to work in their favor. Here’s how:

**Violent Kleptocracy**
Regime insiders have hijacked government institutions and overrun the private sector to enrich themselves. Junta paramilitaries have seized control of private land and loot civilian property as part of their paychecks. It’s estimated that regime insiders now own over 500 companies and control most economic fields.

**Oppressing Civil Society**
Peaceful activists, journalists, and opposition political figures face violence and murder at the hands of security forces.

**Religious Persecution**
Regime leaders have enforced a violent strain of political Islam. This has resulted in the persecution of moderate Muslims, Christians, and animists. Churches have been demolished in major cities.

**International Terrorism**
Regime insiders shelter, fund, and arm fighters from several international terrorist organizations. The U.S. State Department has listed Sudan as a *State Sponsor of Terrorism*.

**Poaching & Arms Trafficking**
Military generals and paramilitary leaders are the key players in an elephant poaching and arms trafficking network that is spreading chaos across central Africa. Regime militias kill elephants and park rangers and trade stolen ivory to Sudanese commanders in exchange for weapons and money.

**The Regime Today**
Bashir was arrested as part of a palace coup in April 2019. A fledgling transitional government that is made up of both civilians and regime military leaders is now overseeing Sudan. Despite this reality, regime paramilitary forces are still wreaking havoc across the country.
AN INTRODUCTION TO OPERATION BROKEN SILENCE.

Operation Broken Silence is building a global movement to empower the Sudanese people through innovative programs as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Our History
We were founded in 2011, when Sudan’s regime launched a genocidal war against the southern Nuba Mountains region. In 2012, our Executive Director Mark Hackett led one of the first international teams into the warzone, despite a media and humanitarian blockade, so we could better understand what the needs on the ground were.

It was on this journey that we discovered our purpose. Sudanese in the Nuba Mountains had been oppressed for decades and were fighting for their own survival. They were tired of being told by outsiders how to fix the problems they faced. And they were fed up with global activists advocating for unrealistic things that would never come to fruition, not for their straightforward solutions to their problems.

The Nuba people wanted to fix the immense problems they faced from the ground up, not from the top down. And they wanted to take the lead role. We said “yes” and have been following their lead ever since.

Today, Operation Broken Silence is primarily a storytelling and fundraising organization that focuses on getting Sudanese changemakers in the Nuba Mountains the resources they need to move their country toward a brighter future. We accomplish this in three ways:

Storytelling & Movement Building
We create documentary films, photography exhibits, and events that mobilize people around the world to raise money and resources for Sudanese-led programs.

Education & Healthcare
We invest funds raised in Sudanese heroes and institutions to empower their education and healthcare work. And they make the big program decisions, not us.

Grassroots Advocacy
We design grassroots campaigns that equip activists in our home state of Tennessee to engage their communities and leaders on issues concerning Sudan.

History is made by those who show up. Join us in empowering the Sudanese people: