

Citizens of Sudan look for end to turmoil and suffering

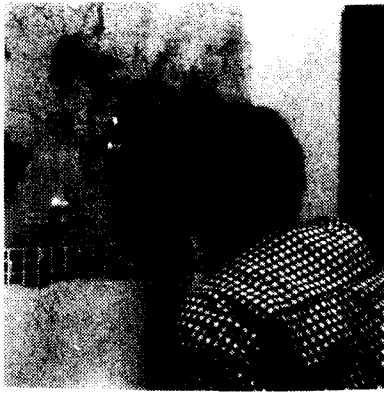


Photo by Kathryn Herr

By Osman Abdalla
Staff Reporter
oaa106@psu.edu

The Sudanese people are looking for any exit from their devastating civil war. They are supporting the ongoing peace agreement between the National Assembly Government (NAG) and the Sudanese People Liberation Army (SPLA) eagerly without considering the negative aspects of the agreement.

However, this ongoing peace agreement would be responsible for an extremely immense quagmire for the Sudanese people because it would create severe suffering for a majority of citizens of Sudan, lead to other types of rebellion, and make the eventual dismantling of Sudan inevitable.

First, the ongoing civil war would create severe suffering for the majority of Sudanese people because of unequal division of resources. For example, the annual national income, which is used to run public services in the country, is about one billion U.S. dollars. The peace agreement would cut this income in half. The first half is for six million people in the south, due to the Peace Agreement, and the rest, which

is about \$500 million, is for the other parts of the country. As for the south, its portion would enable it to do everything it wants. However, the other parts of the country would experience severe shortage in income, which would lead to an even deeper deterioration of its public service. Added to that is the misrepresentation that other states are suffering from, which has been even worse after the Peace Agreement.

Similarly, the peace agreement would lead to other rebellions in the other regions of Sudan because they would want to get the same consideration. As an example of that possibility, the civil war in Darfur state, which became an official opposition recently, also would get the same consideration as the southern Sudanese because both regions have about seven million people. If the Darfur state received half of the Sudanese government portion, it would leave \$250 million dollars for the 18 million people in the other regions. Definitely, this \$250 million would not be worth anything compared to the needs of the other regions.

Lastly, this peace agreement would make the dismantling of Sudan inevitable because it weakens the patriotism and strengthens the racism and religious zealots. I would say, after this agreement, any group in any region would follow the same token. It would raise either racism or religious problems in order to get the same rights as the southern region did. The agreement would lead to a decline in Sudanese patriotism and promote racism and religious zealots.

In short, the Sudanese people

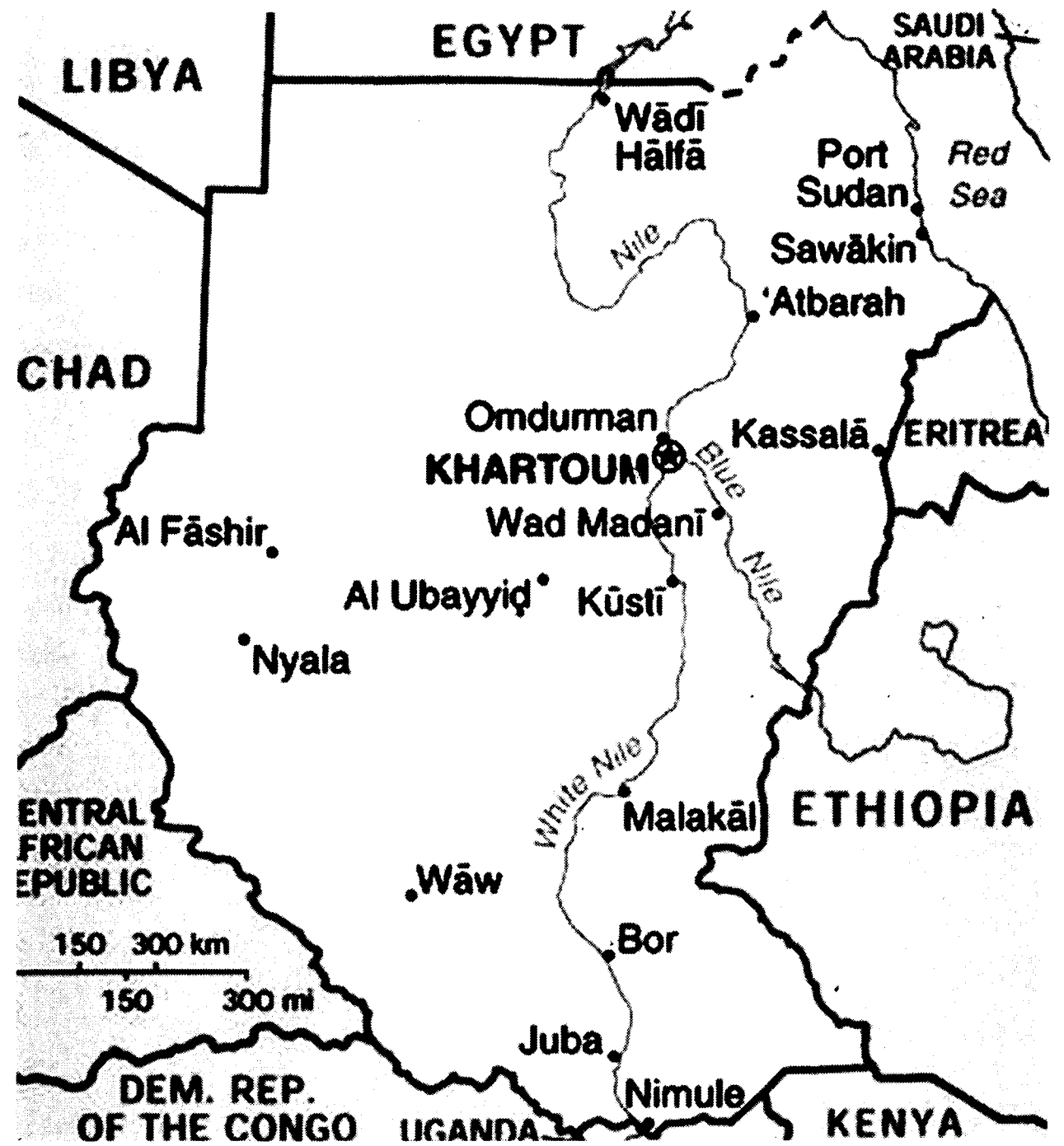
would become more and more fanatic about their race (African or Arabian) and their specific geographic area (tribal territory) rather than to the whole country because they would feel that this is the only way to guarantee their rights.

In my viewpoint, the reasonable solution for the ongoing problem is that the Sudanese people must:

- 1- Get rid of President Omar Hassan Albashir and his henchmen that form the power. They have failed to rule well and to save the unity of country as a microcosm of Africa. They are also prompting racism as a means of beating back rebellions and beating down those who disagree with the party line.
- 2- Avoid relying on the current Uma Party as national party to serve on behalf of the country. They fostered the racism in the country by establishing Al-Tajamo Al-Arabi in the mid-eighties, which harms the country with its discriminatory motives.
- 3- Reject any unreasonable demands or conditions by any opponent or proponent of the government's policy that jeopardize the unity of the country.
- 4- Abolish any unofficial militia, such as Al-Tajamo Al-Arabi militias (Janjaweed), that were formed by the Uma party and legitimized by NAG. These parties were formed to fight along with the National Army in the civil war because it ruined the National Army institution by destroying civilian property. They also support discrimination, crime, and genocide against civilians in Darfur.
- 5- Compel all opposition leaders, particularly Dr. John Grang, to be objective in their demands of power and the national wealth distribution. Also, it is important to be cautious not only of the rights of the opposition, but also of those of the Sudanese people.

If the Sudanese people do not consider these points and take action in the best interest of the country, Sudan will experience extreme suffering, dismantling, civil war, or more rebellions.

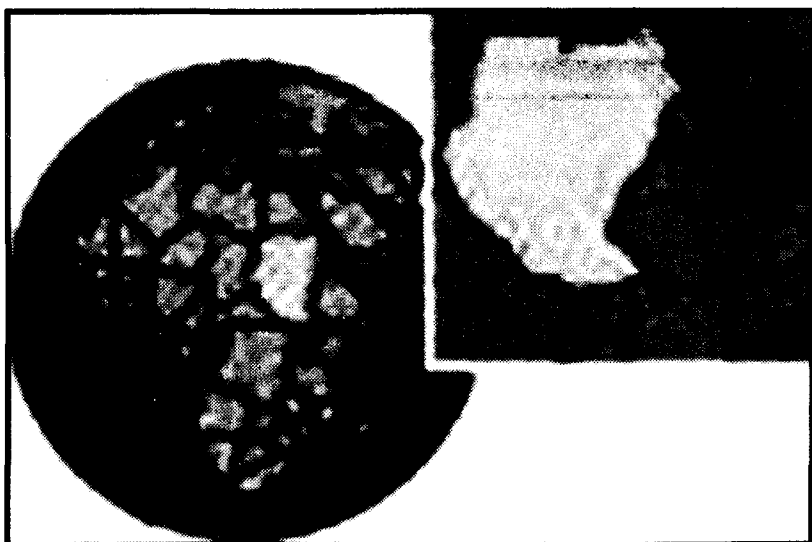
Look for Osman's new column 'World View' coming to the Capital Times in issue #4



Maps of Sudan courtesy of Google Images



Photo by James Nachtwey. Courtesy of Time Magazine



New York City police officer shares experience with PSH students

By Nat Melincove
Staff Reporter
ncm128@psu.edu

Former New York City police officer John "Jack" Dempsey remembers the civil strife of the 1960's. The smell of the fires lingering in the Bronx, teenage boys destroying their own neighborhoods and mothers unable to get baby formula because the local bodegas had been burnt down. His part in the police presence that abated a riot in one neighborhood is his fondest memory because he received something police officers rarely receive. A woman who lived in the secured neighborhood told Dempsey, "Thanks for being here."

He also worked a peace protest turned student takeover at Columbia University in 1968. On the front lines of the protest, Dempsey was fully clad in riot gear when a female protester handed him a flower. He threw it to the ground in disgust and she began to cry. As Dempsey recalled, "We didn't communicate back then, we hated. We were in different worlds."

Nineteen years later, while a student at Harvard University, he met another woman from the

protest and he said to her, "I didn't understand you then."

This is the type of real-life police expertise Professor Dempsey brought to students at the Morrison Gallery on a recent visit to Penn State Harrisburg. Approximately 35 students gathered to hear the 24-year veteran of the NYPD relay his personal experience in the field of policing.

Dempsey retired from police work in 1988 after being recognized seven times for meritorious and excellent police duty. He climbed the chain of command, eventually achieving the rank of captain. Before his retirement, he took advantage of the educational opportunities the job made available. He received a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University's prestigious John F. Kennedy School of Business.

This was a coup for a kid growing up on the mean streets of the South Bronx. "A prestigious university was beyond our dreams and hopes," said Dempsey. "The reality was trying to stay out of jail."

After his graduation from high school, his mother told him to go downtown, see "the man" and get a job. Traveling the subway, trying to avoid eye contact as all New Yorkers are trained to do,

he came across a poster that read "The NYPD wants you." The \$4,000 a year salary, 20 annual vacation days and retirement with half-pay were too good to pass up, and in 1964, Dempsey joined the force.

Dempsey began his second career, that of a college professor, in 1988 at SUNY-Suffolk County. In 2003, he became a professor of criminal justice and public administration at SUNY-

Empire State in New York City. He has authored two textbooks, An Intro to Policing, currently in its third edition, and Intro to Investigations, in its second edition. He also lectures to students across the country on the formal and real workings of the police system.

Dr. Jim Ruiz, professor of criminal justice at PSH and long-time friend of Dempsey, organized the lecture. He said, "I use his textbook because I've been exposed to him for so long and his

thoughts are more about policing, dealing with people on a personal level, and not law enforcement."

Senior Behavioral Science major Jim Michaels agreed. "He humanizes police work and what they experience—the good and the bad. [He is] very honest, he told it like it was," said Michaels.

The honest reflection of his years as a police officer in the big city is the reason Ruiz, a former

Dempsey explained to the audience the break down of police work. Ninety percent of the officer's time is hanging out and being observant. Nine percent is the arrests, the part that most people associate with police work. The other one percent is sheer terror.

He spoke vividly of the police officers that did their job on 9/11. An officer is on his beat, a plane goes into the building and everyone is looking to the police officer. "It's a different type of job," he said. "Everybody's running out (of the buildings), and you're (the police) going in. That's what kind of job it is." He noted that we don't think much about all the people that lived because of all those who ran into the building.

He also talked to the audience about the role of being a cop and the effect it has on the individual. "As a cop, you're society's handi-man. You take care of the stuff they don't want to take care of," he said.

He also said that the job affects cops mentally. Not all the outcomes are happy, unlike the pseudo-world of policing that is seen on television. The rates of suicide, alcoholism and divorce among police officers are some of the highest in society.

Dempsey was not immune. "The streets have no respect for cops. They eat you up," he said.

Dempsey gave the students tips on dealing with the effects of the street by advising them to pick positive, experienced role models in life. And he challenged them to earn the respect of the people. "Treat victims like you would want your mother to be treated by another cop."

Above all, he stressed that cops need to depersonalize themselves from the ugly situations they face. He said, "Police work is not a 24-hour a day job. It's not a way of life." Officers must have something in life other than the police department. Dempsey's way included positive role models, advice and the love of many people, especially his family, whom he mentions every chance he gets.

Despite his realization that the police department and police work were not the easiest jobs, Dempsey couldn't think of another job he would rather do. He stressed the simple things that make police work great, the times when no one is watching. The times an officer can help a victim of theft retrieve those irreplaceable family photos in their wallet or purse.

He stressed the simple things that make police work great, the times when no one is watching. The times an officer can help a victim of theft retrieve those irreplaceable family photos in their wallet or purse.