



## Latest on Darfur

### Introduction

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The situation in Darfur, Sudan, remains grave. Numerous UN officials, governments, non-governmental organizations and the international media have documented that since February 2003 up to 30,000 people in Darfur have already died, an estimated 2 million people are displaced, 300 villages have been razed, and from 350,000 to one million (USAID estimation) may be at risk of death unless humanitarian aid is not significantly enhanced and expedited. Many internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees still lack access to humanitarian assistance due to ongoing attacks and insecurity, as well as bureaucratic obstacles such as delaying or even denying visas, imposed by the Government of Sudan. With the onset of the rainy season the provision of assistance will become increasingly difficult.

The Sudanese Government bears the primary responsibility in its role in supporting these atrocities by supporting the 'Janjaweed' militia to ethically cleanse Darfur, and despite recent reassurances to the international community it has failed to stop these atrocities and protect its citizens. However, the international community also bears responsibility for its inability to pressure the Sudanese government to quickly follow through on its promises.

### Basic Facts

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#### April 8

- The **Government of Sudan** and **Darfur-based rebel movements** agree to a ceasefire and the Sudanese government promises to neutralize the Janjaweed militias.

#### May 25

- **President of the UN Security Council** issued a statement to mark the formal recognition by the international community that grave human rights violations continue in Darfur, despite the April 8 ceasefire agreement.
- **African Union** committed a **ceasefire monitoring mission** to the Darfur region.

#### May 28

- The Government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) agreed to allow international observers to monitor the ceasefire.
- The international **Ceasefire Commission** with representatives from the African Union, European Union, the Sudan government and the SLA and JEM created.
- **African Union's Peace and Security Council** approved the establishment of a ceasefire observer mission consisting of up to 120 civilian and military personnel and offered a 270-person protective force if required to monitor ceasefire violations.

#### July 9

- African Union committed itself to deploying a security force of 300 to the Darfur region.

### Current Situation

- Only 23 observers are on the ground in Darfur and they lack full logistical capacity. The 300 security troops are supposed to arrive by the end of July.

# FACT SHEET

- At the end of June, both Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell traveled to Sudan to assess the situation in Darfur and draw attention to its gravity. Both noted the need for immediate action in order to avoid deaths on a massive scale.

## Talking Points

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The highest priority in Darfur at the moment is to **save lives, stop killings** and **provide protection**. The most effective way to achieve this goal is to deploy troops to the Darfur region to enforce the ceasefire that is systematically violated by all parties to the conflict and to protect the million IDPs whose lives are currently at risk. This requires active involvement by the Security Council, including the adoption of a UN Security Council Resolution.

The United States has introduced a **draft UN Security Council Resolution** to push the Sudanese Government to uphold its responsibility to protect its own citizens. The resolution is currently being discussed by the Security Council members but it does not include troop deployment to provide protection to IDPs and humanitarian organizations working in the region. The resolution:

- Calls for the Sudanese Government to immediately fulfill its public commitments – to cease all military attacks in Darfur, disarm and neutralize the Janjaweed militias, protect civilians including those in IDP camps, cooperate fully with all humanitarian relief organizations and provide them with unrestricted access, cooperate fully with the ceasefire commission, and begin investigations into the widespread violations of human rights.
- Urges the UN member states to reinforce the international monitoring teams led by the African Union.
- Calls for an arms embargo and travel restrictions to be placed on the Janjaweed militias blamed for the abuses that have affected more than 2 million people in Darfur.
- Threatens to escalate these sanctions within 30 days if results are not evident.

## What the U.S. Should Do

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The United States has been at the forefront internationally, condemning the atrocities occurring in Darfur. Continued U.S. leadership can have a meaningful impact through a few concrete measures.

The draft UN resolution should also include language to:

- Authorize member states under Chapter VII authority to utilize all means necessary, including force, to protect the African Union monitoring teams and support their work.
- Begin the planning and preparation for a Chapter VII UN mission to Darfur to protect the civilians of Darfur if the Sudanese Government fails to meet its obligation and cooperate fully with the terms of this resolution.

In addition to this the U.S. should:

- Ensure that the AU security forces, authorized by the AU and approved by the Sudanese government, have the mandate and capacity to protect all civilians.
- Pressure the UN Security Council to authorize a No-Fly Zone along with the arms embargo. If the government bombing in Darfur persists, a no-fly zone is crucial to protect civilians and shield aid organizations operating in the area.
- Include in a UN resolution the provision of peacekeeping forces with a Chapter VII mandate to establish stability and protect civilians in Darfur, and Darfur should be covered by a UN peacekeeping mission for the whole of Sudan planned after the signing of the comprehensive agreement.
- Encourage the UN Security Council to convene a High-Level Panel on the atrocities. The UN panel, which will investigate and report on the crimes in Darfur, will be a first step towards establishing legal accountability.