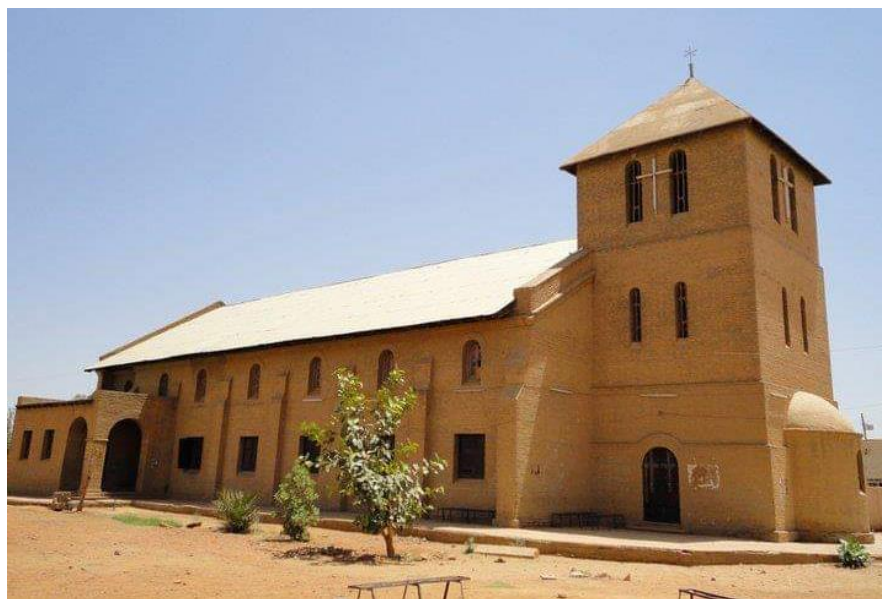
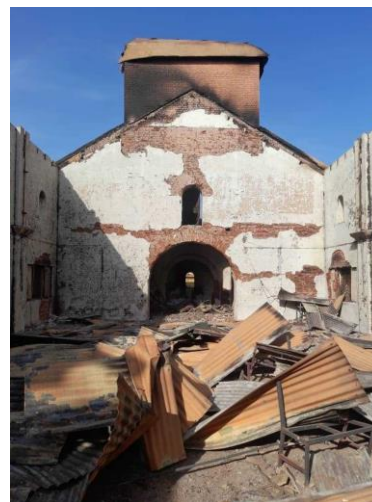
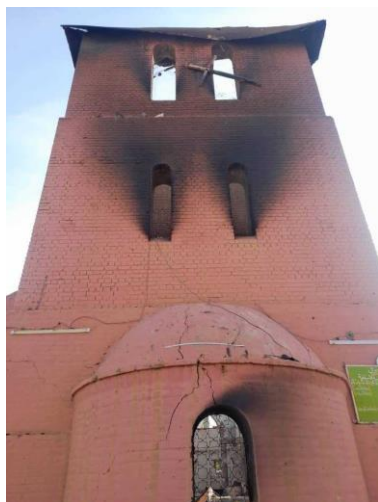

SUDAN CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2023

Church of the Saviour, Omdurman, destroyed in the fighting!



Before & After



It is now over 200 days since war broke out between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum on 15th April 2023. It has spread to other parts of Sudan such as Darfur, El Obeid, Kadugli and Blue Nile, and is still escalating. The war has forced most Khartoum inhabitants to leave the Capital, travelling to other safer states

within the country, while others fled to neighboring countries like South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Chad, Central Africa Republic. Still others found their way to Europe and America. The UN estimates about 6,000,000 people are either internally displaced or refugees in the world due to this war. Most of the public properties in the Capital have been destroyed. People's

homes have been occupied by the RSF and women raped. The churches in the Capital are not exempt from this. Five of our staff have been wounded or killed, and on All Saints Day (1st November) the Church of the Saviour was bombed and reduced to ashes while Shambat Bridge which connects Omdurman and Khartoum North was blown up!

Relief Food Distribution

Our Partners in UK Respond to ECS Survival Rescue

With continued support from our friends and Partners in United Kingdom and other good wishers, Episcopal Church of Sudan received funds from them. The money was used to get relief food and distribution went to the people in the whole Province of the five Dioceses.

s/No	Particular	Church/Centre	Families	Total
1	Diocese of Khartoum	31	480	
2	Diocese of Kadugli	4	30	
3	Diocese of El Obeid	4	30	
4	Diocese of Port Sudan	9	62	
5	Diocese of Wad Medani	13	182	
6	Province		20	804

Here are some photos during the distribution of food to the most needy in the churches and the community.











Conclusion

As mentioned, it is now over 200 days since the Sudan crisis began in Khartoum on 15 April. Sudan is heading into an unforeseen future. Khartoum infrastructure has been destroyed. The warring parties occupy peoples' homes while the owners have fled to other states or outside Sudan. Churches and places of worship are not exempted destruction. Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) failed to reach agreement at the resumed peace talks in Jeddah after it was stopped for several months.

Bishops Ismail Gibriel and Hassan O James are in a very difficult situation. Their diocesan centres have been under siege for several months now. They cannot move outside the area. Food available but very expensive. Part of El Obeid has been taken over by the RSF.

Bishop Andudu of Kadugli is in Egypt, on his way to the Nuba Mountains. Many people from Khartoum have moved there due to the situation in Khartoum. They also need relief support.

The dioceses of **Bishops Abdu Elnur and Saman Farjalla** are functioning OK but their areas have been flooded with displaced people and they too are in need of relief food items.

Bishop Fajak Avojani is back to Port Sudan having been in Cairo, Egypt for medical treatment. He is much better now, no longer on medication, but is to see the doctor again after 6 months.

Revd. Kamal Diocesan Secretary for Khartoum writes:

Thanksgiving and Relief Report

We would like to thank you and express appreciation for your great interest and effort regarding the assistance you have provided to priests and believers in the Diocese of Khartoum. Thanks also go to our partners and friends overseas and all those who stood with us in such circumstances, whether materially, morally or in prayer. The Lord, who sees in secret, is able to reward you according to your love in Christ Jesus.

Aid has arrived to the administration of the diocese of Khartoum, and this relief has been delivered to all four archdeacons of the diocese of Khartoum (**Khartoum, Omdurman West, Omdurman East, and Bahri**), and they hand over the relief to each church according to its share with consultation and cooperation with the rural dean. After following up to make sure that the relief reached the churches and priests, all have assured us that aid has reached every church.

Thanks from believers and pastors

After the relief reached the pastors and believers, they gave many thanks to the Archbishop and all those who supported the Province. They give thanks and appreciation to the brothers and sisters, partners, friends and everyone who stood behind this good work. We think that the relief food reached us at the right time, which has helped a large number of people. Through this relief, pastors and priest were able to take their families to safer places in the other states of Sudan. Some were able to buy medicine for their families, and some bought food supplies for their families. Relief reached the believers and priests and was a rescue for them, because they were in a very difficult economic situation, not only them but the whole population of the state. They mentioned that they shared your support with neighbors and friends because they are also in the same situation.

The security situation in Khartoum

The security situation is extremely dangerous: bombs are hitting everywhere, whether it is from the **Rapid Support group or the Government SAF**. Planes and drones are bombing from above, and armament fired from the ground. Because of that, there are no basic services such as, water, power and supplies. Places for medical treatment are very hard to find. There is one hospital in Omdurman, but it is too crowded to cover the huge number of people in need. There are some expensive, small private clinics but they often have no medicine. There is a very large looting of homes by the Rapid Support and in the streets are armed men. They patrol on foot, drive around in looted cars, put up check points in the roads. Sometimes it is difficult for a person to carry money with him to buy things in the market: they take money by force, and if you say anything you can be killed. The situation is difficult on all sides.

Spiritual work

The believers attend church, and worship continues despite all these circumstances. The priests do their duty by serving the church, providing Holy Communion, and burying the dead.

However, some activities in the church have been reduced and the time of worship is changed due to the current security conditions. The churches north of Omdurman are safer than the churches located south or west of Omdurman, or in Khartoum and Bahri, because the army is in north Omdurman. The Cathedral of All Saints Khartoum was occupied by the Rapid Support Force and they looted all the buildings and offices in the cathedral compound, including the homes of the Archbishop and the Dean. The Rapid Support Force also entered the Church of the Saviour in Omdurman, the home of the Pastor-in-Charge, the Shokai Theological College, the offices of the Diocese of Khartoum and the Department of Translation, the Girls Secondary School, Intermediate School and Boys Primary School, and the staff houses in what was the old CMS mission station, looting everything in them.

In conclusion: "I thank my God always, remembering you in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus Christ and for all the saints, that the fellowship of your faith may be effective in knowing all the goodness that is in you for Christ Jesus." (Philemon 1:3-6)

Revd. Kamal, Khartoum Diocesan Secretary

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