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**Submission to Associate Parliamentary Group on Sudan hearings on Sudan Peace Processes
From Peter Moszynski, Sudan specialist**

As a journalist, aid worker and consultant I've been connected with Sudan since living in the Nuba Mts prior to, and the South during, the outbreak of war and have worked with the Sudanese refugee community ever since. I advise on Sudan issues for a number of NGOs, commercial clients and asylum cases as well as for various documentaries and feature films, TV and radio etc. I've subsequently returned to Sudan numerous times both during and after the war and was last in South Kordofan (Nuba area) in August. I am due to return there again next month.

I WOULD LIKE TO LIKE TO COMMENT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS BECAUSE I AM CONCERNED THAT THE STATUS OF SOUTH KORDOFAN AND BLUE NILE (THE TWO CONTESTED AREAS WITH A SEPARATE PROTOCOL IN THE CPA) RISKS BEING OVERLOOKED WHICH COULD LEAD TO A RETURN TO CONFLICT IF IT APPEARS THAT SOUTH SUDAN WILL SECEDE.

Whilst the South and Abyei have clearly defined rights to referenda (and the guarantee of the SPLA and the option of unilateral secession should the peace deal fail to be fully implemented), the two areas are only given the ill-defined concept of "popular consultation" on their future status.

The SPLM's current political strategy for South Kordofan is to win control following democratic elections and thus ensure meaningful consultation. However the fact that the elections seem increasingly unlikely means that the whole peace process in this area is now in the balance.

THIS MONTH THE SPLM WALKED OUT OF SUDAN'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN PROTEST AT THE FAILURE TO DISCUSS THE DEMOCRATISATION LEGISLATION REQUIRED FOR A FREE VOTE, AND THE JUBA DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY MOST OF THE OPPOSITION, THREATENING AN ALL OUT BOYCOTT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS SHOULD SUCH LEGISLATION FAIL TO BE ENACTED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER

The Nuba Mountains rebel enclave that comprised most of South Kordofan prior to and during the peace talks was subject to the first formal ceasefire in all of Sudan, the Burgenstock Nuba Ceasefire agreement of Jan 2002.

However the area has been almost forgotten, especially as all references to what was initially "the Nuba Mts", then "Nuba Mts/South Kordofan" have been dropped, so that the CPA only refers to "South Kordofan" and fails to mention the area's non-Arab Nuba population.

It hasn't been helped by the fact that the area's borders were gerrymandered to include Arab-populated West Kordofan in the peace deal, which further risks undermining the value of any popular consultation exercise.

The Two Areas protocol wasn't discussed and was finally rushed through without full agreement at the last day of the peace talks.

The Nuba people underwent ten years of isolation, starvation and blockade whilst isolated from the outside world prior to the 2002 ceasefire that Britain helped negotiate and monitor, and their mounting sense of betrayal and concern for their future surely means that their situation deserves continued scrutiny by HMG and other concerned parties, not merely to be neglected as an inconvenient complication.

Darfur became a problem largely because it was ignored in the CPA negotiations and it would be a pity if history was repeated in South Kordofan - particularly as this was where its current governor, ICC indictee Ahmed Haroun, first perfected the counter insurgency techniques he subsequently used in Darfur.