

# Sudan

Written by The Way TV

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## History

After gaining independence from the British in 1956, Sudan was engaged in a civil war that lasted 17 years, and a second one that followed ten years later. The country has also experienced numerous regional disputes, such as the ongoing conflict in Darfur, in Western Sudan.

## Government

Omar Hassan al-Bashir came to power in a military coup in 1989 and has ruled Sudan ever since. Sudan split into two countries in July 2011 after the people of the south voted for independence. However, various outstanding secession issues have continued to create tensions between the two successor states.

## Social Issues

Sudan faces a large refugee problem; along with its own internally displaced people, refugees from neighbouring countries like Ethiopia and Chad are flooding in, placing a severe strain on Sudan's public services and capacity to cater for the needs of its people. Average literacy in Sudan is currently estimated to be 60% and school life expectancy is 4 years.<sup>1</sup>

## The Way TV Viewership

The Way TV can be viewed in Sudan but viewing figures are unknown. But the church leaders give us great reports about the channel

## Religion

Sudan has an estimated 34 million people living within its borders, of which 70% are Sunni

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Muslim, 5% Christian and 25% practising indigenous beliefs. 2. Converting from Islam to another religion is punishable by imprisonment and even death. There are very small but long-established groups of Orthodox Christians in Khartoum and other northern cities, including Coptic Orthodox and Greek Orthodox. Other Christian groups with smaller followings include the Africa Inland Church, Armenian (Apostolic) Church, Sudan Church of Christ and Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

### **Prayer Points**

Pray for all who have been affected by violence and conflict.

Pray that Sudan is able to unite with its neighbours in peace.

Pray for protection for Christians, their churches and businesses.

“A few weeks ago I found The Way TV on TV. My words cannot express my joy; you have refreshed and blessed me. As I was watching I couldn't stop my tears because of the joy I felt when I was watching your wonderful programmes. I felt the presence of God.” An email from a man in Sudan