

## Darfur Digest September 2008

### **I. Executive Summary and Policy Recommendations**

#### **Recent Developments in Darfur**

Security in Darfur: The month of August saw violence on the rise in Darfur following a major offensive by the Government of Sudan (GoS) in North Darfur and other sporadic attacks that resulted in numerous civilian casualties. The joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) continued to try to make its presence felt on the ground despite many obstacles and setbacks, including the targeting of a UNAMID helicopter by gunmen earlier this month. Meanwhile, Sudanese President, Omar al-Bashir announced new attempts at securing peace in the region. There were major attacks at the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the end of August, with attacks expected to continue over coming days, as well as a separate serious incident, which was the hijacking of a Sudanese airplane that made international headlines. For further information, see the full article on page 2.

The Humanitarian Situation in Darfur: Refugees, aid organizations and UN officials alike are struggling in a worsening humanitarian situation. Disease and starvation are daily worries for refugees, but heavy rains have made it harder as the rainy season begins to take effect in Darfur. Accusations also emerged this month that UN officials are allowing the Government of Sudan to quash reports of malnutrition in IDP camps. And death sentences continue to be handed out to alleged rebels accused of May's attack on Khartoum, by what Amnesty International calls the government's "sham courts." Sudanese refugees heading north to cross the border from Egypt into Israel are not safe, continued attacks on aid workers and the prevalence of arms in IDP camps all paint a bleak picture. While HIV/AIDS is on the rise in Sudan, good news did come with a \$5.8 million donation by Japan towards child health programs across Sudan. For further information, see the full article on page 5.

The AU and UN in Darfur: Even though the United Nations Security Council voted to extend the mandate of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) in Darfur by one year and new reinforcements arrived in mid-August, UNAMID still faces critical shortages in staffing and resources. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir traveled abroad for the first time since the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) brought forth charges against him on 10 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Al-Bashir threatened to force UNAMID to leave the country if the ICC issues an arrest warrant for him. UNAMID's Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai expressed concern that there would be no peace if Darfur's splintered rebel movements did not unite at the negotiating table. The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) called for a review of the death sentences passed against 30 members of a Darfur rebel group amid concerns that they did not receive a fair trial. For further information, see the full article on page 8.

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Canadian Politics and Darfur: Some Canadian athletes competing in the Beijing Olympics spoke out about Darfur. A Department of National Defence spokesman stated that deploying all 12 peacekeepers Canada committed to UNAMID is “a long way off,” though a recent report claims the mission is on the brink of failure partially due to unmet commitments. The director of the Darfur Development Initiative identified Canada as the best-placed donor country to spearhead the initiative. For further information, see the full article on page 10.

### **Policy Recommendations**

1. Build on Canada's recent commitments to Darfur by appointing a Special Envoy to the region. A Special Envoy could strengthen Canadian policymaking on Darfur in three key ways: 1) providing the world with a public face for Canada's efforts on Darfur, 2) providing a presence on the ground in Sudan, and 3) coordinating an integrated “all of Sudan” approach to Canadian peacebuilding. Specifically, a Special Envoy could play a key role in assisting efforts of the Darfuri rebel groups to form a unified and coherent bargaining position, a critical success factor for renewed negotiations.
2. Form an all-party parliamentary special committee on Darfur whose goal it will be to determine viable actions for the Canadian government to undertake to lead in ending the crisis in Darfur. The committee should 1) exist for a specified period of time, 2) travel to Sudan to collect facts, 3) be fully resourced by the Canadian government and 4) have equal party representation.
3. Engage China in a constructive dialogue seeking the cessation of arms sales to Sudan and greater operational access for UNAMID.

### **II. Security in Darfur**

The month of August saw violence on the rise in Darfur following a major offensive by the Government of Sudan (GoS) in North Darfur and other sporadic attacks that resulted in numerous civilian casualties. The joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) continued to try to make its presence felt on the ground despite many obstacles and setbacks, including the targeting of a UNAMID helicopter by gunmen earlier this month. Meanwhile, Sudanese President, Omar al-Bashir announced new attempts at securing peace in the region. There were major attacks at the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the end of August, with attacks expected to continue over coming days, as well as a separate serious incident, which was the hijacking of a Sudanese airplane that made international headlines.

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On August 6, an attack on a civilian convoy in North Darfur by unidentified men riding camels killed six people and injured an additional 28. UNAMID officials suspect that the attackers were from the Janjaweed militias that are supported, armed and funded by the GoS.<sup>1</sup> UNAMID moved the injured to the nearby cities of Nyala and El Fasher. On August 20, up to 70 Arab tribesmen in South Darfur were killed in armed clashes between the Rizeigat and Misseriya tribes. The fighting occurred over issues surrounding water and land grazing rights, further compounded by past killings and the prevalence of arms in the region.<sup>2</sup> A member of the Rizeigat tribe said that the Misseriya tribe started the recent fighting and that the Sudanese government had been informed of the conflict in vain.<sup>3</sup>

In mid-August the Government of Sudan launched a series of attacks in North Darfur in conjunction with Janjaweed militias as part of a new offensive against two rebel groups in the area. In one such attack, members of the rebel Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) reported that eight civilians and nine rebels were killed.<sup>4</sup> Suleiman Marajan, a troop leader of the SLA, alleged that the Sudanese government was trying to reclaim land from rebels. This could be part of an attempt to strengthen the government's hand at the bargaining table before the next round of negotiations.<sup>5</sup> Another rebel group, the Sudanese Liberation Movement – Unity (SLM-Unity) that signed a peace deal with the government in 2006, also claims to have been attacked during the offensive.<sup>6</sup> The region, which is near the Libya border, had previously been under rebel control for years. The SLA reported that the attack involved more than 270 government vehicles and 500 Janjaweed fighters.<sup>7</sup>

On August 11, a UNAMID helicopter was shot at in West Darfur. The pilot landed safely in El Geneina with no injuries. On the same day, UNAMID officials expressed that despite challenges, they were doing their best to maintain and improve the security situation on

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<sup>1</sup> “Attack on convoy leaves six civilians dead,” *UN News Centre*, August 6, 2008, <http://unamid.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=55&ctl=Details&mid=376&ItemID=195>.

<sup>2</sup> “Up to 70 killed in Darfur tribal clashes,” *Reuters Africa*, August 21, 2008, <http://africa.reuters.com/country/SD/news/usnLL251403.html>.

<sup>3</sup> “Tribal clashes kill 67 people in Darfur,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 22, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28365>.

<sup>4</sup> “Darfur rebels accuse Sudan of mounting major attack,” *Agence France-Presse*, August 13, 2008, [http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i3X1vk3Vznks\\_TkeKetEkwJUf4eg](http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i3X1vk3Vznks_TkeKetEkwJUf4eg).

<sup>5</sup> “Darfur rebels accuse Sudan of mounting major attack,” *Agence France-Presse*, August 13, 2008, [http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i3X1vk3Vznks\\_TkeKetEkwJUf4eg](http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i3X1vk3Vznks_TkeKetEkwJUf4eg); “Sudanese Troops Continue Attacks in North Darfur – Rebels,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 16, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28302>.

<sup>6</sup> “Rebels describe new government attacks in Darfur,” *Voice of America*, August 13, 2008, <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-08-13-voa37.cfm>.

<sup>7</sup> “Sudanese army attacks rebels in North Darfur,” *Reuters AlertNet*, August 13, 2008, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LD133075.htm>; “Sudan launches attack in Darfur,” *BBC News*, August 13, 2008, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7559196.stm>.

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the ground.<sup>8</sup> In fact, the GoS finally granted UNAMID permission to carry out night flights, which had been a major hurdle to allowing the peacekeeping force to be operational 24 hours a day.<sup>9</sup>

Three women at the Kalma camp were gang-raped when they left their camp to get wood, according to a camp spokesperson.<sup>10</sup> The attacks were attributed to Janjaweed militiamen who were known to be present recently in the area. Only a few days later, the Kalma camp was again attacked by the Janjaweed. The death figures are between 50 and 122 people, with a reported 221 people wounded.<sup>11</sup> The next day, Sudanese forces had again amassed outside the camp in what could lead to another attack. Médecins Sans Frontières were working in the camp to evacuate injured residents.<sup>12</sup> UNAMID condemned the use of extensive force in the attacks, while also noting that the GoS were heavily armed and the IDPs seemed to only carry knives, sticks and spears.<sup>13</sup>

A plane was hijacked after taking off from Nyala, Darfur on Tuesday, August 26 on its way to Khartoum.<sup>14</sup> The hijackers of the plane, which landed in Southern Libya, released its passengers on Wednesday. However, while reports suggested the hijackers were from the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), a representative from the group said his members had no ties to the hijacking.<sup>15</sup>

President al-Bashir spoke from Turkey in late August and announced that peace talks would be held between opposition groups in the region in an attempt to resolve the conflict. A Sudanese diplomat told media that talks could start as early as August 25 and that any subsequent proposals would be presented to Darfur rebels.<sup>16</sup> Al-Bashir further stated that 80% of

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<sup>8</sup> “UNAMID helicopter shot at,” *UNAMID Feature News*, August 11, 2008,

<http://unamid.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=55&ctl=Details&mid=376&ItemID=196>.

<sup>9</sup> “Sudan Agrees to Allow UNAMID Night Flights in Darfur – Envoy,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 17, 2008,

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28310>.

<sup>10</sup> “Janjaweed militiamen gang-rape 3 Darfur women: IDP spokesman,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 21, 2008,

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28347>.

<sup>11</sup> “Sudanese forces kill 86 people at Kalama camps – IDP’s,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 26, 2008,

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28403>.

<sup>12</sup> “Sudan forces surround Darfur camp after raid: rebels,” *ReliefWeb*, August 26, 2008,

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VDUX-7HVT3Z?OpenDocument&rc=1&cc=sdn>

<sup>13</sup> “UNAMID condemns use of excessive force at Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur,” *UN News Centre*, August 26,

2008, <http://unamid.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=36&ctl=Details&mid=376&ItemID=203>.

<sup>14</sup> “Sudanese hijackers have no connection with Darfur rebels – Sun Air,” *ReliefWeb*, August 28, 2008,

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28425>.

<sup>15</sup> “Darfur hijackers release all Sudan plane passengers,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 27, 2008,

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28419>.

<sup>16</sup> “Sudanese President announces new efforts to solve Darfur,” *ReliefWeb*, August 20, 2008,

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/YSAR-7HPPZW?OpenDocument&rc=1&cc=sdn>.

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the region is now in peace, that there were no epidemics or starvation in his country and that Sudan would not hand over any of its citizens to international courts.<sup>17</sup>

### III. The Humanitarian Situation in Darfur

Refugees, aid organizations and UN officials alike are struggling in a worsening humanitarian situation. Disease and starvation are daily worries for refugees, but heavy rains have made it harder as the rainy season begins to take effect in Darfur. Accusations also emerged this month that UN officials are allowing the Government of Sudan to quash reports of malnutrition in IDP camps. And death sentences continue to be handed out to alleged rebels accused of May's attack on Khartoum, by what Amnesty International calls the government's "sham courts." Sudanese refugees heading north to cross the border from Egypt into Israel are not safe, continued attacks on aid workers and the prevalence of arms in IDP camps all paint a bleak picture. While HIV/AIDS is on the rise in Sudan, good news did come with a \$5.8 million donation by Japan towards child health programs across Sudan.

At the beginning of August, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs issued a statement reminding the Government of Sudan and opposition groups to respect humanitarian principles towards aid agencies. John Holmes said he was troubled by continuing attacks on aid workers, which ultimately affects the thousands of people who rely on aid<sup>18</sup>. His message came at the same time that Medecins Sans Frontieres had to evacuate its team from two locations in North Darfur. It was a result of two separate attacks by groups of armed men who entered the organizations compound at night, held staff at gunpoint and eventually stole money and valuables. The empty vacuum caused by the departure of the MSF team leaves some 65,000 people without essential medical assistance<sup>19</sup>. The situation is also reminiscent of deliberate attacks on Oxfam aid workers in Chad, where armed men in mid-July shot at a building housing the hiding workers, and attempted to set fire to the building. The incident resulted in a temporary suspension of Oxfam's activities of providing water and sanitation to more than 11,000 people in Kerfi, Chad, at a critical time during the rainy season<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> "Beshir says no Sudanese will ever be tried abroad," *Yahoo!News*, August 20, 2008, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080820/wl\\_africa\\_afp/warcrimessudanconflictarfurturkey](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080820/wl_africa_afp/warcrimessudanconflictarfurturkey).

<sup>18</sup> "Darfur: top UN relief official 'deeply troubled' by attacks on aid workers," *UN News Centre*, August 1, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27562&Cr=Darfur&Cr1>.

<sup>19</sup> Megan Davies, "Aid group quits parts of Darfur, UN troubled," *Reuters*, August 1, 2008, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN01486435>.

<sup>20</sup> "Oxfam forced to stop activities after violent attacks in eastern Chad," *Oxfam*, July 11, 2008, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBUO-7HQC3H?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>.

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Heavy rains in Darfur have caused at least 4 deaths and the destruction of some 1,500 homes in Bilel camp, just one of at least four IDP camps in South Darfur hit by rain. Aid organizations are still trying to assess the damage that occurred August 20<sup>th</sup> in the camps of Kalma, Bilel, Al Salaam, Dereig and an area of urban Nyala called Jebel, where it's said serious destruction has occurred<sup>21</sup>. Sudan's civil defence authority confirmed another death in Western Darfur by flooding, in addition to reports that the Nile is approaching levels that caused immense devastation last year. Many Sudanese live along the banks of rivers due to the desert climate, making it easy for flooding to wash away their homes. At least 150 people died and hundreds of thousands were left homeless during 2007's rainy season, but Hamadallah Adam Ali says the government is prepared this year. The rainy season started later, less rainfall is expected and more pumps are available. However floods can lead to epidemics of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, and many IDP camps in Darfur lie in flood plains. So far, rainfall has been heaviest in South Sudan<sup>22</sup>, where already thousands of reports of cholera were reported in March by the World Health Organization. But teams like the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies immediately launched an emergency response, and can carefully follow the epidemic and move quickly to treat patients<sup>23</sup>.

A leading Sudan expert is raising warnings about malnutrition in Darfur's camps, and pointing fingers at UN officials for not speaking up. Eric Reeves, a professor at Smith College in Massachusetts who has written extensively on Sudan, said the UN is "emboldening Khartoum" by allowing the government to stop the publication and dissemination of numerous reports on malnutrition, done by both the UN and international NGOs. Reeves accused Ameerah Haq, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, of remaining silent and letting Khartoum withhold information on the humanitarian situation. Camps are facing water shortages due to a lack of fuel for water pumps, and security threats have decreased the amount of food usually distributed by aid agencies, leading to what Reeves called a "most perilous season of destruction." He further blamed Ashraf Qazi, the head of the UN mission in Sudan and AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, for not speaking with urgency about the developments as the humanitarian situation worsens<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> "Humanitarian Action in Darfur, weekly bulletin no. 29, 21 Aug 2008," *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, August 21, 2008, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-7HR9H2?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>.

<sup>22</sup> "Six people die in Sudan floods," *Sudan Tribune*, August 18, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28327>.

<sup>23</sup> "Sudan: Cholera Emergency Appeal No. MDRSD001 Final Report," *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*, August 21, 2008, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EDIS-7HQLNL?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>.

<sup>24</sup> "Sudan expert accuses UN official of concealing information on Darfur," *Sudan Tribune*, August 11, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28235>.

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The UN is addressing the issue of arms within camps. After South Darfur authorities claimed they seized large quantities of arms in the volatile Kalma IDP camp at the end of July, UNAMID and Sudanese authorities met to discuss strategies to address the problems within the camp. UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Henry Anyidoho asked the South Darfur governor to cooperate more with the mission, while there was some disagreement over the measures to implement before searching out weapons in the camps. Sheikhs from Kalma camp also attended the one day meeting, and denied that the arms seizures even took place, suggesting the government was fabricating the story in order to frighten refugees into leaving the camp<sup>25</sup>.

Amnesty International is keeping close track of two separate stories involving imprisoned Darfurians. In Khartoum, the situation for hundreds of imprisoned people has not improved, after their arrest during May's terrorist attack on the capital by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Amnesty International accused the Sudanese government of preparing to try another 109 individuals – without charge or access to lawyers, in what they call sham courts. Sudan's Anti-Terrorism Special Courts fail to meet international standards of fairness, and allegations of torture have been made. The most recent trial sentenced eight alleged JEM members to hang, bringing the total to 38 individuals sentenced to death. Amnesty has called the courts a "travesty of justice<sup>26</sup>."

While other African countries' HIV/AIDS cases are decreasing, the same cannot be said for Sudan. An estimated 1.6 per cent of Sudan's 37 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS, and Sudanese and UN AIDS experts believe this number is higher. Limited data was outdated and based on surveys that were not nationwide, although this would change with better tracking. Only an estimated 2,000 patients are receiving regular treatment. Stigma in Sudan is still a large issue, and only recently were condoms allowed by the country's religious leaders. However, one thing that is clear is that poverty, illiteracy and war have led to an increase in those affected. In particular the movement of the war-displaced populations in Darfur, as well as the return of refugees of the separate north-south conflict, have contributed to the spread of the virus<sup>27</sup>. But UN and other international aid agencies are responding. The UN sponsored a three week workshop on HIV in Khartoum for some 60 Sudanese physicians, while UNICEF coordinated with the State Ministry of General Education to put HIV/AIDS into the curriculum in 60 schools

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<sup>25</sup> "UNAMID, Sudan discuss security situation in Darfur volatile camp," *Sudan Tribune*, August 12, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28243>.

<sup>26</sup> "Sudan: Hundreds unaccounted for and 109 to face sham courts over terrorist attack," *Amnesty International*, August 18, 2008, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7HMHZH?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>.

<sup>27</sup> "War and poverty driving up HIV cases in Sudan," *Sudan Tribune*, August 11, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28226>.

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in El Fasher, which will reach around 11,000 students<sup>28</sup>.

Health care received a boost this month with a generous donation from Japan, which puts \$5.8 million into the hands of UNICEF to tackle infectious diseases in Sudan. The ultimate goal is to improve child health care across the country. The funds will effectively benefit some 5.5 million people, through life-saving vaccines, mosquito nets to protect from malaria, drug kits for health care centres, and oral rehydration salts to treat children affected by water-borne diseases, among a long list of benefits. Japan has given money to UNICEF for children in Sudan since 2000. Under-five mortality rates in Sudan have dropped since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and grants like this are seen as a great way to continue the reduction of child mortality.<sup>29</sup>

#### **IV. The African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) in Darfur**

Even though the United Nations Security Council voted to extend the mandate of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) in Darfur by one year and new reinforcements arrived in mid-August, UNAMID still faces critical shortages in staffing and resources. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir traveled abroad for the first time since the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) brought forth charges against him on 10 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Al-Bashir threatened to force UNAMID to leave the country if the ICC issues an arrest warrant for him. UNAMID's Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai expressed concern that there would be no peace if Darfur's splintered rebel movements did not unite at the negotiating table. The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) called for a review of the death sentences passed against 30 members of a Darfur rebel group amid concerns that they did not receive a fair trial.

On July 31 the United Nations Security Council voted to extend the mandate of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) in Darfur by one year.<sup>30</sup> Fourteen votes were cast in favour of the extension, while the United States abstained. Notwithstanding this prolonged mandate, the Darfur Consortium, a group of 50 NGOs focused on the crisis in the region, released a report titled *Putting People First: The Protection Challenge*

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<sup>28</sup> "Humanitarian Action in Darfur, weekly bulletin no. 29, 21 Aug 2008," *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, August 21, 2008, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-7HR9H2?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>.

<sup>29</sup> "Government of Japan donation will improve child health across Sudan," *United Nation's Children's Fund*, August 14, 2008, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7HHR3Q?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>.

<sup>30</sup> "Mandate of UN-African Union mission in Darfur extended by one year," *UN News Centre*, July 31, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27553&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>.

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*Facing UNAMID in Darfur*, which argues that UNAMID faces critical shortages in troops, personnel, equipment and logistics.<sup>31</sup>

Egyptian and Ethiopian battalions joined UNAMID in mid August. Both forces, which are primarily comprised of engineers, will work in water installation, in addition to the erection of tents and electric power lines.<sup>32</sup> Even with these reinforcements, however, the mission has little over half of the 26,000 troops promised.<sup>33</sup> African nations continue to provide the bulk of the forces on the ground. On July 21 the African Union Peace and Security Council once again called on the international community to provide the necessary “logistics and other equipment, to enable UNAMID to carry out its mandate more effectively.”<sup>34</sup>

On August 11, a UNAMID helicopter came under fire in West Darfur.<sup>35</sup> The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebel group apologized for the attack, saying that it had mistaken the helicopter for one operated by the Government of Sudan.<sup>36</sup>

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir traveled abroad for the first time since the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC brought forth charges against him in mid July on 10 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in the war-racked region of Darfur.<sup>37</sup> The President attended a two-day Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit in Istanbul. While there, President al-Bashir accused the ICC of attempting to topple the current Sudanese government and being a means through which colonial powers can re-colonize Africa.<sup>38</sup> In a later interview al-Bashir stated that he will ask UNAMID to leave the country if the ICC issues an arrest warrant for him.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> “UN-African Union mission in Darfur faces critical shortages, report finds,” *UN News Centre*, July 29, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27516&Cr=UNAMID&Cr1=>.

<sup>32</sup> “Ethiopian forces to join UN-African Union force in Darfur,” *UN News Centre*, August 15, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27720&Cr=unamid&Cr1=>.

<sup>33</sup> “Egyptian engineers join UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur,” *UN News Centre*, August 12, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27681&Cr=UNAMID&Cr1=>.

<sup>34</sup> *Communiqué, African Union Peace and Security Council*, Monday, July 21, 2008, <http://www.africa-union.org/root/ua/actualites/2008/juillet/psc/142-communique-eng.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> “Shots fired at UN-African Union mission helicopter in West Darfur,” *UN News Centre*, Monday, Aug 11, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27662&Cr=unamid&Cr1=>.

<sup>36</sup> “Five killed in Darfur camp floods, UN peacekeeping mission reports,” *UN News Centre*, August 19, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27750&Cr=unamid&Cr1=>.

<sup>37</sup> “ICC Prosecutor seeks charges against Sudanese President for Darfur crimes,” *UN News Centre*, July 14, 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27361&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>.

<sup>38</sup> “Sudan president tells African leaders ICC will be used against them,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 19, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28337>.

<sup>39</sup> “Sudanese president makes first public threat to expel peacekeepers,” *Sudan Tribune*, August 21, 2008, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28364>.

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On August 12 UNAMID's Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai, told reporters that Darfur's splintered rebel movements must unite at the negotiating table if there is to be a lasting solution to the conflict. The four rebel groups that took part in talks preceding the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006, have now fractured into approximately 30 groups, nearly all of them without cohesive command and control.<sup>40</sup>

Additionally, the UN's Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Sudan, Ashraf Qazi called for a review of the death sentences passed by the country's counter-terrorism courts against 30 members of the Darfur rebel group JEM found guilty of participating in an attack near the capital in May, amid concerns that they did not receive a fair trial.<sup>41</sup>

### V. Canadian Politics and Darfur

Some Canadian athletes competing in the Beijing Olympics took the opportunity to speak up about Darfur. Deploying all 12 peacekeepers that Canada committed to the United Nations-African Union hybrid force in Darfur (UNAMID) is "a long way off," though the mission is on the brink of failure, according to a recent report. Despite Canada's unmet peacekeeping commitments, the director of the Darfur Development Initiative identified Canada as the best-placed donor country to spearhead the initiative.

Some of Canada's Olympic athletes are members of Team Darfur, an international coalition of athletes committed to raising awareness about and bringing an end to the crisis in Darfur.<sup>42</sup> Even Canadian athletes that are not official members, such as several members of Canada's soccer team, spoke out in support of Team Darfur in interviews, with one athlete saying the initiative is "a good way to bring attention to what's going on in the region."<sup>43</sup>

Although the Canadian government committed to contributing 12 peacekeepers to UNAMID, it appears it has no intention of fulfilling its promise. As of July, only 4 Canadian peacekeepers had been deployed to Darfur, while 3 were awaiting visas.<sup>44</sup> According to the Department of National Defense spokesman John McLean, an eighth peacekeeper will be

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<sup>40</sup> "Rebel groups must unite to reach lasting solution for Darfur – UN military official," *UN News Centre*, August 12, 2008 <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27683&Cr=unamid&Cr1=>.

<sup>41</sup> "Top UN envoy urges Sudan to review death sentences against Darfur rebels," *UN News Service*, August 7, 2008 <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27621&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>.

<sup>42</sup> *Team Darfur*, <http://www.teamdarfur.org/aboutus>.

<sup>43</sup> Doug Smith, "Canadians speak out on Darfur," *The Toronto Star*, August 7, 2008, <http://olympics.thestar.com/2008/article/473600>.

<sup>44</sup> "The sad irony behind National Peacekeepers' Day," *Embassy*, August 13, 2008, [http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2008/august/13/editorial/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2008/august/13/editorial/).

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deployed in September with an additional one deployed in September. However, the deployment of all 12 is “likely a long way off as available personnel for deployment within the [Canadian Forces] is still limited and we have 15 other missions plus national commitments to fill.”<sup>45</sup>

A report from the Darfur Consortium, a coalition of 50 NGOs, claimed that the UNAMID mission is “on the brink of failure” because, among other things, countries like Canada are not fulfilling their commitments to the mission.<sup>46</sup> The report stated that of the 26,000 peacekeepers promised, only 9,000 have been deployed.<sup>47</sup>

David L. Phillips, a visiting scholar at Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Human Rights and director of the Darfur Development Initiative, believes there is a gap between identifying development projects and implementing them in Darfur. Phillips argues that Canada is the best-placed donor country to address this “development gap” and that spearheading the Darfur Development Initiative “would incur no additional cost to Canadians, but it will require more concentrated efforts by the Canadian government.”<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Lee Berthiaume, “Sudan mission ‘on the brink of failure’: NGOs,” *Embassy*, July 30, 2008, [http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2008/july/30/sudan/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2008/july/30/sudan/).

<sup>46</sup> “The sad irony behind National Peacekeepers’ Day,” *Embassy*, August 13, 2008, [http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2008/august/13/editorial/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2008/august/13/editorial/).

<sup>47</sup> The Darfur Consortium, “Putting People First: The Protection Challenge Facing UNAMID in Darfur,” July 28, 2008, [http://www.darfurconsortium.org/darfur\\_consortium\\_actions/reports/2008/Putting\\_People\\_First\\_UNAMID\\_report.pdf](http://www.darfurconsortium.org/darfur_consortium_actions/reports/2008/Putting_People_First_UNAMID_report.pdf).

<sup>48</sup> David L. Phillips, “Darfur’s development gap,” *The Boston Globe*, August 3, 2008, [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/03/darfurs\\_development\\_gap/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/03/darfurs_development_gap/).

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STAND Canada is the leading national student organization dedicated to inspiring student activism and advocacy addressing the crisis in Darfur. Our goal is to strengthen and focus the voice of Canadians – beginning with students – demanding leadership from the Canadian government to end the atrocities in Darfur.

With chapters on over twenty university campuses, a divestment campaign, and in-depth analysis and policy recommendations, STAND Canada is the leading Canadian student Darfur advocacy organization. STAND Canada has played a key role in educating Canadians on the crisis, organizing events, and spurring action on Parliament Hill. Working both independently and in concert with our NGO partners, we've briefed officials at Foreign Affairs, liaised with MPs and members of the Government, and most recently, helped organize a non-partisan coalition of MPs committed to stronger Canadian action on Darfur. In concert with student organizations in the United States and Europe, STAND Canada brings concerned citizens together to influence governments around the world to act to end the slaughter in Darfur.

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