

DARFUR FACT SHEET
June 15, 2004

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Background.

- Situated in the western part of Sudan; home to an estimated 7 million people.
- Ethnic conflict is endemic: the nomadic Arab Muslim minority has disputed access to water and land with resident black African Muslim farmers for centuries.
- Khartoum long neglected Darfur, as government wrestled with Southern rebels.
- Widespread circulation of small arms and light weapons aggravates the situation.
- The dry season ends in June, making it more difficult to move around the region.

Current Conflict.

- In Feb 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) captured a government town seeking socio-economic attention from government. Khartoum responded militarily.
- Rebels resumed attacks against major towns, as a second black African movement -- the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) -- emerged and joined the SLA.
- Government unleashed Arab "Jinjaweed" militias in a "scorched earth" campaign in the Darfur regions population - The Parties signed an April 8th ceasefire agreement that is essentially unsuccessful.

Regional Implications.

- Darfur crisis has spilled into neighboring Chad, which shares a 1,000 km long border with Sudan. Chad's single infantry battalion on the border is incapable of preventing "Jinjaweed" cross border incursions, and Sudan has not "closed" its borders with Chad despite having almost a division of troops deployed along the border region.
- The government of Chad is incapable of dealing with the escalating humanitarian crisis and 90,000 refugees have crossed the border and are in rough camps, while another 60,000 are still waiting on the border. UN officials expect that another 100-200K will arrive in Chad over the next 6-8 month - International relief agencies, including the UN, are on scene but are overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem.

Humanitarian Situation In Darfur.

- Humanitarian crisis deteriorates, as "Jinjaweed" attacks continue unabated.
- Attacks have increased both in scale and brutality.
- Between 10,000 and 30,000 have been killed since Feb 2003.
- Over 2.2 million internally displaced persons.
- Destruction of villages and other infrastructure exacerbate the situation.
- Blurring of natural resource redistribution by force and genocide-like indicators.
- Worst case estimates of potential loss of life due to disease, starvation and violence inflicted by the government forces is estimated to reach 350K by the end of the summer. Projected loss could reach 30% of the total 2.2M refugee and IDP population, i.e. 660,000, by the end of 2004.



National Security Archive,
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu