




ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

**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

## **2021: A QUIET YEAR OF REBUILDING**

I want to begin this report by expressing the sincere gratitude of our team and Sudanese partners to you: our consistent supporters. This was a quiet year of rebuilding following the chaos of 2020. Together, we made slow and steady progress in our fundraising, returning our Sudanese program partners to roughly 70% of pre-pandemic funding levels by year's end. This would not have been possible without you. Thank you.

I'd be remiss if I did not admit how difficult this year was though. The organization and our mission continued facing strong headwinds that show no signs of letting up. In Sudan, a coup in October officially derailed the country's fragile transition to democracy. Sporadic violence rose in some areas of the Nuba Mountains, although the ceasefire between the new regime and Nuba self-defense forces held. Political instability and social division in the United States -where a majority of our supporters reside- continued to pose ever-evolving fundraising challenges that rarely had simple answers.

Despite all of this though, we made real progress coming out of the devastation of 2020. New and old faces alike continued to trickle into our movement. There is still much work to be done. Centering ourselves in reality as opposed to resigning in the face of hardship paid off.

Thank you for making another difficult year bearable. We couldn't have done any of what follows without you.

Onward,  
Mark C. Hackett  
Executive Director

# THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

Sudan's multi-year political revolution ground to a halt by the end of 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic continued and [a coup](#) by surviving Bashir-era forces ended a period of fragile economic recovery, peace negotiations, and humanitarian progress.

By the end of the year, many Sudanese found themselves living in pre-revolution conditions. Hard-won rights had slipped away, economic conditions worsened, and regime-backed violence against historically oppressed and marginalized people groups accelerated. And [the government's promise](#) to hand former dictator and indicted war criminal Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court proved to be an empty one.

Despite these painful realities, millions of Sudanese [continued taking to the streets](#) in peaceful protests.

The international community got off the sidelines and took some early actions to support the aspirations of the Sudanese people. By the end of 2021, it was clear that this had been another impossibly frustrating 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 2021. The ceasefire between the Sudanese military and Nuba self-defense forces 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. There was also a concerning rise in "banditry," which is often linked to surviving regime units that have been disbanded but not disarmed. Humanitarian conditions remained stable but fragile due to continued freedom of movement and reduced armed conflict. Reported COVID-19 cases remained relatively low.

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

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# STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING

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



## VIDEOS

We released 16 videos that inspired you to action. You watched and shared them with over 8,300 of your friends.



## YIDA PHOTO EXHIBIT

[Our flagship photography](#) exhibit introduced 216 people to Sudan and our mission, raising over \$7,000 during one showing.



## 10TH ANNUAL GALA

You raised over \$8,000 at another virtual Soirée For Sudan. We announced that next year's event will be in-person.



## 12TH ANNUAL 5K

You raised nearly \$10,000 through another virtual 5K. [SEE RESULTS →](#)



## BRAND PARTNERSHIPS

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



## CRYPTOCURRENCY

Our first full year of fundraising on the blockchain raised nearly \$4,500 from brand new donors.

# 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 2021.



## **EDUCATION IN YIDA REFUGEE CAMP**

We sponsor the Endure Primary and Renewal Secondary Schools in Yida. Both are staffed entirely by Nuba teachers. In 2021, you helped us empower 24 teachers, 3 support team members, and 1,400 students.

Endure Primary continued to be one of the top-performing schools in the region. Renewal Secondary remained the only functioning secondary school in Yida, with a new headmaster brought on board to support teachers and expand cultural offerings for classes and the broader community.

[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 1,500 Primary 8 and Secondary 4 students from these other schools as they prepared for national exams. We also provided a limited amount of basic supplies like chalk, pencils, and notebooks to several other classrooms.





### **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 continued advanced courses in the same field of study throughout the year. He hopes to return to the Nuba Mountains in 2022 once his studies are complete.



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

Mother of Mercy Hospital had another busy year. The ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains allowed for better freedom of movement. People came from as far away as Khartoum, Darfur, and the far eastern part of Sudan, a testament to the quality of care and high reputation of the hospital's staff.

From COVID testing to blunting a measles outbreak to expanding services for patients in need of ophthalmological care, the staff here continued to be the cornerstone for improving healthcare in the region. The hospital remains the only referral medical facility in the Nuba Mountains.

[\*\*LEARN MORE →\*\*](#)

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

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

## **Ambassador For Sudan Letter To POTUS**

In February, we joined 125 human rights organizations and activists in urging President Biden to appoint an Ambassador or Special Presidential Envoy to Sudan.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

## **International Criminal Court Sanctions Letter To POTUS**

In February, we joined 70+ NGOs, faith-based groups, and academic institutions [in calling on the Biden Administration](#) to repeal sanctions on the International Criminal Court. President Biden met our request several weeks later.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

## **IAB Meetings With Tennessee Senators**

In March, we met with [Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn](#) and [Senator Bill Hagerty's office](#) to advocate for a fully-resourced International Affairs Budget in FY22.

## **Followup Ambassador For Sudan Letter To POTUS**

In October, we again joined 120+ NGOs, experts, and scholars [in urging President Biden](#) to appoint an Ambassador and Special Presidential Envoy to Sudan. President Biden met our request in early 2022 with the nomination of John Godfrey.



# OUR MOVEMENT

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# THE RENEWAL

Our passionate family of monthly givers are on a mission to empower Sudanese teachers and healthcare professionals. In 2021, they accomplished:

- 85 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.

- 36 fundraisers
- \$30,000+ raised to empower the Sudanese people

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

## OUR DONORS

Our generous givers brought the magic in 2021. 1,359 donors participated by giving and buying event tickets. Thanks to you, [we even won a top award](#) in the nonprofit sector for achieving one of the best donor experiences.

[BECOME A DONOR →](#)



## OUR VOLUNTEERS

39 volunteers came together and served 234 hours. You were generous with your time, helping to move our annual events and fundraising forward in the midst of a pandemic. Your efforts saved the organization an estimated \$3,510 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

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# YOUR GENEROSITY, RAISED & GIVEN



DOLLARS RAISED

**\$180,107**



INVESTMENT INCOME

**\$1,971**



## ESTIMATED VALUE OF GOODS & SERVICES DONATED



ADVERTISING  
**\$120,000**



VOLUNTEER HOURS  
**\$3,510**



# YOUR GENEROSITY, IN ACTION



STORYTELLING &  
MOVEMENT BUILDING

**\$31,398**



EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE

**\$130,881**



GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

**\$0**



STAFF

**\$90,195**



# LOOKING AHEAD: 2022

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## SUDAN & NUBA MOUNTAINS

2022 will be a tough year for the Sudanese people and the Nuba Mountains region.

The illegitimate regime that seized power in 2021 will focus on re-entrenching itself. The country's peaceful revolutionary forces will struggle to reclaim what has been lost. Economic and security conditions will rapidly deteriorate as the regime clings to the ethnic and religious hierarchy that has greatly benefited them, using violence and their deep business interests to do so.

Throughout the year, we expect that tensions between the Sudanese army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces will remain, but not escalate further. They both face a common enemy in the Sudanese people. For now, they will continue working together instead of falling divided.

We expect the situation in the Nuba Mountains to remain relatively calm, despite a peace agreement remaining elusive and unlikely. The Sudanese army especially seems to have no desire for a return to war with the Nuba people, although there are worrying signs that the Rapid Support Forces and other regime-backed paramilitary outfits are open to skirmishes, looting, and destruction of Nuba areas in isolated frontline communities.



## OUR MISSION

2022 will be another year of uncertainty.

The organization and our mission continue facing strong headwinds that remain difficult to navigate. Political instability and social division in the United States will keep fundraising challenges in place. We hope that our return to in-person events will help ameliorate some of these difficulties as we continue building into our new normal.

Thankfully, Operation Broken Silence is well-positioned to operate in this environment in 2022. Our core supporters remain committed to our mission. New doors for support and friendships are opening even as old ones shut. The COVID-19 pandemic is receding and the US economy is growing, although there are some signs that rising inflation could pose a challenge to our fundraising.

Our optimism remains tempered, but we can remain effective despite the challenges ahead of us. We are encouraged by the bravery of our Sudanese partners and the determination of our movement. And you have the opportunity to be at the heart of our movement in 2022.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here are the top ways you can partner with us in 2022.



## 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 2022.

[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**



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