

By Bayylnah Sharrieff

As we (the students of the University of Khartoum) walked in silent procession with the body of our colleague, who was killed by the police at our first night of rebellion, the secondary school students left their class rooms and joined us, thereby expressing their sympathy and unity with the university students. We were very happy and surprised to find them filing in with us.

THEN WE SAW some of the general working class coming towards us. They left their jobs in the train yards and joined us on the streets walking towards the square. The students and staffs from the Khartoum Technical Institute and the Higher Teachers Training College joined our ranks. Even the girls of the nursing school joined in the silent march.

Never before had I seen such a large number of people. No automobiles blocked our way or interfered with our procession. Many parked their cars on the side streets and joined the silent march. As our number grew larger we felt ourselves stronger. We gained strength and grew more determined. There was a feeling of power in this unity. Individual feelings seemed to be shared by those in the crowd and the power of the crowd seemed the power of the individual, and strength seemed abundant.

As we marched, we noticed that the police had fixed bayonets and were in trucks on the sides of the streets through which we passed.

When we reached the square, a university professor of the Faculty of Law stood on a platform and spoke to this great mass of people. He told them that they would reach their goal of real independence and obtain the reforms which they demanded but not through violence. He insisted that violence was not

the way, and that Allah would aid them to be successful. A prayer was said before he spoke. He was afraid that some of the people might get hurt by the military, as some of the students were that previous night.

A few other speakers spoke of their determination, and of the power of unity. Then one stood up and began chanting slogans for the fall of the government. We all knew trouble would start.

THE POLICE were beating the people, and shooting tear gas into a crowd whenever they saw one. There were sounds of gun shots, and yelling. Again the police (military) were equipped with hard military weapons to fight with the upper hand over the students and workers, who had only the sticks and stones of the earth for defense weapons.

The following day, martial law was put into effect from 2:00 p.m.



THIS ROAD through the campus of the University of Khartoum leads to the administration building and the Faculty of Law, two important landmarks in the social turmoil described in **LIFE IN THE SUDAN**.

Some of my female colleagues whom I was with thought that it would be safer for me to leave that area before fighting started between the military and the people. We rushed out and away from the crowd. We knew the location of one of their brother's cars and went quickly to it. This was about 11:30 am, October 25, 1964.

As we approached the car, we saw the crowd breaking up and becoming violent, and marching through the streets attacking police cars, turning them over and burning them. They smashed store windows and businesses belonging to the Greeks and foreigners who had been cheating them for such a long time. They threw the money from the stores into the streets.

at 6:00 a.m. In spite of this, demonstrations continued throughout the three city capital of Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman. During this time anyone seen on the streets would be shot. We were confined to the hostel. Many of the girls had been taken home by their families. The government closed the university, and the technical institute. The students of Cairo University extension in Khartoum demonstrated in sympathy for the other Sudanese students. The fact that the authority of Cairo University was with the Egyptian government prevented the Sudanese government from closing it.

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Tanks patrolled the area near the university. And whenever the soldiers saw a group of students speaking in a group, they shot tear gas into that area, sometimes the students would pick up the tear gas bombs and throw them back at the military.

The newspapers were silent on this subject of the rebellion.

A second student died due to injuries received on that first night of the student debate on the southern crises. His name was Barbikir. I remember him well, for I used to visit him often during his confinement in the hospital.

He was a very young student, small in stature. He had been shot three times, and had to be fed intravenously. In spite of the tubes which ran down his nostrils, he smiled at me whenever

I came to see him, and at one period spoke with me. We all thought that he would make it, but just as we thought this he had a hemorrhage in the brain, and died. He was a student determined to see the status of his people improved.

With the hostel and the university closed, the food was cut off for the male students. However the few females remaining in the hostel had food. The kitchen workers and cooks continued to feed us. Even the families of the students brought us meals.

THE STAFF of the university (excluding foreigners) plus all of the doctors, judges, and men of distinction went to the ministry of interior with a petition. They demanded the government's resignation and stated that they too would go on strike until this was done. It seemed as though the

whole country was on strike. Some of the policemen who had shown sympathy with the people were jailed or sent elsewhere. All of the workers had stopped working. One policeman when ordered to shoot into a crowd of secondary school boys, who were demonstrating, turned his gun on himself and killed himself, rather than kill a youngster.

The students brought to a head, by their open denial to submit to the injustices of their military government, the faults of that government. Their courage, strength, resistance and determination drew the admiration, respect and finally the agreement and support of the professional peoples of their country. Without the professional workers at their jobs, the country could no longer function.

To Be Continued