

DARFUR NOW

A Bi-monthly Briefing on the Darfur Crisis

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (www.cihrs.org)

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Sudan/Darfur:

Sudan to put to death any person attempting to extradite Darfur suspects to the ICC

Al Hayat March 1, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese interior minister threatened to put to death any person attempting to arrest the individuals indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Sudan's Salva Kiir reiterates his support to UN force in Darfur

Sudan Tribunal March 2, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The First Vice-President reiterated his stand in favour of deployment of international peacekeepers in Darfur to protect civilians and to insure humanitarian aid to the displaced.

Sudan to try suspect wanted by ICC

SUNA March 6, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's state news agency said Khartoum would try Ali Kushayb, summoned by the International Criminal Court as a suspect for war crimes in the western Darfur region. [This trial was subsequently "delayed" on 9 March.]

African Union must control UN-AU Darfur force – Sudan

AFP March 9, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — Sudanese president Omar al-Beshir, in a letter to UN chief Ban Ki-moon seen here Friday, insisted that the African Union (AU) must remain in control of any joint peacekeeping mission with the UN in Darfur.

Intergovernmental Organizations:

African Union (AU):

African Union Mission in the Sudan PRESS STATEMENT 06 March 2007

AMIS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT SPATE OF ATTACKS AGAINST ITS PERSONNEL

The Acting Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (Ag SRCC) is again saddened by the attack yesterday, 05 March 2007, in Graidia on an AMIS team on administrative duty, where two AU Protection Force soldiers were abducted and subsequently killed. A third soldier was critically injured. This brings to a total of 11 AU military personnel killed on duty and one (1) missing. This deplorable and condemnable act was perpetrated by gunmen believed to be elements belonging to SLM/A (Minni), which is in full control of Graidia.

United Nations (UN):

Darfur women still raped, by all sides - UN

Associated Press March 8, 2007 (THE HAGUE) — Women in Darfur continue to be subjected to rape by all sides in the brutal conflict in the western Sudanese region, the U.N. human rights chief said.

U.N Sudan Humanitarian Overview report

March 14 2007 Attacks from government forces or Arab janjaweed militiamen caused more than 34,000 people to flee in the first two months of the year, according to the U.N's Sudan Humanitarian Overview report. The report also showed Darfur civilians face increasing violence from former rebels who signed the Darfur peace deal and are now part of the government. This, observers say, could be a blow to the already shaky peace deal.

<http://ochaonline.un.org/index.asp>

Sudan must accept Darfur peacekeepers - UN chief

VOA March 18, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says Sudan must accept a strong international peacekeeping force in its war-torn Darfur region. Ban made the comment in an exclusive VOA interview.

UDAN: Darfur camps reaching capacity

IRIN NAIROBI, 19 March 2007 - Camps for internally displaced persons in the western Sudanese region of Darfur are almost at full capacity due to a continuing influx of people fleeing violence, an assessment report compiled by the United Nations and other aid agencies said.

SUDAN: Thousands of Chadian refugees flee to Darfur

IRIN NAIROBI, 22 March 2007- Thousands of people fleeing conflict in Chad have sought refuge in Sudan's western region of Darfur despite the humanitarian crisis there, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Thursday.

Sudan told to stop hindering aid groups by U.N. Humanitarian chief

Associated Press March 23, 2007 (JUBA) — The new U.N. humanitarian chief said Friday he had told senior Sudanese government officials they must stop hindering the work of aid groups in the country.

UN says Darfur efforts could collapse

Sudan Tribunal March 25, 2007 (EL-FASHER) — The United Nations' new humanitarian chief said efforts to help Darfur could collapse if the situation there got any worse.

Sudan, UN sign agreement to ease aid access in Darfur

March 28, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan and the United Nations reached a new agreement designed to ease humanitarian groups' access to refugees in the Darfur region. At <http://www.unsudanig.org/docs/Joint%20communiqu%E9%20ERC.%20minister%20of%20FA%202007.pdf>

United Nations Human Rights Council:

Report of the High Level Mission on the Human Rights Situation in Darfur

"The witnesses, victims and observers with whom we spoke, and the United Nations and other documentation consulted underscore that the killing of civilians in Darfur remains widespread. Violence has increased since late 2005 and has continued unabated into 2007...Rape and sexual violence are widespread across Darfur...Arbitrary arrest and detention in Darfur by government security forces continue...Arbitrary restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly are widespread...The HLM has also received credible information of torture, inhumane and degrading treatment by National Security and Military Intelligence during attacks and in the treatment of detainees...Ongoing attacks have resulted in massive displacement of civilians...Rebel abuses of human rights and humanitarian law also continue..."
At <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G07/116/20/PDF/G0711620.pdf?OpenElement>

Sudan moves to block UN body from considering Darfur report

Associated Press March 13, 2007 (GENEVA) — Sudan on Tuesday accused a U.N. High Mission panel of bias, and moved to block the U.N. Human Rights Council from considering its report accusing Khartoum of orchestrating Darfur attacks.

Islamic and Arab states seek new UN rights probe of Darfur

Rueters March 14, 2007 (GENEVA) — Muslim and Arab states rejected a report by a U.N. High Level Mission that accused Sudan of fomenting crimes against civilians in its Darfur region, and called for a fresh investigation. Echoing the line taken by Sudan, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) states and Arab League said that the fact that the team led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams never got to Darfur had invalidated its findings.

China, Russia seek to block UN rights report on Darfur

Sudan Tribunal March 16, 2007 (GENEVA) — China and Russia joined Arab and Muslim states on Friday in urging the U.N.'s human rights watchdog to ignore a report from a mission to Darfur that blamed Sudan for continuing war crimes against civilians there. The two permanent United Nations Security Council members argued the mission, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, last month failed to gain access to the vast western region of Sudan and had not fulfilled its mandate.

Action on Resolution on Follow-Up to Decision on Situation of Human Rights in Darfur

30 March- In a resolution (A/HRC/4/L.7/Rev.2) entitled Follow-up to the decision of 13 December 2006 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourth special session entitled "Situation of human rights in Darfur" (S-4/101), adopted without a vote, the Council takes note with regret that the high-level mission could not visit Darfur; takes note of the report of the high-level mission; expresses its deep concern regarding the seriousness of the ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Darfur; calls upon all parties to the conflict in Darfur to put

an end to all acts of violence against civilians; calls upon the signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement to comply with their obligations under the agreement; decides to convene a group to be presided over by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, composed of 3 Representatives of the Secretary-General 4 Special Rapporteurs, to work with the Government of the Sudan and the appropriate human rights mechanisms of the African Union to ensure the effective follow-up to and to foster the implementation of resolutions and recommendations on Darfur, to safeguard their consistency and to contribute to monitoring the human rights situation on the ground. The resolution calls upon the Government of Sudan to fully cooperate with the group; requests the Group to report to the Council at its fifth session; and the Council will decide at its fifth session on any follow-up that might be required. At <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/4session/index.htm>

European Union:

EU urges more Sudan sanctions, pledges funds

Associated Press March 5, 2007 (BRUSSELS) — The European Union called on the United Nations to consider tighter sanctions on Sudan over Darfur and pledged on Monday to find funds to help transform an African Union peace force into a joint mission with the U.N.

League of Arab States:

Sudan agrees to accept more peacekeepers in Darfur at Arab Summit

March 29, 2007 (RIYADH) — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he achieved a breakthrough with Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir on deploying an expanded peacekeeping force in Darfur after a two-hour meeting in Riyadh with Bashir, Saudi King Abdullah, African Union Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare and Arab League Secretary-General Amre Moussa on the sidelines of the Arab summit.

Saudi Arabia to supervise resolution of Darfur crisis

Al Hayat 31 March 2007. It was agreed on a meeting on the sideline of the Arab summit on March 28 that the file of the Darfur crisis be placed under the supervision of King Abdullah and that the Sudanese Government should coordinate its dealings with the United Nations and the international community through Saudi Arabia.

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs):

Human Rights Council Interventions

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty, FIDH, CIHRS and other NGOs made oral interventions in support of the High Mission Report on the Human Rights Situation in Darfur, and called on the Human Rights Council to adopt a strong resolution on the matter.

ICRC: Plight of Darfur's rural communities worsening

March 22, 2007 (GENEVA) — The International Committee of the Red Cross said that the plight of the most needy rural communities in Sudan's strife-torn region of Darfur is worsening. The ICRC said in a regular report on its activities in Darfur that it was "extremely concerned" about the "precarious" humanitarian situation as rural communities were largely cut off from aid deliveries by violence

Enough! MONTHLY UPDATE MARCH/APRIL 2007 DARFUR SUMMARY

One of the world's hottest wars is intensifying and the people of Darfur are paying the price. A peace agreement between the government of Sudan and one of the Darfur rebel groups was signed in May 2006, but the benefits of this so-called peace have yet to reach the 2.5 million people stuck in displaced camps in Darfur and refugee camps in eastern Chad.

HRW- Sudan: Allow International Monitoring of Darfur Trials (New York, March 7, 2007) –

Sudan should immediately open its special court trials to independent international monitors who can report publicly on proceedings, Human Rights Watch said today. On March 6, Sudan announced it will start trial proceedings today in a special criminal court in Geneina against three people on charges relating to attacks in West Darfur. One of the accused, "Ali Kosheib" (a pseudonym for Ali Mohammed Ali), was named as a suspect by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in [court filings last week](#).

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Public Statement 15 March 2007

No more delay: UN Human Rights Council must address human rights violations in Darfur

Amnesty International urges the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to take immediate action to address the grave human rights violations taking place in Darfur.

HRW: Human Rights Council: Act Now on Darfur Mass Atrocities Must Be Stopped, Not Denied (Geneva, March 22, 2007) – The Human Rights Council should take strong and immediate action to address the human rights crisis in Darfur. Germany and Algeria yesterday tabled draft resolutions on the situation. The draft resolution put forward by Germany – in an apparent effort to achieve consensus – is carefully worded and presents only a small step forward. The council could, and should, do much more to end abuses in Darfur. In contrast, however, the Algerian draft is a shameful attempt to deny the horrific situation in Darfur and delay any action by the council to address it.

Human Rights First: U.N. Human Rights Council Closes its Eyes to Sudanese Government's Role in Darfur Violations NEW YORK, March 30, 2007 – With today's decision on Darfur, the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva has "failed the people of Darfur," according to the head of Human Rights First. HRF Executive Director Maureen Byrnes said the decision fails to recognize the responsibility of the Sudanese government and rebel groups for human rights violations in Darfur. In doing so, the Council has ignored well-established evidence, including the recent report of its own high-level mission to Darfur

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL 30 March

Chad: Will a UN Presence on the Darfur Border Protect Civilians? Facing a standoff with the Sudanese government over ways to stop attacks against civilians in Darfur, the United Nations Security Council sees an opportunity in eastern Chad to project force to Darfur's border in the name of protecting civilians in Chad from additional ethnically motivated attacks. While such protection is laudable and necessary, the realities of deploying the multidimensional presence proposed by the UN Secretary-General may in fact pose unacceptable risks to civilians-and may arrive too late to protect those most at risk. [Download a .pdf of this policy recommendation.](#)

Cairo Insititute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS): CIHRS presented one written intervention calling for increased and unbiased civilian protection efforts in the Palestinian Territories, Darfur and Iraq, and presented two Oral Interventions at the Human Rights Council: one on the double standards of civilian protection in the Arab region and one calling for a strong resolution on Darfur. All at www.cihrs.org.

Countries:

German defence minister backs military mission in Darfur

Sudan Tribune Friday March 1, 2007 (WIESBADEN) — Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung has advocated a military mission in the Sudanese crisis region of Darfur, the German news agency DDP reported.

Chad says will not accept UN troops in Sudan's border

Reuters Thursday 1 March 2007. Feb 28, 2007 (N'DJAMENA) — Chad will not accept an international military presence on its eastern border with Sudan's Darfur region but wants a civil protection force of police and gendarmes, the government said on Wednesday.

Egypt seeks to pilot Sudan out of Darfur crisis

Sudan Tribune March 6, 2007 (BRUSSELS) - Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Aboul Gheiton Tuesday said Egypt is seeking to reach a formula piloting Sudan out of the Darfur crisis.

China urges deployment of Darfur peacekeeping forces

Xinhua March 13, 2007 (BEIJING) — China hopes the Sudanese government will reach a consensus with the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) as soon as possible on deploying peacekeeping forces in Darfur, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang here Tuesday.

Bush administration preparing to sanction Sudanese companies

Associated Press March 14, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — A top U.S. official said Wednesday the administration is preparing to impose tough economic sanctions against Sudan in response to the refusal of President Omar al-Bashir to allow deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur.

Egypt opposes sanctions on Sudan over Darfur force

March 17, 2007 (CAIRO) — Egypt on Saturday opposed sanctions on Sudan over Khartoum's refusal to allow thousands of international peacekeepers into its war-ravaged Darfur region.