

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

There were approximately eight or nine different political camps (parties) represented on the campus of the University of Khartoum, Sudan whose political platforms ranged from communist to extreme liberal. They were in agreement to hold this debate on the Southern problem for they were all dissatisfied with the existing situation in their country.

AT ABOUT 8:30 p.m. the meeting was held on the grounds of the mens' hostels, for it was forbidden by the University's Chancellor (due to his acceptance of the government order to not allow any such meetings to be held on the campus). As the meeting was in progress the police (military) came, and surrounded the meeting place. They then announced through a loud speaker that anyone trying to come out of the meeting would be arrested. No one tried. They then shot tear gas inside of the meeting. When the students tried to disperse from the area which was filled with tear gas, the police began whipping them with horse whips. The students picked up rocks and broke large branches off of the trees to use as defense weapons. The police continued to beat and whip the students whom they saw. The students began to chant slogans against the military puppet government, and its president.

I cannot help but reflect upon these terrible days in the Sudan, (when the students began to protest openly about the situation of the general masses of their people, and their country's foreign policies, and internal policies), when I see the protests of youth here in America against the American government's internal and external policies. Some of those days were terrible, yet they were rewarding for they led to the political change of their government. They were dissatisfied, and as the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us; when the majority is dissatisfied a change for the satisfaction of

the dissatisfied must come about.

DURING THIS time the female students were all directed to go inside of the boys' hostel by the students for their protection. However they were not silent. They drew water, and encouraged the male students to continue their defiance for their rights. They gave the high shrill (which sounds much like the shrill of the American Indians at celebrations and at times of war). In the Sudan the women give this sound at weddings and celebrations, and in the history of the Muslim world they have been known to give this shrill at times of war. The police were not able to gain full control of the students. They then began shooting into the crowd. Many students were wounded. It was a terrible sight. Everyone was excited. The students had been beaten badly.

The police began to drive away groups of the students. Some of the girls were able to get back to the hostel. Their tobes were torn, some of them were whipped by the police who saw them running. One girl was charged as being indecent; her tobe had been torn off by the whip as she ran, and she had on one of the student's shirts to cover her head. One man saw her and whipped her for not wearing her tobe.

EVEN THE southern students helped to fight. They were told by the northern students not to, for the military would use their fighting (of self defense) as a reason to hurt, kill or arrest them. However, I remember hearing of one who rolled a bed off of the veranda hitting a policeman who was throwing tear

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On Life in the Sudan

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gas into every room of the dormitory below.

Around 10:30 p.m. everything was in a state of confusion. Most of the girls were back at the hostel, but few of them were inside. They were all out in front of the hostel discussing what had happened and what would be their next move. They had not expected the police to shoot them. We checked the attendance of the girls making sure that everyone was accounted for.

A FEW of the girls had been injured by the police and the female medical students were looking after them. The one telephone in the hostel was constantly busy. In the Sudan as in most countries where modern communications are few and sparingly used, news travels quickly by mouth. Some of the parents who knew about the trouble came to the hostel to take their daughters home. The girls protested and many of them refused to leave. They said that they would leave another day if things remained as bad as they were, but that they wanted to be with their colleagues.

The guards at the gates of our hostel made us all come inside. These guards to whom we all referred as uncle were very angry at the fact that the military would hurt the students not to even mention the female students, for the people in the Sudan respected the University students very highly. These guards, as did a large percentage of the public, saw no harm in the student holding such a discussion. We had just gotten inside of the gates when the military began riding up and down the streets of the campus in large trucks loaded with soldiers. They questioned the guards as to the pos-

sibility of male students being hidden in our hostel.

To Be Continued

Suburban

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ban parkland corporation to acquire 1,000,000 acres of land and water in urban areas within the next decade.

Within the neo-colonial, fascist system of exploitation, the control of land is a key issue. If Black-owned corporations or institutions begin to acquire and control land in the inner cities where Black people predominate, the Black community will soon be able to deal from strength with the racists.

Government-financed university studies by "systems analyzers" who use computers to study models of projected problems which are likely to arise under certain conditions in the future

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