

Darfur

The Genocide in Darfur

America must do more to fulfill the Responsibility to Protect

Background

The genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan has lasted for more than four years and as many as 450,000 people have died. More than two and one-half million others have been displaced or have become refugees - and the situation is worsening. Yet U. S. policy has coupled generous humanitarian assistance with unfulfilled threats and feckless diplomacy.

The situation in Darfur is also evolving rapidly. Between now and January of 2009, either an effective multi-national force will be deployed to Darfur or the Sudanese government will continue frustrate the efforts of the international community to stop the genocide. Either a viable and sustainable peace agreement will have been negotiated to end the conflict between the government and the rebels and among the rebels -- or not.

Clearly, the next President will be faced with a different situation in Darfur. Meanwhile, the international community, led by the United States, has a responsibility to protect innocent civilians.

Recommendations

The United States government should take the following five steps to address the genocide:

- Impose tougher sanctions on Khartoum:
 - freeze of dollar-denominated oil transactions;
 - pursue comparable sanctions in the UN Security Council or, failing that, with the European Union;
 - keep sanctions in place until Sudan allows the full and unfettered deployment and operation of the UN-AU force.
- Support efforts to unify the rebel groups and negotiate a durable ceasefire and political agreement to end the conflict.
- Speed deployment of the UN-AU force by training, equipping, air-lifting, and otherwise supporting the rapid deployment of UN battalions:



- contribute specialized capabilities and equipment -e.g. helicopters, night vision capability, command, control, communications and intelligence (C3I) capabilities- to support to the UN mission in Darfur;
- obtain NATO agreement to deploy it's NATO Response Force (NRF) to provide short-term augmentation and a bridging component to beef up the AU force until the full UN-AU hybrid can deploy.
- Implement and robustly enforce, with NATO, a no-fly zone. The U.S. should also signal its readiness to strike Sudanese military and intelligence assets, including aircraft and airfields, if necessary.
- Finally, Congress should authorize the use of force in order to end the genocide.

Key Facts

- The genocide in Darfur, an area about the size of Texas, has lasted more than four years.
- More than two and one-half million have people been displaced or have become refugees. An estimated 2.3 million have fled their homes and live in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Darfur, with at least 200,000 more living in refugee camps in Chad.
- The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, now reports that refugees from Chad are actually spilling back into Darfur.
- The AU has a force of approximately 7,000 troops currently deployed to Darfur; this modest force has not been able to stop the genocide.
- On July 31, 2007, the UN Security Council approved the deployment of a 26,000-strong AU-UN hybrid force to Darfur.
- The UN has approved the deployment of an international force, consisting of 3-4,000 troops, to Chad.

The full version of this paper is available along with supporting background material at www.opportunity08.org.

About the Author and the Project

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Dr. Susan E. Rice is a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies and Global Economy and Development Programs. During the Clinton Administration, Rice was the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs where she formulated and implemented overall U.S. policy for 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. From 1995-1997, Dr. Rice was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC) and, from 1993-1995, was Director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping at the NSC.

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