

TAC NEWS

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SUDAN - The Darfur Crisis

Sudan?

Sudan, or "Republic of Sudan", is the largest country in Africa with a land area of over 2.5 million square kilometers, making it about a third the size of the United States. It used to be run by the UK and Egypt in a sort of "shared" arrangement until 1956, when it became independent. The terrain is generally flat and the climate dry, especially in the north. When it rains at all, it does so during the summer. Sudan produces some petroleum, iron, and other minerals, but the population is primarily involved in subsistence farming. Trouble is, only seven percent of the country is arable land and less than one percent is under regular cultivation. This means that the country's thirty-nine million people have a tough time keeping body and soul together, even in the best of times.

Who Are These People Anyway?

As opposed to the Muslim north, Sudan's southerners mostly maintain indigenous traditional beliefs, although Christian missionaries have converted some two million people nationwide. The Dinka people make up the largest of the south's many Black African tribes with a population in excess of one million, but there is a dazzling array of ethnic groups. The south has a predominantly rural population of about six million, suffering from serious neglect, lack of infrastructure, population displacement, and major destruction resulting from intermittent warfare over the last five decades. The northern states include most of the urban centers. The majority of the population here (22 million) are Arabic speaking Muslims. But there are several dozen distinct tribal groups in the north as well,

including the "Fur" in the west. The term "Darfur" literally means "the abode of the Fur".



Although the population of Darfur is ethnically diverse and predominantly Muslim, more than forty percent are not Arabs and generally feel more affinity with related groups in neighboring Chad than with Khartoum. Fighting during the Libya-Chad War in the 1980s inevitably spilled over into

Darfur, exacerbating historical tensions between the Arab Zaghawa and non-Arab Fur. It soon became clear to many Fur that Khartoum was arming the Zaghawa militia aimed at bringing the region into line by killing off or driving out "traitors" (read non-Arab/non-Muslims). Guerrilla attacks on government troops and bases were the inevitable response. To make matters worse, Darfur has been plagued by droughts and famines since 1984, and Khartoum has consistently failed to provide the social, medical, and economic relief required by these environmental disasters. By the 1990s, much of Darfur was in a state of nearly complete anarchy.

What's Their Story?

Military regimes dominated by Islam have been the rule in Sudan, especially since an Islamist coup in

1989 established the current regime. The Khartoum government maintains that the conflict in Darfur is primarily a tribal one, centered on competition for land between pastoralists and crop farmers. However, Fur leaders insist that the depopulation of villages and consequent changes in land ownership are part of a deliberate government strategy to change the whole demography of their region. The locals describe recurrent and systematic attacks against towns and villages, the burning of buildings and crops, arbitrary killings, gang rape, and looting. There is also evidence the "Government of Sudan" (GOS) has used aerial bombardment and even chemical weapons to terrorize local non-combatants.



Though things have never been peaceful between north and south, they began to get really nasty in May 2002. At this time there was a marked increase in the "normal" ethnic violence, with at least sixty-five (all Black Africans) killed in attacks by Arab militia. Hundreds of houses had been destroyed and thousands of domestic cattle lost. By early 2003 exiled human rights activists claimed that the nature of the conflict had changed from one of ethnic cleansing to deliberate genocide. The Khartoum government allegedly supported Arab militias massacring both the Fur and other indigenous peoples whom they termed "slaves". Khartoum however claimed neutrality and said it was only fighting "banditry" in Darfur.

Sudan's neighbors have been drawn into the conflict in spite of themselves. Sudan has provided shelter for Ugandan rebels and accuses Eritrea of supporting Sudanese rebel groups; The porous border between Sudan and Ethiopia has been used

by "bandits" on both sides for raids and infiltration; Kenya continues to administer an extensive area in the South; Egypt and Sudan hold conflicting claims to areas north and south of their 1899 Treaty boundary; and Sudan and the Central African Republic have engaged in violent skirmishes over water and grazing rights for decades.

Who's Fighting Whom?

The "Sudanese People's Liberation Army" (SPLA), and its "National Democratic Alliance" (NDA) allies have received political, military, and logistic support from Ethiopia, Uganda, and Eritrea. From the outset, Uganda and Eritrea have provided them with arms and bases to train their forces within their territory. They have also received indirect support from the United States, in the form of \$20 million in "non-lethal" military assistance. Sudan has long accused Eritrea, which has a hostile relationship with it, of providing training facilities and arms to the SPLA in the south, to rebel forces in Darfur, and another rebel group, the "Beja Congress" in the east. But the Sudanese resistance (primarily Black African) is divided into hundreds of ethnic and tribal divisions and language groups, making effective collaboration and coordinated resistance difficult.

How Bad Is It?

From 1983 to 2003, fighting in the Sudan has resulted in more than two million killed and four million made homeless. Some refugees flee into southern cities such as Juba, others to Khartoum. Many trek to Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, or other neighboring countries. These people have been unable to grow food or earn money. Malnutrition and starvation have become widespread. International humanitarian organizations have called them a "lost generation" without educational opportunities, access to basic health care, and few prospects for productive employment. The UN has declared southern and western Sudan the world's worst humanitarian disaster area.

Things quieted down a bit during 2003 while negotiations proceeded between Khartoum and various resistance groups, but In December nearly 10,000 new Sudanese refugees fled from Darfur into Chad. There were more reports of killings, rape, and the burning and looting of entire villages. A UN World Food Program (WFP) assessment mission to

south Darfur found that forty-six villages had been completely razed, while sixteen more had been looted. The government continued to deny all humanitarian agencies access. UNICEF fears that the acute malnutrition among children less than five-years-old will increase dramatically in the future. This "invisible" emergency has not gotten a lot of attention worldwide, but it is something of extreme concern to Chad, Sudan's western neighbor. The UN is planning to relocate Sudanese refugees from Darfur to sites deep inside Chad. As you can imagine, Chad will have something to say about that!

A loosely organized group called the "Sudan Peoples Liberation Army" (SPLA) has led the battle against Muslim troops in recent years. On 17 May 2004 the leader of this group, Abdel Wahed Mohammad Ahmad Nour, said he would expand his operations into the central Sudanese region of Kordofan, Khartoum, and areas in the east, if he and his supporters are not represented at the long-running Sudanese peace talks currently taking place in Kenya. Estimated casualties between Arab Muslims and black Africans led by the SPLA range from 10,000 to 30,000 people so far. Aid agencies estimate the total death toll in Darfur at 50,000 and warn that it could eventually run into hundreds of thousands.



Photo courtesy of Digital Globe, Inc. & Department of State via USAID.

On 25 May the United Nations Security Council responded to widespread human rights violations and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Darfur region by condemning attacks on civilians and calling on the Khartoum government to prevent Muslim "Janjaweed" (Mounted Gunmen) from carrying out strikes on the black African population. It should be noted that Sudan was re-elected as a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights in May, prompting a walk out by the American envoy in protest of the Khartoum government's backing of atrocities in Darfur.

On 24 June the US approved a humanitarian aid package for the Darfur region as part of a defense spending bill. The measure included \$70 million in disaster and famine relief, and \$14 million to assist refugees in Chad. A few days later, on 29 June, US Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Sudan. He met with President Omar el-Bashir and visited displaced people in Darfur, threatening unspecified UN Security Council action unless the government brought an end to militia violence. Khartoum continues to block aid workers, journalists, and independent human rights monitors from entering Darfur.

The Pot Boils!

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan visited Sudan on 1 July to talk to Darfuri refugees. One day later, several villages in rebel-held areas of southern Darfur state were bombed, including the villages of Marla, Labado and Mujiriyah. On 3 July, the Sudanese government formally committed to the immediate disarmament of the Janjaweed. Khartoum also promised to ease restrictions on humanitarian aid workers in Darfur, but this remains to be seen.

On 23 July, the US Congress declared the mass killing of civilians in Darfur to be genocide. In a non-binding resolution, lawmakers urged President Bush to do the same. Thus far the Bush administration has declined to label the situation in Darfur genocide, because the 1948 United Nations Convention on Genocide would require that such a classification justify an intervention by all signatories. The Pentagon made it clear that there are no US plans to intervene in the conflict militarily. Then, "Human Rights Watch" obtained copies of Sudanese government documents describing their support for the Janjaweed militia as "official" policy.

In the next issue - "A Darfur Scenario"

THE SUDANESE ARMY

Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 05, Class: Militia/Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 25%

Infantry Company:	3 x TL2 Infantry(B)
Heavy Weapons Company:	1-3 x 82mm M43 Mortar(1), 1-3 x TL2 Infantry Support
Tank Company:	3 x T-54/55
Recon Company:	3 x TL2 Infantry(R)/Truck or APC
Tank Brigade Recon Company:	3 x Armored Car[R] or Type 62[R]
Artillery Battery:	1 x 122mm D-30(2)/Truck or 1 x 152mm D-20(2)/Truck
Infantry Battalion:	1 x TL2 Infantry(B) HQ/Truck, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Heavy Weapons Company
Tank Battalion:	2-3 x Tank Company
Artillery Battalion:	2-3 x Artillery Battery
MRL Battalion:	3 x 107mm Type 63 or 2 x 122mm BM-21(8)
Infantry Brigade:	1 x TL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck, 1-6 x Infantry Battalion, 0-1 x Artillery Battalion, 0-1 x Recon Company
Armored Brigade:	1 x TL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/APC, 3 x Tank Battalion, 1 x Recon Company, 0-1 x Artillery Battalion
Artillery Brigade:	3 x Artillery Battalion, 1 x MRL Battalion

Infantry Division: 3 x Infantry Brigade, 1 x Tank Battalion, 1 x Artillery Battalion

- Notes:
- 1) Infantry may be provided with truck transport as needed.
 - 2) Trucks may be replaced with APCs from the "Sudanese Arsenal" below.
 - 3) The above merely represent the most common artillery types. Other weapons from the "Arsenal" may replace these.
 - 4) Tanks may be selected from among those in the "Sudanese Arsenal" below.
 - 5) The "Western Command" in Darfur contains one Infantry Division and one Artillery Brigade.
 - 6) The "Khartoum" command contains two Armored Brigades and one "Airborne" Division available for use in Darfur.
 - 7) The Airborne Division is simply an "elite" Infantry Division. The designation refers to its on-call air transport capability.
 - 8) Regardless of actual Tech Level, no Sudanese stand may exceed TL2 due to limited training and communications.
 - 9) One or two stands in each Infantry Brigade may contain and attached SA-7 "Grail" AAGM team (MP).

"JANJAWOOD" MILITIA

Militia "Company":	1-5 x TL2 Infantry(C)/Transport
Militia "Battalion":	1 x TL2 Infantry(C) HQ/Transport, 2-6 x Militia "Company" (Various support weapons)

- Notes:
- 1) Militia "Transport" may consist of horses, camels, commandeered civilian vehicles, military trucks, or even APCs.
 - 2) Regardless of actual Tech Level, no Militia stand may exceed TL1 due to poor discipline and training.

CURRENT SUDANESE ARSENAL

Vehicles:	20 x M-60A3, 24 x T-62, 54 x T-54/55 & 50 x Type 59 MBTs, 65 x Type 62 Light Tanks, 14 x Saladin, 30 x V-150, 40 x Ferret, 6 x AML-90, & 30 x BRDM-2 Armored Cars, 6 x BMP-2, 40 x BTR-50/152, 35 x OT-64, 40 x M-113, & 90 x Walid APCs
AT Weapons:	30 x 76.2mm M-42, 25 x 85mm D48 ATGs, 20 x AT-3 "Sagger" ATGMs, 3000+RPG-7 ATGLs & 90 x 106mm M40 RcRs
Artillery:	20 x 105mm M101s & 6 x M56s, 22 x 122mm M1938s & 80 Type 54/D-30s, 27 x 130mm Type 59/M-46, 60 x 152mm D-20, 12 x 155mm M114A1 (Towed) & 6 x AMX F3 (SP) Howitzers, 120 x 82mm M-43/AM-49 Mortars, 40 x 122mm BM-21 & 600 x 107mm Type 63 MRLs
Anti-Aircraft:	12 x 20mm M-3, 60 x 40mm "Bofors", 25 x 23mm ZU-23/2 (SP), 80 x 37mm M1939, & 24 x "Vulcan" AAMGs, 20 x SA-2 & 50+SA-7 SAMs
Combat Aircraft:	2 x MiG-23, 8 x MiG-21, 8 x F5E/F, 12 x F-6, 15 x F-7
Helicopters:	4 x Mi-4, 5 x Mi-8, 12 x SA-330 "Puma", 15 x BO-105, & 7 x Mi-24
Small Arms:	9mm Helwan, P9S, and FN35 Pistols, 9mm Stirling, MP5, Beretta, & Uzi Submachineguns, 7.62mm SKS, G3, AK-47, & AKM Rifles, 7.62mm RPD, RPK, SGM, MG3, HK21, M60 & RP-46 Machineguns

Note: 1) All Sudanese equipment, especially helicopters and tanks, suffer from limited maintenance and spare parts shortages.

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