

SUMMARY // CONTENTS //


HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY ■ During the month of June 2010, Sudanese government authorities showed concern on the delimitation of the borders between north and south Sudan for the upcoming referendum. The United States allocated \$60 million to the referendum. A ban imposed by the Sudanese government on helicopter flights to the southern states of Darfur was lifted, allowing the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to carry out its essential operations in the region. A tribal clash between the Rezeigat tribe and residents of Misseriya villages resulted in 20 deaths and many more wounded. Three peacekeepers were killed and one was injured in an ambush on June 21st.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS ■ On June 23rd, the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the rebel movement known as the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), agreed to a timetable to begin peace negotiations. All agreements are meant to conclude as of mid-July 2010 in the hopes of ensuring the legitimacy of Djibril Bassole's (Joint Chief Mediator) statement to the UN Security Council, which projected the conclusion of a peace agreement between Khartoum and LJM rebels before the occurrence of Southern Sudan referendum on self-determination scheduled for January 2011. As JEM grows increasingly distant from re-engaging in peace talks, the GoS has increased pressure upon Libya to put greater pressure Ibrahim to rejoin the peace talks. In South Sudan, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, named seven female ministers in the new regional cabinet, 6 months into the referendum.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN ■ Conflict continues in wake of the allegedly botched April elections. Renegade General George Athor appears to have recruited several more high ranking officers and has coordinated several attacks with them. The SPLA seems to have effectively been able to repel their attacks and have driven the rebels out of their operational zones. Both local and international politics have been geared primarily towards preparing for next year's referendum regarding Southern secession.

DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS ■ Despite a dramatic increase in violence in Darfur, the Canadian government has remained largely silent on the subject. However, with the government's funding contract with the Canadian Council for International Cooperation due to expire at the end of July, and with no discussion of renewal, controversy over the Conservative's relationship with foreign aid groups has again sparked debate in the House of Commons. In other news, a new report encouraging stronger sanctions against Iran

DRC: TROUBLE IN THE WEST ■ The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of independence on June 30. Yet in the same month as this highly anticipated event came the murder of Floribert Chebeya, one of the DRC's most well-known and indefatigable human rights activists, who has repeatedly denounced human rights violations in the country. Early enquiries into the case pointed to high-level official responsibility, and John Numbi, the Congolese chief of police, was suspended. Yet if this act was meant only to appease the international community, rather than to take a meaningful step towards ending impunity for human rights violations in DRC, it is likely that the violent repression of human rights activists will continue as soon as attention turns elsewhere.



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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS //

1 Sudanese Elections: Stand's Reaction

On April 11, 2010 the people of Sudan went to the polls to vote in their first multi-party election in 24 years. Despite this landmark event, it must be recognized that the elections were neither free nor fair, and fell significantly short of international standards. Serious irregularities undermined the process and it is clear that the government could have done more to ensure a more free and fair election process.

That said, the elections were a necessary step stipulated in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended decades of war and called for a referendum by 2011. Before the referendum on independence for South Sudan can take place, it is essential that progress be made to correct the shortcomings experienced and to expand the democratic space in Sudan.

Shortcomings:

- Most of the major opposition candidates boycotted the election (Sudan's People Liberation Movement (SPLA), Umma Party).
- Voter registration was unequal across the country.
- Insecurity in Darfur prevented a great number of people from voting.
- Census data did not accurately reflect large segments of the population in some regions of Sudan (e.g. Darfur).
- Too few voter education programs set up across the country.
- High incidence of intimidation and threats to voters coming from the South
- Lack of sufficient safeguards and transparency in the electoral process.
- Significant technical and logistical problems (inaccurate polling station lists, not enough ballots printed, late delivery) – result of weak preparation.

Steps Forward:

- Prohibitions on freedoms of speech and assembly under the 1997 emergency laws in Darfur need to be lifted to ensure fair campaigning and outreach
- The National Security Law which gives government authorities the "power of detention without cause," must be revised or suspended before any future elections take place.
- To improve the democratic deficit, increase voter education programs across the country through organizations like the Carter Centre and the National Democratic Institute (NRI).
- Support efforts to train domestic observers (it takes only 1 week to train a local observer).
- All parties must be encouraged to run in future elections and this encouragement will only materialize if the above stated shortcomings become addressed and the aforementioned steps are taken.

2 Civil society participation in the Darfur peace process is essential if a sustainable peace is to occur. The recent inclusion of Darfuri civil society in the Doha peace consultations in Nov 2009 was a positive step in the right direction but mired with impediments. As this process continues, the government of Canada should:

- 1) Ensure that Darfuri society is widely and fairly represented.
 - The first meeting was overrepresented with government National Congress Party (NCP) members as well as other war crimes perpetrators and underrepresented with Darfur diaspora, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and northern Darfur leaders.
- 2) Make sure that the government of Sudan is not imposing restrictions of any kind or hampering civil society members in any way from participation in the consultations.
 - The first meeting was hampered by bureaucratic delays, airport and airline restrictions as well as threats from the government of Sudan against some program participants (the underrepresented).

The best way to avoid these problems is if the Doha organizers define what is meant by civil society and impose specific criteria for member participation. Canada has the capacity to share its expertise about including civil society in public consultations.

3 In order to effectively prevent, monitor and address grave human rights abuses and mass atrocities, the Government of Canada should create an institutional apparatus that is capable of carrying out this mission on a permanent basis. Stand calls on the government to:

- Create a Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity which should be attached to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS //

BY CHELSEA SAUVÉ

On June 23rd, the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the rebel movement known as the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), met in Doha and agreed to a timetable to begin peace negotiations. This timetable assigned meeting dates to the various committees involved in the peace process including the Committee on Compensation and Return of IDPs and Refugees which will meet on June 29th in the presence of refugees. On June 30th, the Committee on Security Arrangements will meet and on July 1st, the Committee on Justice and Reconciliation will meet. According to the adopted procedure, the GoS and the LJM must present their papers to the committee so that the pending mediation can formulate a consensual proposal suitable to the two parties.

Further, the meetings of the Security Arrangements Committee will start in the presence of the field commanders. While the experts of the two parties meet with UNAMID experts on June 24th to discuss both the modalities of implementing the agreed ceasefire and the issues of non-military logistic support. The timing of the second forum for members of civil society was also determined to be held on July 12th. All agreements are meant to conclude as of mid-July 2010 in the hopes of ensuring the legitimacy of Djibril Bassole's (Joint Chief Mediator) statement to the UN Security Council, which projected the conclusion of a peace agreement between Khartoum and LJM rebels before the occurrence of Southern Sudan referendum on self-determination scheduled for January 2011.

Despite such hope, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) refused to participate in the peace talks as its chairman, Khalil Ibrahim suspended JEM's participation due to a belief that Qatar, the host country of the negotiations, continuously favours the Sudanese government. Aside from their reluctance to join the peace negotiations, JEM has stated that they are in full support of the Southern Referendum set to take place in January 2011. This support stems from a

desire to end the chaotic presence that the GoS continues to reign over South Sudan. Following recent military clashes which have taken place between JEM and the GoS, JEM's military spokesperson Ali Alwafi suggested that the seizure of GoS tanks demonstrates that JEM keeps the military upper hand over the Sudanese army. Additionally, it demonstrates that soldiers are unwilling to fight for the government of the National Congress Party (NCP) and instead, choose to fight on behalf of the rebel movements; specifically JEM.

As JEM grows increasingly distant from re-engaging in peace talks, the GoS has increased pressure upon Libya to put greater pressure Ibrahim to rejoin the peace talks. Currently, Ibrahim is living in Libya, where he remains safe from extradition by authorities, as the Libyan government confirmed that Libya's involvement in mediating the Darfur issue will not permit it to surrender a figure who is a party to the conflict. Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the GoS, Khaled Muawiya, has said that the Doha talks for peace in Darfur will continue in the absence of JEM. In addition to the notable absence of JEM in the peace talks, the Sudan Liberation Movement of Abdel Wahid Al-Nur (SLM-AW) has also boycotted the peace talks demanding that security be provided to all civilians before talks are held between rebel movements and the GoS.

In South Sudan, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, named seven female ministers in the new regional cabinet, just 6 months before the referendum. The appointment of more female ministers in the new regional cabinet is viewed as presidential response to pledges made during election campaign, namely rallies which were held to increase women participation in the government at all levels if elected, to 30% from 25%. Kiir also issued the decree restructuring some ministries, as well as the upgrade of some independent commissions. Additionally, Kiir appointed 30 out of 32 ministers. Two ministers are yet to be nominated by the National Congress Party (NCP). They include, Pagan Amum as the minister of the upgraded Peace Commission, which is now a full ministry. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was added as well, allowing for the creation

of the Ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation. This ministry is being supervised at the ruling party's highest level.

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY //

BY SABRINA IRIARTE

During the first week of June, President Omar Al-Bashir warned that the delimitation of the boundaries between north and south Sudan could lead to confrontations and insisted that unity was the best option for both the north and the south. Nonetheless, on June 15th, Ali Karti, the newly appointed foreign minister, said that the borders between north and south Sudan should be demarcated before the referendum and warned that any disagreement in the results of southern Sudan referendum could lead to a war that would be more disastrous than the past one. 1

Ava Rogers, the United States Consul General in Juba, announced that the government of the United States allocated \$60 million dollars to assist the referendum in Southern Sudan. The contribution will be channeled through the United States Agency for International Development and will be used for technical support and to ensure the timely conduct of the referendum. 2

Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response said in mid-June that Sudanese authorities are blocking most requests to bring aid by road or air to remote southern states of Darfur. This is of particular concern given that insecurity is increasing in remote areas and the number of internally displaced persons is also on the rise.³ The ban was imposed by the Sudanese government on May 31st on the grounds of insecurity in the region. On June 13th, the ban imposed on helicopter flights was lifted as it had serious implications for the ability of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to carry out medical, emergency, supply, and evacuation operations. Nevertheless, UNAMID spokesperson Christopher Cycmanick,

said UNAMID flights were not allowed in the Muhajeria, Shearia and Al Deain regions. 4

On June 13th, armed men from the Rezeigat tribe attacked Misseriya villages in the southwest of Zalingei resulting in 20 people being killed and an undetermined number of wounded. At the root of this tribal clash is the scarcity of pasture and water sources in the area. The clashes were confirmed by the UNAMID. 5

Three UNMAID peacekeepers lost their lives and one was injured in an ambush on June 21st. UNAMID reported that twenty armed men, wearing camouflage clothing, opened fire on the peacekeepers without warning. The peacekeepers fought back in a confrontation that lasted over one hour. Three of the unknown gunmen were killed and the rest escaped in a stolen vehicle. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, deplored the attack and urged the Sudanese government to apprehend the attackers. 6

DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS //

BY JOHN MATCHIM

Coming on the heels of cuts to the aid organization KAIROS, a long-time recipient of bipartisan federal support, funding to the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), an umbrella organization that represents almost 90 non-governmental aid organizations, is now under threat. In response, the Opposition rose on a number of occasions through June to question the Conservatives' commitment to international aid. Both the NDP and the Liberals asserted that recent funding cuts to aid organizations were ideologically motivated. NDP leader Jack Layton denounced the cuts as "politically motivated and punitive," while Liberal MP John McKay lamented that KAIROS and Rights and Democracy had been "silenced by de-funding and slander."

The Conservatives defended the cuts by arguing for accountability in the delivery of international aid, describing its funding policy as "generous" and promising effective support for projects that produce real benefits. Establishing what

policies will produce 'real benefits' is, of course, anybody's guess. However, the Opposition has charged that the Conservatives intend to censor any and all organizations that have a different idea about what is best for the recipients of Canadian aid. The government was recently embroiled in another aid controversy after refusing to fund abortions for women in developing countries, furthering fears that the Conservatives are dedicated to bringing international aid firmly under political supervision. Robert Fox, executive director of Oxfam Canada, worries that funding cuts send "a signal to the NGO community that is very, very disturbing."

While there was no debate concerning Darfur particularly, the House of Commons was quick to cite the region as a justification for imposing further sanctions on Iran. A report chaired by human rights lawyer and Member of Parliament Irwin Cotler, and endorsed by 100 scholars and politicians, manages to link the violence in Darfur with uranium enrichment in Iran and the destruction of Israel. The report claims to have learned the lessons of Rwanda, the Balkans and most recently Darfur, and has recognized an imminent genocidal threat from a nuclear armed Tehran. Although Iran deserves significant Canadian diplomatic attention, utilizing past and present violence in different circumstances to demand support for action against a somewhat undetermined threat is dangerous. It is therefore advisable that sanctions against Iran be considered solely on the actions of the Iranian government and surrounding political circumstances.

DRC: TROUBLE IN THE WEST //

BY SARAH KATZ-LAVIGNE

The month of June saw the focus of attention shift from the Democratic Republic of Congo's troubled eastern region to the capital, Kinshasa – proving that the east isn't the country's only issue. At the beginning of June, the body of Floribert Chebeya, a well-known Congolese human rights activist, was discovered in an abandoned car in the capital. 1 Chebeya, 47 years old, was the president of the non-governmental organisation La Voix des Sans-Voix, which in English

means The Voice of the Voiceless. In this capacity, Chebeya was highly active in denouncing human rights abuses taking place in his country, including acts of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention. The United Nations' special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, Philip Alston, made the assessment that the circumstances of Chebeya's death were such as to suggest that officials within the Kabila regime were responsible for the killing. This was not an isolated incident: Chebeya, along with fellow human rights activists, had previously been detained by the security forces. It was revealed that in the hours before his death, Chebeya had been summoned by the Congolese chief of police, John Numbi, a high-placed official in the Kabila regime. Not long after Chebeya's death, however, a positive development came with Numbi's suspension, as well as that of other police officers, by the Congolese government. 2

On June 26, hundreds of people were in attendance as Chebeya was laid to rest. Those in attendance included not only Congolese supporters, but also Louis Marie Bouaka, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Congo (MONUC)'s human rights representative. Ministers from the Congolese government and foreign diplomats were also at Chebeya's funeral, which points to the high profile of the case both domestically and internationally.

June 30, the DRC celebrated the anniversary of fifty years of independence from Belgian colonialism. This is a big event for the Congolese – colleagues that I work with in eastern DRC are taking a week off work to properly commemorate their country's independence. Yet Chebeya's death, coming so soon prior to the independence celebrations that have been widely promoted by the Kabila government, illustrates that there is continuing contestation over the legitimacy of the government in power.³ Despite the positive development that came with the suspension of John Numbi, and the increased scrutiny that Chebeya's death has brought, human rights violations may continue to be ordered at the highest levels if the international community's increased awareness of violations in the DRC fades away with the independence celebrations.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN //

BY STEVEN CHUA

Conflict in the wake of the Sudanese general elections appears to be active in South Sudan; at least three militia leaders angry over alleged fraud in national elections have coordinated attacks on several positions of the South Sudanese army (SPLA). Galwak Gai and David Yauyau are among those that appear to be aligned with this movement. George Athor, a general who went rogue following his electoral defeat appears to be leading these attacks. The SPLA have engaged Gai's forces in Unity State, and for the time being appear to have driven him out of the area. Athor appeared to be residing in Jonglei state while coordinating the engagements of Gai and Yauyau. As of now, SPLA forces have flushed him out of his hideout and have been engaging him and a small group of remaining followers on a sporadic basis.

Such engagements have sparked fearful sentiments among some observers who fear these activities to be foreshadowing of the instability present in South Sudan should secession next year be successful. The South Sudanese Government has been accusing Khartoum of financing these rebel militias in hope of destabilizing the region, and thus preventing secession from being executed next year. Khartoum has staunchly denied these allegations.

In political news, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir has reappointed his deputy Riek Machar as the region's Vice President. It is anticipated that Kiir will appoint the rest of his cabinet in the coming days, with seven months left before the plebiscite in January 2011.

In anticipation of the coming referendum, National President Omar al-Bashir appears to have taken a tone of appeasement by appointing a Southerner, Lual Acuek Deng to the position of Oil Minister in his cabinet.

Furthermore, the fate of the Abyei region remains a key point of contention. The area is a particularly valuable region, containing vast oil

reserves and grazing land, and will be deciding whether it identifies itself as either a northern or southern territory on the same day that the secession referendum will be held in January 2011. In light of this particularly contentious issue, Sudanese officials have voiced the idea of having the United Nations administer the vote, as a neither North or South can appear to agree to a council that will host the vote.

Regarding developments in international politics, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere has encouraged the European Union to ensure that Sudan be a foreign policy priority despite the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir. European governments have avoided sending high level delegations since the arrest warrant for Bashir was issued, an activity which analysts claim could be detrimental to properly coordinating a North-South secession next year. US Vice-President Joe Biden has also reaffirmed the American commitment toward a peaceful and smooth referendum next year that "credibly reflects the will of the Southern Sudanese People."

Additionally, in further anticipation of the instability of next year's referendum and likely secession, the World Bank issued a report that urged Sudan to reduce dependence on oil for revenue and increase the effectiveness of the agricultural sector in generating economic activity. It is anticipated that the division of oil revenues and regions will be a significant destabilizing factor in the process of an almost inevitable secession.

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