



ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020



**OPERATION**  
**BROKEN SILENCE**







Operation Broken Silence is building a global movement to empower the Sudanese people through innovative programs as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

# OUR MISSION



# 2020 WAS ... A YEAR

On the heels of one of the hardest years in history, I want to take a moment and express my gratitude to you.

2020 was impossible in so many ways. But our global movement and Sudanese partners collectively dug in our heels to push back against the challenges of the world. This report provides the bigger picture into how we made it through. We survived. It wasn't easy, but sometimes survival is victory.

What's not in this report is the private moments: countless conversations, expressions of hope and raw cries of despair, and the deep empathy that brought us closer together even as we remained apart. These moments are impossible to quantify, which is why you will only see the results of them here. But that doesn't mean they are any less important. You are the backbone of our resilience, which was tested like never before. Thank you.

Looking back, 2020 also provided us painful lessons we will carry forward. The primary one is that political instability and social division in the United States must be accounted for in our planning. Both have cast a long shadow over our mission, as a majority of our supporters are American. Even as new doors open to us, others are closing due to forces far outside of our control. It's a confusing time.

But there is comfort to be found in the words of one of our Sudanese partners who, in the face of his people's own challenges, once told me "it is what it is." That embracing of reality isn't a resignation to hardship, but a centering of ourselves in reality. There, we can discover paths forward. More on that later.

For now though, thank you for making an impossible year possible. We couldn't have done it without you.

Onward,  
Mark C. Hackett  
Executive Director

# THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

Sudan's peaceful revolution that began in 2019 faced major headwinds in 2020. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, re-entrenchment of surviving regime paramilitaries such as the Rapid Support Forces, and additional regional and local crises slowed economic recovery, peace negotiations, and humanitarian progress.

The Sudanese people pressed forward anyways, securing a number of impressive wins. Sudan finally rid itself of the devastating [state sponsor of terrorism designation](#). The new Prime Minister [signed an accord with the Nuba people](#), paving the way for permanent peace with a region that was the backbone of armed resistance to the defunct, genocidal Bashir regime. And one of Sudan's leading war criminals [was captured](#) and sent to the International Criminal Court.

Despite this progress, there were several signs that Sudan's future remains far from secure. The Rapid Support Forces [committed a brutal ethnic cleansing campaign](#) on the western frontlines of the Nuba Mountains. The [war in Darfur continued](#), stemming from a lack of tangible progress, warning that a broader armed uprising may be on the horizon. The perpetrators of the June 3, 2019 massacre in Khartoum [evaded justice](#).

2020 was an impossible year. The Sudanese people did not escape this reality, but they also did not back down.

Learn more about the crisis in Sudan [at our website](#).





## THE NUBA MOUNTAINS

Operation Broken Silence works in the Nuba Mountains region in southern Sudan and nearby Yida Refugee Camp.

The area is home to roughly 100 African tribal groups who have inhabited the region for over 2,000 years. The approximately 1.3 million Christian, Muslim, and traditionalist Nuba people live mostly in harmony together.

Little changed in the Nuba Mountains in 2020. The ceasefire between the Sudanese army and the well-organized Nuba self-defense force held. There was no large-scale fighting, nor aerial bombing of civilian areas.

Surviving regime paramilitary attacks on isolated frontline Nuba communities persisted throughout the year. Humanitarian conditions marginally improved due to increased farming activity, more freedom of movement, and reduced armed conflict. Due to the general isolation of the area, few COVID-19 cases were reported.

Overall, the situation in the Nuba Mountains was mostly quiet, especially when compared to previous years. Learn more about the Nuba Mountains [at our website](#).



# OUR PROGRAMS

OPERATION  
BROKEN SILENCE





# STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING

We share Sudanese stories and craft events to mobilize people into raising support for Sudanese-led programs.



## VIDEOS

We released 34 videos that inspired you to action. You watched and shared them with over 40,074 of your friends.



## YIDA PHOTO EXHIBIT

[Our flagship photography](#) exhibit introduced 1,424 people to Sudan and our mission, raising over \$19,000 during two showings.



## 9TH ANNUAL GALA

You raised \$31,900 at the virtual Soirée For Sudan.

[SEE RESULTS →](#)



## 11TH ANNUAL 5K

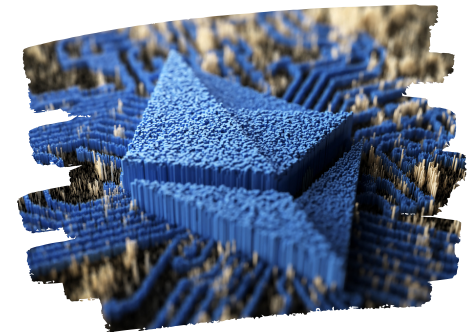
You raised \$18,200 and spread Eden's Run 5K around the globe.

[SEE RESULTS →](#)



## BRAND PARTNERSHIPS

31 companies and brands [came together](#) to help make our virtual events possible.



## CRYPTOCURRENCY

We announced [our entrance into crypto fundraising](#) with an \$11,000 gift of Ethereum.

# EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE

Operation Broken Silence invests funds raised in Sudanese heroes and institutions to empower their work. And they make the big program decisions, not us. Here's what we helped our Sudanese partners accomplish in 2020.



## EDUCATION IN YIDA REFUGEE CAMP

We sponsor the Endure Primary and Renewal Secondary Schools in Yida. Both are staffed entirely by Nuba teachers. In 2020, you helped us empower 24 teachers, 3 support team members, and 1,400 students.

Endure Primary School continued to be one of the top-performing schools in the region. Renewal Secondary School continued its soft-opening as the only functioning secondary school in Yida. Girls at Renewal Secondary also had access to a workshop about maintaining their health, protecting against sexually-transmitted diseases, and more.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



## TESTING SUPPORT IN YIDA REFUGEE CAMP

Yida is home to several other schools that are not officially connected to Endure Primary and Renewal Secondary. These other schools receive essentially zero outside support.

Because our schools make up the backbone of the education system in Yida, our teachers supported over 600 Primary 8 and Secondary 4 students from these other schools as they prepared for national exams.





### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Since 2016, Operation Broken Silence has set aside a small amount of resources each year to assist a Nuba student who is college-ready. Few Nuba students have access to higher education due to geographic location and funding challenges, which means they must attend a university elsewhere in east Africa.

We are currently sponsoring Jargi Joseph, a Nuba student studying in Uganda. He received his diploma in Public Administration and Management and is continuing advanced courses in the same field of study. He hopes to return to the Nuba Mountains in 2022 once his studies are complete.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



### **HEALTHCARE IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS**

Mother of Mercy Hospital had another busy year. While the hospital's staff expressed gratitude that incidents of armed conflict remained low, the freedom of movement that came with the ceasefire led to more and more people coming to the hospital for common illnesses and treatments.

To address the huge shortage of health care personnel in Nuba, the hospital began preparing to create a school to train midwives, clinical officers, and, eventually, nurses. The first fully trained Nuba doctor is now on site as well.

The hospital remains the only referral hospital in the region.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

We build grassroots campaigns in our home state of Tennessee that empower our federal-level political leaders.

## **The Sudan Democratic Transition, Accountability, and Financial Transparency Act of 2020 (H.R. 6094)**

We activated our statewide advocacy network in Tennessee [to back this critical legislation](#) that supports Sudan's attempted transition to democracy. This bill authorizes assistance for democratic governance, development programs, and more.

The United States Congress overrode President Trump's veto of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which included the Sudan Democratic Transition, Accountability, and Fiscal Transparency Act of 2020. The bill became law on January 1, 2021.

[LEARN MORE →](#)





# OUR MOVEMENT

**OPERATION  
BROKEN SILENCE**





## THE RENEWAL

Our passionate family of monthly givers are on a mission to empower Sudanese teachers and healthcare professionals. In 2020, they accomplished:

- 80 members, families, and institutions
- \$55,000+ given to empower the Sudanese people

[LEARN MORE & JOIN THE RENEWAL →](#)



## OUR FUNDRAISERS

Our campaigners did amazing things to raise money for our Sudanese partners. After starting their online fundraising pages, they asked friends and family to give.

- 172 fundraisers
- \$19,000+ raised to empower the Sudanese people

[LEARN MORE & BECOME A FUNDRAISER →](#)



## OUR DONORS

Our generous givers brought the magic in 2020. 834 donors participated by giving and buying event tickets.

Your support made possible the results our Sudanese partners achieved on the ground in the Nuba Mountains and Yida Refugee Camp.

[BECOME A DONOR →](#)



## OUR VOLUNTEERS

59 volunteers came together and served 586 hours.

You were generous with your time, helping to move our annual events forward in the midst of a pandemic and participating in our grassroots advocacy work. Your efforts saved the organization an estimated \$8,790 by the end of the year.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Board of Directors and staff supported our movement and Sudanese partners throughout the year:

Sara James, President

Ryan Strain, Secretary

Stephen Hackett, Treasurer

Sarah Roberts, Soiree For Sudan

Raquel Capocaccia, Eden's Run 5K

Mark Hackett, Executive Director

Audrey Geyer, Development Director

[MEET THE TEAM →](#)



# FINANCIALS

OPERATION

BROKEN SILENCE



VAMPARD

8

# YOUR GENEROSITY, RAISED & GIVEN



DOLLARS RAISED

**\$451,760**



INVESTMENT INCOME

**\$76**



## ESTIMATED VALUE OF GOODS & SERVICES DONATED



ADVERTISING

**\$120,000**



FACILITIES USE

**\$6,000**



VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$8,790**



# YOUR GENEROSITY, IN ACTION



STORYTELLING &  
MOVEMENT BUILDING

**\$22,611**



EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE

**\$76,148**



GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

**\$0**



STAFF

**\$71,195**



OFFICE & RENT

**\$3,128**



FUNDRAISING

**\$391**

# LOOKING AHEAD: 2021

OPERATION

BROKEN SILENCE





# SUDAN & NUBA MOUNTAINS

2021 will most likely be a tough and unusual year for the Sudanese people and our mission to empower them.

Regime holdovers in the transitional government will fight to delay Sudan's move toward democracy, even as the country's peaceful revolutionary forces push forward. These holdovers will cling to the ethnic and religious hierarchy that has greatly benefited them, using violence and their deep business interests to do so.

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to hamper Sudan's peaceful revolution by slowing economic recovery, development, and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Throughout the year, we expect that tensions between the Sudanese army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces will escalate. There are worrying signs that a new civil war may be on the horizon. This time, the fighting would not be between government forces and the ethnic minorities they oppress, but between government forces that survived the fall of the former regime and now make up parts of the transitional government.

Thankfully, we expect the situation in the Nuba Mountains to remain relatively calm. We are cautiously optimistic that a peace agreement between the transitional government and Nuba leadership will be signed. The Sudanese army especially seems to have no desire for a return to war with the Nuba people. Our Sudanese partners are unanimous in their assessment that such an agreement would be a huge step forward.

And that's why our mission remains unchanged.



## OUR MISSION

2021 will be a year of rebuilding as we remain in a season of uncertainty. We will face difficult decisions in balancing the needs of our Sudanese partners and movement with playing our role in supporting basic public health initiatives concerning the pandemic.

Some of these decisions will be outside of our control. For example, the speed of an expected vaccine rollout and the public's willingness to get shots into arms as fast as possible will be a major factor in how we approach our high-powered annual events.

This is why we expect our rebuilding will extend well into 2022. There is much work to be done and, as we rebuild, we need to be sure that we are creating the conditions to thrive in a post-pandemic world. There is no going back to normal. We must build into a new normal.

Thankfully, Operation Broken Silence is well-positioned to find our new normal. At the end of 2020, we received the largest donation in our history, a gift specifically targeted at rebuilding organizational capacity over the next 2-3 years. This gives us ample space to try new approaches, remain flexible as public health guidelines change, and meet our Sudanese partners and supporters where they are.

The challenges in Sudan and here in the United States —intensified by a global pandemic— may have tempered our optimism some, but that doesn't mean we are less effective or must be cold to the pains of our world. If anything, it's an encouragement to begin building into the next chapter of our story now. And you have the opportunity to be at the heart of that.





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are more opportunities to be a part of our mission than ever before. Here are the top ways you can partner with us in 2021.



## JOIN THE RENEWAL

Our family of monthly givers is at the heart of our mission.

[LEARN MORE & JOIN →](#)



## START A CAMPAIGN

Launch a fundraising page and ask your friends to pitch in!

[SIGN UP →](#)



## GIVE ONCE

Make a quick donation to help our Sudanese partners succeed in 2021.

[GIVE ONLINE →](#)



## DONATE CRYPTO

Use some of what you HODL to propel our mission forward.

[LEARN MORE & GIVE →](#)



## BRAND PARTNERSHIP

Leverage the power of your brand for the Sudanese people.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



## VOLUNTEER

Live in Memphis? Help drive our mission forward from HQ!

[SIGN UP →](#)



HISTORY IS MADE BY THOSE WHO  
SHOW UP. DON'T MISS OUT.

**OBSILENCE.ORG**



**OPERATION  
BROKEN SILENCE**



**@OBSILENCE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020