

# STAND | digest

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**ADVOCACY UPDATE** ■ In recent months, STAND Canada has been working to broaden its organizational scope beyond the situations in Darfur and Sudan to other conflict zones destroyed by genocide, crimes against humanity and the countless and terrible side-effects associated with these tragic events. In the wake of South Sudan's secession on July 9, 2011, violent escalations have occurred in Sudan's Abyei and South Kordofan regions. Conflict in both of these regions has increased at an alarming rate – over 170,000 people have been displaced, while more still live in grave danger. More alarming still is that ethnic cleansing, war crimes and killings directed towards the Nubian-Sudanese seem to be taking place, and have been evidenced by observers and a number of mass graves have surfaced through Project Sentinel programs and leaked United Nations reports. You can stand with us by signing our open letter to Mr. Christopher Hull of the Sudan Task Force at <http://standcanada.org/petition/#petition>.

**NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS** ■ On Saturday, July 9th, South Sudan became the world's newest nation, welcomed by United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon. An excited and eager crowd of over one hundred thousand people were gathered at the John Garang Mausoleum Square in Juba, shouting, "A new Southern Sudan, a new Southern Sudan!" Hundreds of world dignitaries were present. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, John Baird, offered Canada's congratulations.

**DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH SUDAN** - As the world's newest capital city, Juba was the centrepiece of South Sudan's independence celebrations on July ninth. But it appears that this prestige will be short-lived, as the South Sudanese government has been eyeing alternative locations for the new country's capital for quite some time.

**HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY** ■ Mass graves found in South Kordofan, Sudan, have been the subject of worldwide news attention, as well as some contestation, since satellite images of the graves were released in June. The Satellite Sentinel Project captured an image in the tumultuous area of Kordofan, called Kadugli. The image shows white objects that appear to be body bags, near an Episcopal Church complex. The organization also collected reports from locals.



**STAND** is a national advocacy organization that aims to make stopping genocide a cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy. We make it easy for Canadians to act against genocide by providing simple and effective ways for people to take action.

Learn how you can start making a difference by visiting [standcanada.org](http://standcanada.org)

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS //

**1** In recent weeks, there has been a dramatic spike in violence in the South Sudan border regions of Abyei and South Kordofan. The UN estimates approximately 60,000 have fled Abyei and over 70,000 have left their homes in the Nuba mountains. Both the South and North have mobilized troops but the North has largely been responsible for most of the deaths, using aerial bombardments and ground forces to launch attacks and deny access to humanitarian organizations.

1. Canada should speak out at the UN against the escalating conflict and talk to its international partners to apply pressure on both parties to stop attacks and begin a troop withdrawal.
2. Canada's Foreign Minister should create a bilateral dialogue with his international counterparts to direct their attention to the grave nature of the situation.
3. Canadian personnel participating in the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), in Southern Sudan should influence UN mission commanders to take a more assertive role in protecting civilians.

**2** The people of South Sudan have voted overwhelmingly for independence. With the Comprehensive Peace Agreement coming to an end and South Sudan getting ready to announce independence in July, there is still much work to be done. In order to avoid future conflicts, the Canadian government needs to focus on facilitating a dialogue between both parties in order to resolve the following outstanding issues (among others):

1. Border demarcation
2. Nationality and citizenship
3. Oil revenue sharing
4. The future of oil rich Abyei
5. Sudan's external debts

**3** In December 2010, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE) issued a report on the referendum in Sudan, wherein one of the key recommendations reads:

*Canada should send a high-level delegation that includes Ministers and parliamentarians to both North and South Sudan [...] in order to communicate its continuing interest in a peaceful future for the Sudanese people, including in Darfur. The delegation should assess, with civil society, needs on the ground and establish with governments the most effective types of assistance Canada can contribute toward optimal outcomes.*

Because this recommendation was arrived through a bipartisan committee process and to signal Sudan Canada's continuing commitment in the region, STAND calls for the government to implement this recommendation as soon as the new session of parliament takes place.

**4** In order to effectively prevent, monitor and address grave human rights abuses and mass atrocities, the Government of Canada should:

- Create a Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity which should be attached to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. This would allow parliament to conduct:
- **MONITORING:** keep MPs informed about the onset of genocide and crimes against humanity, including the identifiable stages of these crimes
- **PREVENTION:** become proactive in its response to such crises, allowing MPs to act early and utilize a wider set of policy mechanisms
- **COORDINATION:** centralize Canada's institutional approach to the issue of mass atrocities by giving one central committee the mandate to comprehensively monitor, study and recommend courses of actions.

**ADVOCACY UPDATE // COLLIN POTTER-BONAR,  
FEDERAL ELECTION STRATEGY MANAGER, STAND  
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In recent months, STAND Canada has been working to broaden its organizational scope beyond the situations in Darfur and Sudan to other conflict zones destroyed by genocide, crimes against humanity and the countless and terrible side-effects associated with these tragic events. Recently, STAND has been forced to revisit its original mission – a mission succinctly expressed in 2005 by the adoption of our now defunct acronym: Students Taking Action Now: Darfur. In the wake of South Sudan's secession on July 9, 2011, violent escalations have occurred in Sudan's Abyei and South Kordofan regions. Conflict in both of these regions has increased at an alarming rate – over 170,000 people have been displaced, while more still live in grave danger. More alarming still is that ethnic cleansing, war crimes and killings directed towards the Nubian-Sudanese seem to be taking place, and have been evidenced by observers and a number of mass graves have surfaced through Project Sentinel programs and leaked United Nations reports.

In light of the violent developments in South Kordofan and Abyei, STAND Canada has been receiving e-mails from individual humanitarian workers on the ground, asking us to approach our government to help shed light on the seriousness of the situation. STAND Canada has been working to respond to these requests, and to stand in solidarity with the Sudanese people victimized by the crises in Abyei and South Kordofan. Over the past weeks, our national advocates have been writing Canadian Members of Parliament and Canadian Senators to inform our representatives and policy-makers about the tragic situation in Sudan. We have reached out to Canadian Parliamentarians, and we are making every effort to ensure that our voices continue to be heard for the people of South Kordofan and Abyei. STAND Canada has also reached out to the Sudan Task Force, a division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. We have organized an open letter asking the Sudan Task Force and Canadian foreign policy experts to develop and implement a more concrete and more public ap-

proach to addressing the violence in Sudan and South Sudan.

Our efforts will never meet their fullest potential without your help. We need you to join us in taking a stand to prevent the situations in South Kordofan and Abyei from continuing to escalate, in taking a stand to ensure that genocide and crimes against humanity prevention remains a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy. You can stand with us by using a few short minutes of your time to demonstrate your support for the people of Sudan, as well as your commitment to mass atrocity crime prevention. You can stand with us by signing our open letter to Mr. Christopher Hull of the Sudan Task Force at <http://standcanada.org/petition/#petition>.

In addition, you can take advantage of STAND Canada's longstanding resources, such as 1-800-GENOCIDE and our email writing tool (<http://standforthehead.com/email-writing-tool/>). Both of these tools make it easy to express your support for a more comprehensive stance toward the conflict in Sudan by connecting you to the offices of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, as well as to the offices of every national party leader.

**NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS //  
STEPHANIE BROWNSTEIN**

On Saturday, July 9th, South Sudan became the world's newest nation, welcomed by United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon. Naturally, the ninth was chosen as Southern Sudanese Independence Day, as it marked the conclusion of the nation's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, reached in 2005.

An excited and eager crowd of over one hundred thousand people were gathered at the John Garang Mausoleum Square in Juba, shouting, "A new Southern Sudan, a new Southern Sudan!" Hundreds of world dignitaries were present. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, John Baird, offered Canada's congratulations. President Omar al Bashir also made an appearance. Among the first to arrive at the grounds were

the Sudanese opposition leader, Hassan Ali Turabi, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Jacob Zuma of South Africa. Delegations came from North America, Australia, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and other African countries.

The World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region, Ms. Obiageli Ezekwesili, was able to approve seventy-five million dollars in funding for the new state. She avidly believes that the state must exploit opportunities – particularly in agriculture – that she expects will be a more sustainable asset than oil, the resource upon which the country presently depends to generate most of its revenue. The government of South Sudan plans to use the initial funding provided by the Bank to facilitate investments in health, rural roads, and private sector development.

The most pressing question: how will the relationship between South Sudan and Sudan develop? Many issues remain to be resolved, including details for revenue sharing for the country's oil fields whose pipelines for export are located in the North; and incurred debt. Both countries are currently dependent on one another. The hope is that these new borders will incite cooperation between them.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH SUDAN // JESSICA DUFFY**

As the world's newest capital city, Juba was the centrepiece of South Sudan's independence celebrations on July ninth. But it appears that this prestige will be short-lived, as the South Sudanese government has been eyeing alternative locations for the new country's capital for quite some time.

Juba (which is also the state capital of Central Equatoria) was established as a regional capital by British colonial administrators almost a century ago. After the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and South, Juba became the seat of the South's semi-autonomous government. Even so, no permanent structures have been built for the government's executive, legislative and judicial institutions.

The city has undergone rapid and somewhat chaotic expansion since 2005, but lacks infrastructure and enough available land to satisfy government, private and commercial demand. The majority of roads in Juba are dirt, aid workers are reportedly living in shipping containers, and local archives are said to be stored in a tent. As Juba has been described in such unflattering terms as "mud-hut town" and "a war-damaged city of tin-shack housing and bumpy roads," it is no wonder the southern government is seeking a capital more "befitting an independent nation."

A proposal to relocate the capital was put before the government in a Council of Ministers meeting in February, where the resolution to relocate was passed.

The proposal outlined five main features that a new capital city would be expected to provide: the development of well-planned urban centres; attraction of investors; creation of a regional hub for culture and business; contribution to the reduction of ethnic tensions and grievances; and equal distribution of the population.

Two potential alternatives have been put forward. The first proposed location is in an area straddling four states - the north eastern part of Central Equatoria, the north western part of Eastern Equatoria, the south western part of Jonglei and the south eastern part of Lakes state.

The second proposal is Ramshiel, located at the geographical centre of South Sudan, in the north eastern part of Lakes state near the border with Unity state to the north and Jonglei state to the east.

Some of the qualities attributed to these locations include centrality, which would make it easier for the new nation's citizens to access it; pleasant topography and climate; and vast, sparsely populated areas, ideal for developing a new city.

Other suggestions include Gondokora Island, north of Juba but still in Central Equatoria, which was proposed two years ago, and Rubek, which was touted as a potential new capital back in 2004.

But of course, a new city cannot be built overnight. While a committee was formed to investigate potential locations, no decision on a new capital has been publicly announced. Further, it will take years to develop. "If it involves moving out of Juba, this will be a very, very long term issue," SPLM minister Kosti Manibe said. "This is not an issue that will be attended within the next 5 to 10 years."

## **HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY // SHAUNA C. KEDDY**

Mass graves found in South Kordofan, Sudan, have been the subject of worldwide news attention, as well as some contestation, since satellite images of the graves were released in June. The Satellite Sentinel Project (the Google Earth organization launched by the UN Human Rights Commissioner and actor George Clooney), captured an image in the tumultuous area of Kordofan, called Kadugli. The image shows white objects that appear to be body bags, near an Episcopal Church complex. The organization also collected reports from locals, such as Anglican Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail. The release of the report was followed by a New York Times piece on the crisis, as well as an internal UN report and a BBC expose.

The UN cited the testimony of one of their contractors, who witnessed Sudanese army soldiers filling a grave with bodies and then covering it with bulldozer. The United Nations force itself was even attacked by the Sudanese army, as well as parliamentary forces and government security forces, which completed a summary execution of a Sudanese UN staff member. The UN Report was requested by the Security Council, which recommended an independent investigation into the human rights violations and even a potential deferral to the International Criminal Court.

The UN Security council met on July 15th, during which time a senior UN staff member publicly called for humanitarian and UN access to the area. They were also greatly concerned about the mass graves, extra-judicial killings, and attacks on UN personnel. Both the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent called for a joint IFRC and UN investigation of allegations that refugees were lured away from the UN compound by Sudanese intelligence agents disguised as Red Cross Society staff.

According to eyewitnesses, soldiers systematically massacred civilians. Fighting increased last month between rebels from the Nuba Mountains and the Sudanese armed forces, following the secession of South Sudan. The American ambassador to the United Nations, Susan E. Rice, told the UN council that the fighting has displaced over 70,000 people.

An eyewitness stated that 100 bodies were taken to a spot near a school in a village called Tilo. A military spokesman for Sudan denied allegations that civilians had been targeted and killed. Rabie A. Atti, Sudan's ruling National Congress Party spokesman, vehemently denied the claims, saying they were fabricated to discredit the government. Despite a recent peace deal, the UN report confirmed continued bombing and fighting.

According to AP news, Atti claimed, "People can go there and visit the area and see what is the actual reality."

BBC reporter James Copnall, stationed in Sudan's capital (Khartoum), reiterated that it is nearly impossible to get accurate information from the country, as both journalists and diplomats are barred from the region. Additionally, the UN is only allowed very restricted movement.

US President Barack Obama stated a high level of concern about the basis of the attacks as ethnic cleansing. The Khartoum government claims that the fighting is legitimate, because it is defending itself against insurgents. Obama is set to work with South Sudan's

President Salva Kiir to ensure the rights of the Southern Sudanese. President Bashir stated that peace will depend on South Sudan respecting the border with North Sudan, and the two countries not interfering in one another's affairs.

The U.S. envoy to the region may actually blunt Obama's efforts. Princeton Lyman claimed to the Washington Post that the body bags appearing in the Satellite image were already there before the fighting began. But Eric Reeves, a genocide scholar and a professor at Smith College, reiterated that the UN contractor's report specified that after the bodies were dumped, they were covered by a bulldozer. The items are present in the satellite images from July 4th, but not on July 17th. Additionally, Lyman does not attempt to explain what the white items are, or why they are there.

Eyewitnesses explain that bodies were disposed of in white tarps or body bags around the city, and subsequently collected in a manner as casual as weekly garbage collection. Reeves emphasized that if Khartoum does not allow humanitarian aid into the country, the tens of thousands who have fled into the Nuba Mountains will die of starvation. Thousands are estimated to have been killed in South Kordofan alone. Farmers have had to flee their villages, due to aerial bombings, and therefore the fields are untended for October harvest.

The Nuba fighters signed an agreement with the African Union that they would integrate into the national army or be voluntarily disarmed. After the ICC ruling in 2008, Bashir expelled thirteen aid organizations from the area, and on July 10 of this year, the government demanded that all peacekeeping forces cease their operations in South Kordofan. Qutbi al-Mahdi, an official in Khartoum's ruling party, has accused aid agencies of giving logistical support to the rebels.

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