

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D047
Title: Response to the crisis in Sudan and support for the Episcopal Church of Sudan
Proposer: Randle, Mr. Russell
Topic: International Relations, Peace, Public Policy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-D024 Urge Continued Support for the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan to Strengthen Peace
2018-D062 Celebrate Sudanese Americans and Their Work for Peace
2015-B018 Commend Efforts for Peace in Sudan and South Sudan
2012-A019 Continue Advocacy and Efforts for Peace in Sudan
2009-A031 On the Topic of the Presiding Bishop's Peacemaking Efforts (Rejected)
2009-A033 Urge Peace with Justice in Southern Sudan
2009-D007 Urge Dioceses to Covenant With the Church of Sudan
2000-A130 Affirm Solidarity with and Support for Persecuted Christians in Sudan
1994-D012 Support Human Rights and Church Relations in Sudan

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The "direct" resolutions are attached and "indirect" resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

D047 - Response to the crisis in Sudan and support for the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Randle, Mr. Russell

Endorsed by: Bartol, Ms. Cindi, Bentley, The Rev. Susan

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents:

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the General Convention Lament the overthrow of the civilian transitional government of Sudan in October 2021, and the subsequent April 2023 outbreak of devastating civil war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Force militia, resulting in the death of tens of thousands of people, the displacement of nearly nine million people, the breakdown of civil society, collapse of the medical system, disruption of the banking system, extensive damage to industrial, agricultural and other infrastructure, including the oil facilities vital to the economies of both Sudan and South Sudan, and the impending onset of famine threatening even more people, with over 18 million reportedly acutely food insecure; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention salute the courageous work of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), led by its Archbishop, the Most Rev. Ezekiel Kondo, its clergy, and its lay people in continuing to preach the Gospel and to provide tangible relief to the people of Sudan in these dire circumstances; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that our Presiding Bishop send greetings on behalf of The Episcopal Church (TEC) to Archbishop Kondo, with assurances of our continued prayer for ECS, its clergy, and people, and our continued efforts to provide tangible relief and advocacy for peace on their behalf; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention authorize TEC's Office of Government Relations to advocate appropriate United States Government and International efforts to bring about a cease-fire and a negotiated peace resulting in the restoration of democratically elected government for Sudan, efforts including but not limited to:

1. High level diplomatic engagement (a) to persuade countries supporting the combatants with arms, equipment, and funds to stop doing so, and (b) to mobilize the funds and equipment from many countries needed to relieve the impending famine, to restore medical care, and to reconstruct Sudan;
2. Imposition of a comprehensive United Nations arms embargo to cut off the flow of military equipment into Sudan and the hands of the combatants;
3. Application of appropriate U.S. and international sanctions (including secondary sanctions on parties in third countries) and export controls to discourage private parties from financing and from providing the combatants with the means to continue the conflict;
4. As appropriate, the deployment of peacekeeping forces under the auspices of the United Nations to help stabilize the situation and separate the armed combatants from each other

And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention ask the Presiding Bishop to:

1. designate a season of prayer later this year by our congregations, clergy and people for peace in Sudan;
2. encourage donations to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans (AFRECS) to aid in this effort

And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Secretary of General Convention to dispatch a copy of this Resolution to the Honorable Thomas Perriello, the United States Special Envoy for Sudan, and to the Honorable Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State.

Explanation

Since 1994, General Convention has adopted nine resolutions addressing warfare, famine, and religious persecution in Sudan and South Sudan. Resolutions 2018-D024, 2018-D002, 2015-B018, 2012-A019, 2009-A033, 2009-A031, 2009-D007, 2000-A130, 1994-D012. A number of U.S. dioceses established companion relationships with dioceses in Sudan and South Sudan and many U.S. churches, clergy, and people worked hard to address the suffering there and to partner with churches in Sudan and South Sudan in advocating for peace.

With the division of Sudan in 2011 into Sudan and the new nation of South Sudan, the Episcopal Church of Sudan has split into two provinces of Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. There are now several million Episcopalians in these two provinces, more than are in The Episcopal Church in the United States.

With the onset of the civil war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Force (RSF) militia, the ECS compound at All Saints Cathedral in Khartoum had to be evacuated, so that Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo is now leading the ECS and its relief efforts from Port Sudan. In April 2024, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, recently outlined the dire humanitarian situation in Sudan in a statement on the Anglican Communion website.

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2024/04/anglican-communication-secretary-general-makes-statement-on-humanitarian-crisis-in-sudan.aspx>

The situation has grown worse since then. Widespread atrocities are occurring in Darfur and more are likely at the hands of the Rapid Support Forces. Both sides have committed serious human rights violations and are denying access to humanitarian aid.

The response of the international community has been half-hearted; only 12% of the UN request for food relief has been funded. More than a third of the population face food insecurity and UN figures in May show that over five million are very close to starvation in Darfur and Kordufan (the Nuba Mountains) and elsewhere. Sudan was formerly known as the breadbasket of Africa; it is now the location of the largest current displacement of people in the world.

The Episcopal Church has repeatedly worked with the Episcopal Church of Sudan during the past thirty years to mobilize public opinion, prayer, and tangible help to assist the church there in times of turmoil in preaching the Gospel in word and deed. The current situation calls us to renew our efforts to help our friends and fellow laborers in the Gospel. Now is the time when we must show up for our friends in the name of Jesus, and show them that they are not forgotten.

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact gc.support@episcopalchurch.org.



Resolution Number: 2018-D024
Title: Urge Continued Support for the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan to Strengthen Peace
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention gratefully acknowledge and commend the continued heroic efforts of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan to bring about a cessation of the civil war which erupted in December 2013 and which has killed tens of thousands, and displaced several million people; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention commend the continued efforts of Episcopal Relief & Development and the many dioceses, parishes, and individuals who are working in partnership with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and its dioceses to provide humanitarian relief, sustainable development, training of lay and clergy leaders in South Sudan, and Scriptural translation into tribal languages; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge congregations and dioceses to seek new opportunities to support the work of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, the Episcopal Church of Sudan, and their Primates to form partnerships that strengthen their efforts to bring a sustainable peace to their respective nations; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge all dioceses and congregations of The Episcopal Church observe with special prayers, awareness, and support of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and the Episcopal Church of Sudan the Sunday closest to the Feast Day of the Martyrs of Sudan (May 16th); and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge that dioceses and congregations in The Episcopal Church make it a specific mission priority to reach out to people from the South Sudanese and Sudanese diaspora who have emigrated to the United States and elsewhere, inviting them into our congregational lives and exploring appropriate efforts to assist their efforts to foster peace in South Sudan and Sudan and among its disparate tribes; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention authorize the Office of Government Relations to continue its advocacy with the United States Government for a cessation of the civil war in South Sudan and armed conflict by the Government of Sudan with marginalized communities in the Nuba Mountains and Darfur.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 492.



Resolution Number: 2018-D062
Title: Celebrate Sudanese Americans and Their Work for Peace
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention celebrate the witness and vigor that new Americans seeking refuge from war and famine in Sudan and South Sudan have brought to The Episcopal Church since 1983; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention commend the ongoing labor of Sudanese diaspora communities across the United States and Canada to unify their voices and overcome the destroyers of peace in their homelands.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 493.



Resolution Number: 2015-B018
Title: Commend Efforts for Peace in Sudan and South Sudan
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC), mindful of resolutions D-007 from 2009 and A-019 from 2012; Joyfully celebrate the vitality and growth of the Episcopal Church in South Sudan and Sudan and give thanks for the Church's efforts to bring about justice and peace in South Sudan and Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention heartily commend the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan (ECSSS) for its steadfast efforts to end the civil war which broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, and to help resolve older and continuing conflicts in the border areas of Abyei, and in Darfur, Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains in Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge TEC dioceses and parishes to consider prayer partnerships and joint work with bishops, dioceses, and church organizations in ECSSS to support them to reduce and resolve the current conflicts, help refugees, hold war criminals accountable, and improve people's living conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Presiding Bishop, in cooperation with other denominations and other provinces of the Anglican Communion to set aside several weeks in 2016 for prayer for peace in South Sudan and Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the offices and agencies of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to utilize all measures at their disposal to advocate for the protection of refugees, conflict resolution and sustainable development in South Sudan and Sudan with appropriate governmental and international agencies and offices.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 788.



Resolution Number: 2012-A019
Title: Continue Advocacy and Efforts for Peace in Sudan
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls for continued advocacy and prayer from all Episcopalians for peaceful resolution of the conflict in Abyei along the unsettled border between Sudan and South Sudan, and in the Blue Nile South Kordofan, and Darfur regions of Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention expresses sincere gratitude to the Episcopal Church in the Sudan for its continued leadership toward the goal of a just peace in the region; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention heartily commends Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul Yak for his leadership and substantial personal involvement in repeatedly mediating and stopping interethnic conflicts in Jonglei and elsewhere in South Sudan, as well as ECS' continued efforts to promote peaceful conflict resolution of ethnic and other disputes in South Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urges the United States government continue its strong support of international efforts for full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan and South Sudan, transparency in accounting for oil revenues, and normalization of relations between the two countries, including issues of trade, immigration, citizenship, and protection of the rights of religious minorities in both countries, including Christians in Sudan, to practice their faith without official interference or discrimination.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 183.



Resolution Number: 2009-A031
Title: On the Topic of the Presiding Bishop's Peacemaking Efforts
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention commends the world-wide peacemaking efforts of the Presiding Bishop during her first triennium, especially on a visit to North and South Korea in November 2007, in support of Korean reunification in her work to support the Communion-wide efforts for further steps to reunification under the inspiring leadership of the Anglican Church of Korea; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention also commends the visit of the Presiding Bishop to the Philippines in June 2008 and her role in exposing the deplorable human rights abuses by elements of the Philippine government in the policy of politically motivated killings and disappearances of civic and socially conscious leaders; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends the Presiding Bishop and other Episcopalians who have worked to support the search for peace and reconciliation in the interrelated conflicts in the Sudan, Northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in support of the peacemaking efforts of The Episcopal Church of the Sudan, the Church of Uganda and the Anglican Church in the Congo; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends the Presiding Bishop and her predecessor, the Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold, for their work toward reconciliation between the United States and Cuba, an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba and a strengthening of the rights and wellbeing of Cuban citizens; and in support of partnerships between dioceses in the United States and The Episcopal Church of Cuba; and also commends the efforts of the Church Pension Group in the past triennium to increase the limit imposed by the U.S. Government on the level of pension benefits that may be paid legally by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America to its ordained clergy in the Cuban Church.



Resolution Number: 2009-A033
Title: Urge Peace with Justice in Southern Sudan
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention commends to Episcopalians the following recommendations of a joint delegation of bishops of The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that traveled to the Sudan in April 2008; and urges continued advocacy and prayer from all Episcopalians for peace with justice in the Sudan, specifically:

- (1) Renewed international commitment to the successful political implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement;**
- (2) Increased and better-coordinated economic-development and investment efforts, both public and private, in Southern Sudan;**
- (3) Internationally coordinated efforts to care for and resettle the several million refugees and persons who have been displaced internally as a consequence of the Sudan's long-running conflicts;**
- (4) Condemnation of all violence perpetrated against refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), specifically including the rape of women and girls in Darfur and elsewhere; and be it further**

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church acknowledge the pleas of the Archbishop of The Episcopal Church of Sudan that urgent action be taken by all concerned parties to ensure the faithful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to prevent the deteriorating situation in Sudan from escalating into full scale war; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge the United States Government to urgently request that nations who serve as guarantors of the CPA establish measures to hold parties to the CPA accountable for its fair and transparent implementation, including the fair resolution of border disputes, the equitable sharing of resources and the carrying out of safe and fair elections, and to assure that non-compliance have consequences; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge the United States and its international partners request that the United Nations Mission in Sudan continue peacekeeping duties that include monitoring the peace process and intervening in conflicts to prevent loss of life, violence and widespread displacement.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 367-368.



Resolution Number: 2009-D007
Title: Urge Dioceses to Covenant With the Church of Sudan
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention adopt the following objectives to guide our church's advocacy for peace in Sudan: (a) support for the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, settling the prior civil war between the north and south, (b) support for increased private investment for economic development in southern Sudan, as now permitted by U.S. law, (c) continued and increased U.S. government development assistance in southern Sudan and other areas affected by war in Sudan, and (d) an early end to hostilities in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, and assuring full access by humanitarian organizations to assist refugees; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge each diocese in The Episcopal Church (TEC) to consider, after careful consultation, entry into a Companion Diocese Relationship or other covenant-based link relationship with a diocese in The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) or with an ECS-approved Bible translation project, as a means (a) to strengthen the proclamation of the Gospel in both the TEC and ECS, and (b) to further the cause of peace in Sudan. Each TEC diocese is requested to report the results of such consideration by July 1, 2010 to the Executive Council for posting on appropriate TEC websites after review by Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request our Presiding Bishop to designate, after consultation with other interested denominations, a period of several weeks in 2010 as a Season of Prayer for peace in Sudan, where our churches are urged to include prayer for peace in Sudan in each public liturgy, and that such Season of Prayer culminate in a National Day of Prayer for peace in Sudan, including the celebration of relationships by TEC dioceses and churches with the ECS.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 293.



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.



Resolution Number: 1994-D012
Title: Support Human Rights and Church Relations in Sudan
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, 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.