

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 USNW-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00  
DOTE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 FAAE-00  
FBIE-00 VC-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-00  
VCE-00 M-00 AC-00 NEA-00 NSAE-00 OMB-00 PA-00  
PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00  
USIE-00 EPAE-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 G-00  
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /000W  
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O R 200439Z FEB 04  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0194  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY ASMARA  
AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
USEU BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
CJTF HOA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
NSC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//J5//

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 000171

DEPT FOR AF/SG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/19/2014  
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, PREF, SU  
SUBJECT: DARFUR: A BRIEF PRIMER

CLASSIFIED BY: GALLUCCIG, COM, US EMBASSY, DOS.  
REASON: (B), (D)

1. (S) SUMMARY: THE OPPOSITION IN DARFUR IS LED BY THE SUDAN  
LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SLM) AND ITS ARMED BRANCH THE SUDAN  
LIBERATION ARMY (SLA). THEY ARE JOINED ON THE GROUND BY THE  
SMALLER NUMBERS OF THE JUSTICE AND EQUALITY MOVEMENT (JEM),

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN ADDITION,  
DARFURIANS HAVE A STRONG EXILE COMMUNITY, LED BY FORMER LEADERS,  
SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN IN EXILE FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PRESIDENT BESHIR HAS ANNOUNCED  
THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE TO PLAN A NATIONAL CONFERENCE WHICH  
IS TO BE CHAIRED IN KHARTOUM BY CHADIAN PRESIDENT DEBY. THERE

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Classification Extended on : 11/19/2013 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on:  
02/17/2024

ARE REPORTS THAT GOS-PROMISED ACCESS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID IS TAKING PLACE. END SUMMARY.

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DARFUR  
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2. (U) DARFUR ("LAND OF THE FUR") WAS AN INDEPENDENT SULTANATE UNTIL 1916 WHEN THE BRITISH EXPELLED THE SULTAN AND INCORPORATED IT INTO SUDAN. THE REGION, NOW COMPRISING THE STATES OF NORTH, SOUTH, AND WESTERN DARFUR, IS SPLIT BETWEEN FARMERS AND NOMADS AND HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE SCENE OF TRIBAL CONFLICTS - MOST OF WHICH WERE RESOLVED BY TRIBAL CHIEFS. THE LARGEST NON-ARAB TRIBE IS THE FUR WHO OCCUPY THE CENTRAL BELT OF THE REGION, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY CONTESTED JEBEL MARRA. THE NON-ARAB MASALIT OCCUPY WESTERN SUDAN, AND - LIKE THE BERTI, BARGU, BERGID, TAMA AND TUNJUR - ARE FARMERS. NORTH DARFUR IS THE ZONE OF THE NON-ARAB ZAGHAWA AND BEDEYAT, SOME OF WHOM ARE TRADERS AND SOME OF WHOM ARE FARMERS AND CAMEL NOMADS. THE LARGEST ARAB TRIBE IS THE REZEIGAT, WHO RAISE CATTLE IN SOUTH DARFUR. OTHER ARAB TRIBES OF SIGNIFICANCE ARE THE HABBANIYA, BENI HALBA, TAAISHA, AND MAALIYYA. DARFUR OCCUPIES APPROXIMATELY ONE-FIFTH OF AFRICA'S LARGEST COUNTRY AND HAS A POPULATION OF ROUGHLY 6-7 MILLION. ABOUT ONE-THIRD ARE ARAB.

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THE CONFLICT  
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3. (SBU) DARFUR IS POOR AND HAS BEEN MARGINALIZED BY THE NIF GOVERNMENT. POLITICAL ALLEGIANCES REST WITH THE UMMA PARTY AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, WITH THE PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC), TURABI'S PARTY. THE DROUGHT WHICH BEGAN IN 1983 DROVE NOMADIC ZAGHAWA AND ARAB GROUPS INTO THE CENTRAL FUR REGION, PROVOKING A CONFLICT WHICH WAS NOT RESOLVED BEFORE OVER 5,000 HAD BEEN KILLED AND TENS OF THOUSANDS DISPLACED. THE 1990 COUP WHICH BROUGHT IDRIS DEBY TO POWER IN CHAD WAS SUPPORTED BY THE ZAGHAWA, WHOSE POPULATION AND TRIBAL LOYALTIES SPAN THE BORDER. DEBY IS A ZAGHAWA. IN MARCH 2003, FOLLOWING ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FORCES IN NORTH DARFUR, THE SLM/SLA ISSUED A POLITICAL DECLARATION ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN OF ADHERING TO POLICIES OF MARGINALIZATION, DISCRIMINATION, EXCLUSION, EXPLOITATION, AND DIVISIVENESS. IT ACCUSED THE GOS OF HELPING ARAB TRIBES TO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR NON-ARAB BRETHREN AND OF A POLICY OF ETHNIC CLEANSING. THE DECLARATION ANNOUNCED THAT THE PEOPLE OF DARFUR HAD NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO RESIST AND CLAIMED THAT NEGOTIATION FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES. THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY MINNI ARKOU MINNAWI AS SECRETARY GENERAL. FIGHTING HAS CONTINUED TO THE PRESENT. WHEN THE GOS COULD NOT CONTAIN THE REBELS, IT ENLISTED THE SUPPORT OF ARAB MILITIA - SOME FROM OUTSIDE SUDAN - KNOWN AS "JINJAWOOD," WHO HAVE ATTACKED, BURNED, LOOTED, KILLED, AND RAPED VILLAGES AND VILLAGERS THROUGHOUT THE AREA. (IT IS COMMONLY ASSUMED THAT THE ZAGHAWA, WELL-KNOWN WARRIORS, BEGAN THIS ROUND OF VIOLENCE. THE ARAB TRIBES WERE EAGER TO "ASSIST" THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTAIN WHAT THEY SAW AS THE ZAGHAWA PUSH FOR

A TRANS-BORDER ZAGHAWA HOMELAND. ON FEBRUARY 9 PRESIDENT BESHIR ANNOUNCED A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES BECAUSE THE SUDANESE ARMY - AFTER WEEKS OF BOMBING - HAD DEFEATED THE REBELS. THE SLA

RESPONDED BY ATTACKING ROADS, THE SOUTHERN RAILROAD, AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS. THE JINJAWOOD CONTINUED TO ROMP THROUGH DARFUR, DESTROYING VILLAGES AND CAUSING MORE IDP'S AND REFUGEES. THE GOS CLAIMS TO BE WILLING TO REIN IN THE JINJAWOOD AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS IT HAS ATTACKED THEM AT LEAST ON TWO OCCASIONS. THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG REACTION IS IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO CONCERN THAT TURABI IS USING THE CONFLICT TO WEAKEN PRESIDENT BESHIR. THE HUMANITARIAN TOLL HAS BEEN JUST SHORT OF CATASTROPHIC. THE GOS IS INCREASINGLY COOPERATING WITH INTERNATIONALLY RELIEF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE MOST NEEDY AREAS, BUT TO DATE IT HAS BEEN A SLOW PROCESS.

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THE REBELS  
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4. (S) THE IDENTITY OF REBEL COMMANDERS IS SELDOM ANNOUNCED.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE SLA SPOKESMEN ARE HASAN MANDELA (IBRAHIM) AND OMAR BABIKER ABDALLAH. BOTH GIVE FREQUENT PHONE INTERVIEWS TO INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA. ABDALLAH ABDEL KERIM IS A PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE JEM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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KHARTOUM LEADERS  
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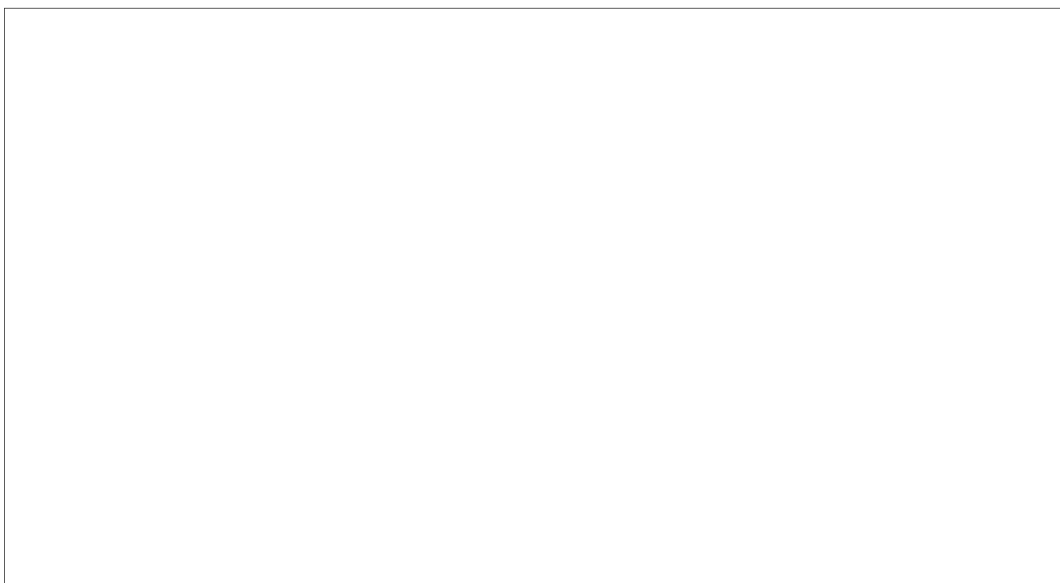
5. (S) MAJOR DARFUR TRIBES HAVE REPRESENTATIVES IN KHARTOUM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MOST DARFUR TRIBES HAVE MEMBERS IN CHAD, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND OTHER COUNTRIES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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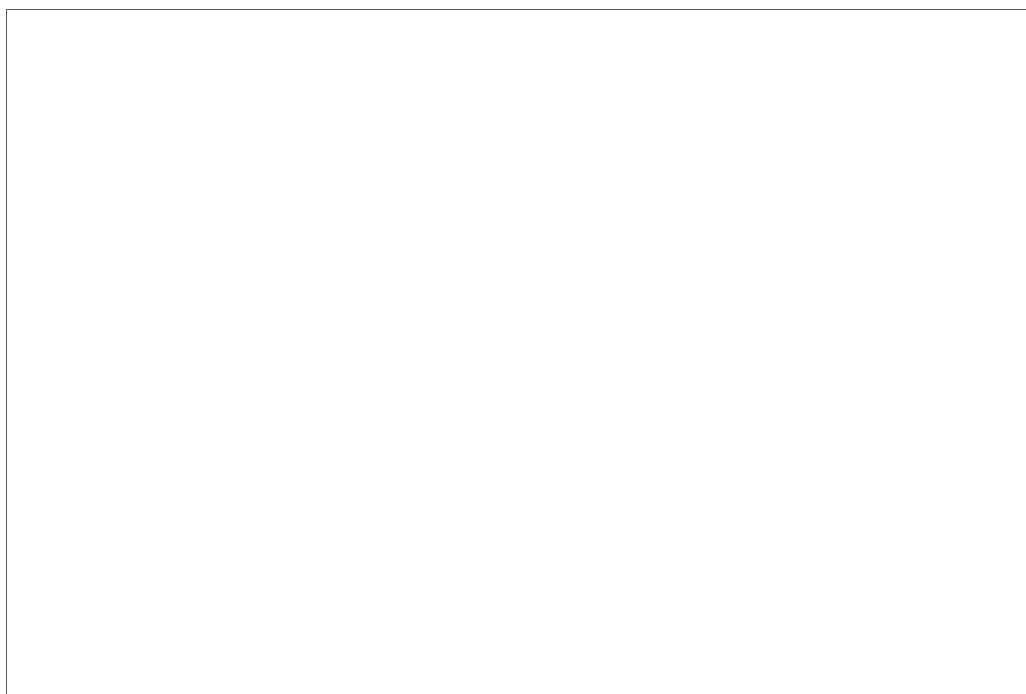


THE DARFUR STUDENTS UNION HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN KHARTOUM. ON FEBRUARY 16 ABOUT 50 STUDENTS MARCHED TO THE UN TO PRESENT A LIST OF GRIEVANCES AND TO CALL ON THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID.

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THE EXILES  
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6. (S) WHILE NEW DARFURIANS IN EXILE APPEAR WEEKLY, THE CORE GROUP WHICH ASSISTS IN RAISING MONEY AND THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CONSCIENCE INCLUDES:

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SLA, JEM, NDA  
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7. (S) ACCORDING TO JEM AND SLA MEMBERS, POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS DO NOT AFFECT COOPERATION ON THE GROUND.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ON FEBRUARY  
16 THE NDA MET IN ASMARA TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP BY  
THE SLA AND PNC. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GALLUCCI

NNNN



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