I have served with Samaritan’s Purse, the Christian relief organization headed by

Mr. Franklin Graham, for fifteen years. I have visited Sudan on nearly one hundred

occasions since 1997. Mr. Graham is an advocate for the oppressed in Sudan. Samaritan’s

Purse has many programs throughout the opposition-held areas.

Let us be clear on one thing: The National Islamic Front controls the government

of Sudan, has declared Jihad against its own citizens, and works toward that goal

to the fullest extent possible. This is the same government that harbored Osama

bin Laden for five years.

There is a beacon of hope among the opposition groups. However, this beacon is

attacked and confounded by the actions and PR spin of the National Islamic Front.

This beacon is powerful and will not be denied nor extinguished.

The Sudanese people have a vision of a ‘‘New Sudan’’ and speak of a country

united where all Sudanese are participants, where there is separation of religion

and state, where people are free to speak, where they can exercise self-determination,

and where their children can be educated. In this New Sudan, there is no slavery

and there is no Sharia Islamic Law.

The tragedy of Sudan is well known but little understood. Since 1989, an estimated

two million people have died. This is equivalent to one World Trade Center

attack every week for the last thirteen years. Many define the war as religious, racial,

regional, or oil-driven. These elements exist, but the root of the war lies in a

simple, yet vital concept—FREEDOM. Freedom to determine their future, freedom

of worship and speech, freedom to elect leaders and to live without terror. The war

is about human dignity and liberty. It is between the people of Sudan and the National

Islamic Front—between the oppressed and the oppressors.

The war is not just about Islam versus Christianity. There are many Christians

in the opposition in the South, but in Blue Nile, east Sudan, and Nuba, most are

Muslims. All of these Muslim populations experience the same attacks and persecutions

as the Christians.

The war is not just about race. Although there are elements of apartheid, thousands

from the Arabic culture are joining the black Africans in the fight.

The war is not just about North versus South. If that were true, how could one

explain the multitudes from the North that have joined forces to oppose the National

Islamic Front?

The war is not just about oil. While oil plays a significant role in the war, it has

never been a motivating force for the opposition to take up arms. From the National

Islamic Front perspective, oil revenue serves to bankroll their helicopter gunships,

tanks, armored vehicles, and weapons factories. The National Islamic Front has a

scorched-earth policy to remove people from oil concession areas. From the opposition’s

perspective, the oilfields are strategic in denying its income to the National

Islamic Front.

Again, stated simply, the war is about FREEDOM.

Despite attempts of the regime to portray itself as an advocate of peace, their actions

contradict their words. If they are serious about peace, then one would expect

to see fundamental, not cosmetic, changes in the way they treat their own people.

Today, Samaritan’s Purse is delivering emergency food and medicine to victims of

recent bombings in oilfield regions. The Samaritan’s Purse hospital in Lui has been

bombed numerous times, and I have experienced the terror that comes with such

an attack.

Some say the war in Sudan is not ‘‘winnable,’’ but the morale of the opposition

forces is strong. They have little to live for and everything to die for in pursuit of

a land of peace for their children. Their overall ability should not be underestimated.

The opposition forces will not lay down their weapons until there is a comprehensive

and participatory political solution that will lead to guaranteed freedoms. They

do not trust the National Islamic Front to keep their word on any agreement because

they have broken every agreement for the past thirteen years. The people

know conditions will not improve until there is a government committed to respecting

basic human rights and liberties. They do not see that happening under the repressive

National Islamic Front.

Many see the opposition forces as fragmented, ethnically driven, and incompetent

to rule. Some of that is true, but they are committed to a New Sudan, and they

represent a better option for stability in this region than the National Islamic Front.

Unfortunately, they lack the public affairs capability to share their message internationally.

Domestically, they lack the basic tools such as radio stations, newspapers,

and schools to educate the population on principles of ‘‘rule of law’’ and democracy.

What the people of Sudan need most is the moral backing of the United States

Government to pressure the National Islamic Front. The United States Government’s

commitment to remain engaged is vital to bring peace to Sudan. Such measures

will be signals to the National Islamic Front that change is inevitable.

The Sudanese are denied the basic freedoms that we hold dear—life, liberty, and

the pursuit of happiness. The United States Government should continue to encourage

these pursuits and desires of the Sudanese people and lend them our moral and

political support in order to find freedom and liberty and to alleviate human suffering.

Nuba Mountains—Mine incident at Lauda, agricultural project of Samaritan’s Purse

Samaritan’s Purse has been working in Nuba for two years. Presently there are

4 fulltime staff on the ground in Nuba. Samaritan’s Purse had been involved in supplying

emergency supply before the cease-fire, and since the cease-fire has undertaken

a USAID funded agriculture project. This project consists of supplying six

tractors, trailers, and implements for large scale farming to supply food for the residents

and thousands of returnees since the cease-fire. An important part of the program

is training selected drivers in the proper use and care of the equipment. Due

to the seasonal rains, timing is of the highest importance to ensure crop production

and adequate food supply for the area.

On June 11, 2001, one of the tractors going to the Lauda site was destroyed by

a landmine. There were 8 or 9 passengers riding on the fender wheel-wells of the

tractor. Three people were killed instantly by decapitation. A fourth died at the

SPLA camp where the surviving victims where moved. A fifth victim, the Secretary

of Agriculture, Muhammad Tutu, died in the WFP airplane (evacuating 5 injured)

while en route to Chukudum hospital. That night another man died in the hospital

at Chukudum. On June 12, Samaritan’s Purse arranged flights in a SP DC3 to return

the bodies to Nuba for burial. The total dead from the landmine incident is

six with three more severely wounded, two of them with limb amputations.

There have been several reports issued about the incident. Samaritan’s Purse

staff, on the ground in Nuba, notified the international office in North Carolina

within four hours of the incident and supplied the correct number of dead and

wounded at that time. (This communication is by satellite phone and is held periodically

with the SP HQ.) A Samaritan’s Purse nurse accompanied the 5 airlifted victims

to Chukudum and notified the HQ of the death of Mr. Tutu within two hours

of his passing. This level of accurate information did not come from any official

international sources until at least 48 hours later.

Ken Isaacs, of Samaritan’s Purse, notified USAID immediately of the landmine

incident by phone to Roger Winter and Brian D’Sylva. They had not heard of the

incident before that time.

Since the incident there have been at least three investigations held by the JMC,

OLS, and most recently the combined investigation of the JMC and SPLA.

The information in this report is given from Samaritan’s Purse field staff, Dale

and Kris Hamilton. Kris accompanied the most recent investigation team to the incident

site but she was not a part of the investigation. Kris went to see the tractor

damage and encourage the drivers who are afraid to continue plowing due to the

landmine incident. On June 28 she gave a verbal phone report to Ken Isaacs. A

written report from Nuba is being prepared and should be available in several days.

In the most recent investigation, a Norwegian Colonel headed the team. They

went to the site by helicopter and waited for nearly three hours to interview witnesses

from both the GOS and SPLA sides. It is our understanding the SPLA has

identified four suspect individuals and their names from these witness interviews.

As noted in earlier reports, two tractors had been using the road for the previous

two days. That means that for at least two days, two tractors, made two trips on

the ‘‘road.’’ This is a total of 9 passes over the incident area without explosion. (The

day of the explosion the first tractor passed ahead and was slightly out of the track,

and thus passed safely).

The ‘‘road’’ is hardly a road, but in fact a fresh path across a field that had only

been in use for seven days and not before.

It is not sensible that a mine, especially an anti-tank mine, would have been

planted there when no traffic had been going there before the work of the tractors

began.

The most recent investigation was headed as stated above by a Norwegian Colonel,

but Kris did not get his name. Kris reports, ‘‘The colonel made a point to walk

to where I was, about 300 meters away. He told me, ‘It is obvious to me that this

mine was laid with intent.’ ’’ He went on to explain he would write this in his report

and the report would go to his commanding officer.

This information and all of the truth must come out to ensure the cease-fire and

the needed production of food.

The Hamilton’s are veterans of Africa. They have lived and worked there for over

25 years. Dale is a pilot and Kris is a public health nurse. They are calm, levelheaded

individuals and not inclined to exaggeration.

The drivers are afraid to continue plowing the fields in the Laudo area for fear

of another mine.

Samaritan’s Purse has purchased 8 mine detectors and is in process of sending

them and an instrument instructor to the area to train and equip security men in

order to sweep the fields daily.

The tractor is beyond repair although some spare parts can be salvaged.

Samaritan’s Purse has purchased hand tools for use as a means of compensating

for the loss of the tractor.

The people of Nuba are motivated to farm the fields but are very unsettled about

the situation in general. Previous issues had come up but were not known to Samaritan’s

Purse field staff. Quoted from a preliminary OLS security report: (The report

incorrectly calls the program FAU when it is Samaritan’s Purses activity.)

With reference to para. 3a-n above and ‘Trip Report’ dated 02 Jun 02—para

24a-d; why did JMC not advise Samaritan’s Purse, who are directly responsible for

the FAU programme being conducted at present, that problems were experienced

in LADO on the 30 May 2002. These problems may have been indirectly associated

with this present incident; the report clearly indicates that the problems were initiated

from the local GOS Commander; as a reminder of the situation and the statements

issued by the GOS Commander, they were stated as follows;

The incident has not been investigated and clarified adequately enough to resolve

the questions and conflicting information known by the people on the ground. There

must be resolution in the investigation and the results need to be supported by evidence

that can be accepted. Questions need to be answered.

If the evidence and testimony show that this is a mine intended for the agricultural

program, then the JMC, with backing from member countries, must seek out

the individuals responsible and hold them accountable. If this mine has been recently

laid, it would be a flagrant, malicious, and outrageous violation of the ceasefire

and a deliberate attack on a humanitarian work funded by the USAID.

The Samaritan’s Purse field staff feel there is significant evidence that the mine

was a recent plant and not an old planted landmine as asserted in early reports.

This is of grave concern since it implies a direct attack was made against Samaritan’s

Purse, a humanitarian organization. If this is the case, the cease-fire has been

broken and the attack can be considered aimed to prevent the production of desperately

need food for the people of Nuba. It is actually an attempt to starve civilians.

A futher field report from Samaritan’s Purse will be forthcoming and Samaritan’s

Purse awaits the official report from the JMC/SPLA investigation.

We are deeply concerned for the well being and safety of our staff. We are deeply

concerned for the progress of the agricultural program and the survival of thousands

of Nuba people whose survival depends on this project.