

Sudan: Darfur Policy

Saving lives in Darfur by ending the violence and ensuring delivery of humanitarian assistance is a top priority for the United States. Secretary Powell traveled to Darfur in June to press the Government of Sudan to take actions to halt the violence and atrocities, allow unrestricted humanitarian access, cooperate fully with ceasefire and international monitoring, participate in political talks with the Darfur rebels, and hold accountable those most responsible for the atrocities. The U.S. will not normalize relations with Sudan until the situation in Darfur is satisfactorily addressed.

Humanitarian Situation

Government-backed Arab *Jingaweit* militias have burned crops, killed cattle, and committed atrocious violations of human rights on civilian populations in Darfur. The situation is dire – an estimated 1.1 million people are displaced, a million more are at risk, and nearly 200,000 have taken refuge in neighboring Chad. Food shortages and disease outbreaks threaten to increase the death toll if circumstances are unchanged.

Response

The United States played a leading role in brokering the April ceasefire between the Government of Sudan and rebel groups in Darfur. The parties also agreed to allow international monitoring and participate in political talks with the Darfur opposition under the auspices of the African Union. Currently, 24 AU ceasefire monitors are in place with plans to increase to over 100 along with 200-300 troops to protect them.

Secretary Powell's Visit

Secretary Powell, accompanied by USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, traveled to Sudan, including Darfur, on June 29-30. After visiting the Abu Shouk displaced persons camp, the Secretary urged the Government to fulfill a list of specific actions to alleviate the suffering and end the violence. We are following the Government's response closely.

UN Security Council Resolution

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, John Danforth, former Special Envoy to Sudan, has spoken out repeatedly on the crisis in Darfur. The United States has taken the lead in bringing Darfur before the UN Security Council, including preparing a draft resolution currently being discussed by Council members.

Humanitarian Response

The United States is the largest donor of humanitarian aid to Darfur. We have pledged \$299 million (through next year) of which \$138.5 million has so far been obligated/spent.

North-South Peace Talks

The United States continues to provide support to the ongoing negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. These negotiations are related to the situation in Darfur since no comprehensive peace agreement can be reliably implemented while violence continues in Darfur.

Links

State - <http://www.state.gov/p/af/ci/su/http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/34251.htm>
USAID - http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/sudan/darfur.html