



'TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE'

AN AGENDA FOR THE DARFUR PEACEKEEPING MISSION

The African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), of more than 26,000 peacekeepers, is due to be up and running by the end of 2007. However, it faces obstruction and delays by the government of Sudan and faltering commitment from the international community.

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ADDITIONAL CAPABLE
TROOPS MUST BE
COMMITTED. SUPPORT
SYSTEMS MUST BE PUT IN
PLACE. COMMAND
STRUCTURES MUST BE
ESTABLISHED. NATIONAL
GOVERNMENTS KNOW FROM
THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE
THAT THIS TAKES TIME, BUT
TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, BAN KI-MOON,
31 JULY 2007

The security situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate as armed groups and paramilitary militias proliferate. The region is awash in arms. Fighting is often between groups – including ethnic groups – formerly on the same side. The civilian population of Darfur pays the price for the failure in peacekeeping. The displaced live constantly under threat of attack, with no adequate protection and decreasing access to humanitarian assistance.

Amnesty International's agenda for effective protection of civilians in Darfur:

- UNAMID has a mandate to protect civilians using all necessary means in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law. It should be proactive in protecting civilians. Its rules of engagement should reflect this mandate.
- UNAMID should have sufficient and adequately resourced and trained troops and other personnel.
- UNAMID should have full freedom of movement throughout Darfur. It should have the resources to respond immediately to emergencies and to patrol and monitor effectively.
- UNAMID should include staff with expertise in gender-based violence and children's rights. It should formulate a detailed plan to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and should work with African Union and UN experts and with civil society.
- UNAMID should secure free and full access to humanitarian aid for all civilians.
- UNAMID should guarantee the civilian character and humanitarian nature of camps for internally displaced people. All camps must be located in suitable and safe sites, and members of armed groups should be identified and separated from the displaced population.



- UNAMID should help to ensure safe, voluntary and sustainable return of the displaced to their homes. This requires protection for those returning home, throughout their journey and upon arrival, and a visible and lasting protective presence in areas after return. UNAMID should prevent forced relocation and forced returns.
- UNAMID should publish comprehensive and independent reports, without having to seek approval from the parties to the conflict.
- UNAMID should have an adequately resourced and strong human rights component with the mandate and capacity to monitor, investigate and publicly report on all human rights abuses. Human rights monitors must have logistical and other support, including protection, so that they can travel to all areas of Darfur and visit all places of detention.
- UNAMID's political and civil affairs component should promote human rights and maintain relations with all parties to the conflict and with the civilian population, including the displaced, the diverse communities of Darfur and traditionally marginalized communities.
- UNAMID's civil affairs and human rights components should help establish permanent, independent and effective institutions for the protection of human rights and the rule of law, including an independent judiciary and fair criminal justice system.
- UNAMID's civilian police component should be trained in human rights and mandated to monitor police performance. In co-ordination with the human rights component it should ensure that police comply with international standards of law enforcement. It should ensure that human rights violations are investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice.
- UNAMID should have the mandate and capacity to oversee the disarmament and demobilization of the government-supported Janjawid militia and other armed groups, including armed opposition groups and paramilitary forces. It should also be mandated to enforce the arms embargo imposed under UN Security Council Resolution 1556 (2004) and extended under Resolution 1591 (2005).
- UNAMID should be trained to operate in full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law. Anyone who is reasonably suspected of involvement in serious violations of human rights or humanitarian law should be excluded from participation in the mission.
- Peacekeepers should be held accountable at all times for any serious breach of international humanitarian law or human rights law, including sexual exploitation or trafficking. There should be accessible mechanisms at the international level for monitoring, investigating and reporting on any violations of international norms by peacekeeping personnel, and to ensure that personnel responsible for serious violations are brought to justice.
- UNAMID should have the mandate and capacity to put in place strong and effective border controls to deter and prevent cross-border incursions.

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Amnesty International
International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org

EFFECTIVE PROTECTION
OF CIVILIANS

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