

SUMMARY // CONTENTS //


SPEAK THE NAME CAMPAIGN - POST-ELECTION UPDATES ■ Over the course of the Canadian election, STAND Canada launched and executed its Speak the Name campaign. Throughout the campaign, STAND Canada advocated for a more humane Canadian foreign policy, and built a critical mass of support for a number of well-studied policy recommendations dedicated to making genocide and mass atrocity crime prevention a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy

NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS ■ Tensions over the oil rich region of Abyei have risen over the last two weeks, when the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) of the North captured the disputed territory on May 21st. It has been reported that upwards of 60 people have been killed since the SAF began occupying the area, and more than 150 000 people have been displaced from their homes.

DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS ■--- Recently, John Baird, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, condemned the escalating violence and the horrifying state of affairs within the region of Abyei, by specifying that the recurrent attacks are contrary to the principles outlined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and others that followed. To put words into action, the Canadian government communicated with both northern and southern Sudanese officials, by inciting both parties to immediately withdraw forces in a constructive effort to place a higher value on civilian rights, and cease any undertakings that may aggravate the situation.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN ■ The violence that has plagued south Sudan since January's referendum intensified during May, and the death toll from clashes between the south Sudan army (SPLA) and militia has now surpassed 1,000, since the beginning of the year. The South accuses the North of backing the rebel militia; but this charge has been firmly denied by the North.

DRC: TROUBLE IN THE WEST ■ *VIP Profile: Dr. Denis Mugwege* On May 24th, 2011, in Brussels, the King Baudouin International Development Prize was awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege, a highly respected Congolese gynecologist, for his immeasurable impact on the fight against sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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.

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS //

1 In recent weeks, both Khartoum and the South Sudan government have amassed troops along and inside the border the state of Abyei. Clashes have already broken out, tens of thousands of people have fled their homes and international troops have been harmed. The dispute over Abyei has the potential to reignite a civil war and before the situation escalates further:

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 begin a troop withdrawal.
2. Canada's Foreign Minister should create a bilateral dialogue with his international counterparts to direct their attention to the seriousness 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.

SPEAKING THE NAME: GENOCIDE PREVENTION MADE A PRIORITY DURING FEDERAL ELECTION //

BY COLLIN POTTER-BONAR, FEDERAL ELECTION STRATEGY MANAGER, STAND CANADA

Over the course of the Canadian election, STAND Canada launched and executed its Speak the Name campaign. Speak the Name is a national, nonpartisan federal election advocacy campaign devoted to securing productive policy commitments from Members of Parliament and political aspirants as the country headed to the polls. Throughout the campaign, STAND Canada advocated for a more humane Canadian foreign policy, and built a critical mass of support for a number of well-studied policy recommendations dedicated to making genocide and mass atrocity crime prevention a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy. Perhaps more importantly, Speak the Name worked to inform both voters and candidates alike about the situations in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and mass atrocities the world over.

Elections provide Canadians with the opportunity for their voice to be heard: hence they are prime opportunities for advocates to raise their concerns with politicians, policy-makers, and the public-at-large. By voting, Canadians are endorsing a representative, and by extension, a series of beliefs and prescriptions that they want to see implemented, with the hope that such policies will improve their lives and the lives of others. At STAND Canada, we sought to touch on some core Canadian values: that human rights are important, that the Canadian government should work to ensure that human rights are universal and that genocide and mass atrocities are impermissible. We wanted to ensure that Canadians were reminded of their country's historical commitment to the protection of human rights, and in this vein, to insist that their representatives work to address such issues. After all, the measure of a person and of nation is not what they stand for, but rather what they stand up for. With this in mind, we launched our Speak the Name campaign and reached out to Canadians of all political backgrounds to ensure that mass

atrocities and genocide prevention were election priorities.

Thanks to our volunteers and chapters across the country – notably our chapters at the University of Alberta and McGill University – we garnered meaningful support from candidates representing each of Canada's national political parties. Some notable supporters include The Honourable Irwin Cotler, The Honourable Bob Rae, The Honourable Paul Dewar and a number of other Members of Parliament and candidates from coast to coast. Each of the candidates that participated in Speak the Name made an important commitment to the prevention of genocide, crimes against humanity and other mass atrocities by subscribing to STAND Canada's policy recommendations. In response to these commitments, STAND Canada worked to bolster the politicians' campaigns, and to highlight their strengths in human rights and international development.

STAND Canada's Speak the Name campaign has left the organization with parliamentary allies in each of Canada's national political parties, and has opened up avenues through which we can collaborate with a variety of like-minded organizations across Canada.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered, collaborated, and supported our organization throughout the campaign. Thanks to your assistance, STAND Canada was able to demonstrate that Canadians care about preventing tragic mass atrocities and ensuring the protection and maintenance of human rights internationally.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS //

BY CHELSEA SAUVÉ

Tensions over the oil rich region of Abyei have risen over the last two weeks, when the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) of the North captured the disputed territory on May 21st. Since the capture, looting and the destruction of civilian property and United Nations equipment have been frequent occurrences. It has been reported that

upwards of 60 people have been killed since the SAF began occupying the area, and more than 150 000 people have been displaced from their homes. The ownership of the region has been an ongoing topic of discussion between the northern and southern parties of Sudan, as per the instructions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that was signed in 2005 by the National Congress Party (NCP) and Southern People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

It was the CPA which ended the violent war between the North and South that had been ongoing since 1983. The CPA also called for the referendum that took place this past January, which determined the secession of South Sudan from North Sudan, with 99% of voters in favour of a sovereign South Sudan. A separate protocol insisted that the residents of oil rich region of Abyei were also to hold a referendum to determine whether the region should join North or South Sudan. Unfortunately, the referendum was never held, owing to disputes between the North and South concerning who was eligible to vote. As such, the North and South have yet to come to an agreement as to how the countries will share the region.

The capture of Abyei by the North is said to have been triggered by an incident which took place on Thursday May 19th. The ruling NCP, led by Omar Al Bashir, has stated that the South Sudan Army attacked SAF troops while they were being escorted away from Abyei, in accordance with the newly implemented Kadugli security agreement. They were being escorted by a United Nations Mission in Sudan (UMIS) vehicle near the Abyei border when the incident occurred. The NCP claims that this ambush left 197 SAF soldiers either missing or dead. South Sudan has since apologized to both the NCP and the United Nations for the attack on the SAF, claiming that it was unintentional, and explaining that the individuals who carried out the attack were not members of the South Sudan army. As a result, South Sudan would proceed with their own investigations into the matter as well.

The UN has condemned the attack against the SAF, suggesting that it not only breaches the

agreement between the North and South of Sudan, but it represents a criminal act against both the UN and UNMIS specifically. The UN has since called on parties involved to investigate the incident more thoroughly. The UN Security Council met with senior South Sudan officials last week to discuss the matter further. When the SAF captured Abyei on Saturday, the UN also condemned their actions, suggesting that they were violating agreements with the South, and demanded that they withdraw the SAF from Abyei immediately. The UN has also condemned Omar Al Bashir's unilateral action with regards to this military capture of Abyei and his decision to dissolve the administration which look after affairs in Abyei. The United Nations human rights chief, Navi Pillay, has condemned the violence in Abyei, and has called on the governments of both the NCP and the SPLM to resolve this pending issue through peaceful negotiations in order to effectively end the violence in the region. Should they fail to do so, it is feared that further chaos will ensue. For preventative reasons, the UN will be sending more peacekeepers to the Abyei region in order to increase patrolling and deter ongoing incidents of looting.

While the NCP claim that the takeover of Abyei was a direct response to the attack they experienced on May 19th, it seems as though the SAF capture of Abyei was premeditated. Susan Rice, the United States Ambassador to the UN, has suggested that the NCP may have decided to occupy Abyei with the intention of gaining political advantage for an extended period of time. The SAF takeover of the region has been destabilizing in both its effect and its implications (in terms of its violation of the 2005 CPA). Bashir has already stated that he will not remove the SAF troops from the region, as he believes that the it rightly belongs to the North. The SAF are disinterested in leaving Abyei, which merely contributes to sentiments expressed by SPLM leader, Salva Kiir, that the SAF occupation of Abyei is meant to stall the realization of southern independence. He said, "[The SAF] invasion of Abyei should not be viewed as an isolated incident, but part of their plan to cause havoc in the region ahead of independence." The SPLM has, however, been reassured by the international community that

the occupation of Abyei will not stall the independence of South Sudan on July 9th, 2011. On May 26th, the NCP of North Sudan stated that they refuse to recognize the independence of South Sudan (set to take place in July) unless all borders are demarcated. The NCP has suggested that the SPLM has intentionally delayed the demarcation of the six remaining problematic borders. They have also stated that the SAF will carry out an operation next week, which will expel any southern army troops that remain north of the 1956 border. The already growing tensions between the North and South over the SAF capture of Abyei will merely deepen should the North insist upon the completion of border agreements before the independence of the South in July. The international community has warned Bashir that if the NCP fails to withdraw its SAF troops from Abyei, the UN Security Council will likely consider action. The US has also warned that should the SAF not withdraw from Abyei, North Sudan will not be removed from the list of states that sponsor terrorism.

Despite Bashir's impossible approach, Salva Kiir has stated that under his leadership, the North and South will not return to war, and will remain committed to the CPA. Instead of succumbing to NCP's violence, Kiir has urged Bashir to withdraw the SAF from Abyei so that the pending issues between the North and South may be resolved with strict adherence to the CPA. In an effort to mitigate the current tensions with the North, SPLM Vice President, Riek Machar, will travel to Khartoum to meet with the NCP. One suggested solution made by the chief mediator of the CPA, General Lazarus Sumbeiywo, is the creation of an independent state of Abyei in order to defuse the tensions between North and South. Other solutions are currently being discussed as well.

Meanwhile, Darfur peace mediators, led by chief mediator Djibril Bassole, have announced the creation of a stakeholders' conference, which will host over 500 participants from the various parties involved. This group will represent civil society, tribal leadership, refugees and displaced persons, state institutions, national political parties, as well as regional and international envoys. The aim of this conference is to adopt a consen-

sual document that will serve as the basis of a peace settlement for the conflict in Darfur. Once the conference is complete, regional and international partners will meet to discuss the conclusions made by the stakeholders and will pursue negotiations to reach an "inclusive and durable agreement."

DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS //

BY STEPHANIE BROWNSTEIN

In January 2005, Canada signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which provides for power sharing pending national elections in Sudan. As a co-signatory to this document, the Canadian government has committed itself to the implementation of the agreement and its use as a platform to resolve the ongoing conflicts that plague the Sudanese people. Furthering its political commitment, Canada has contributed significant funds, which amount to \$885 million to date.

At the present time, the Abyei region remains the source of ongoing tensions in Sudan. As with many of the conflicts and instabilities that have afflicted regions across the globe, the drive for control of Abyei primarily stems from its oil rich soil. Abyei is estimated to secure six billion barrels of oil in its reserves. Thus gaining control of the region translates to exceedingly high profits for all parties involved.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese have recently fled from the contested North-South border region of Abyei. In May, Southern troops fired on Northern troops redeploying out of the region. Khartoum responded with a military takeover of the region. Amidst the madness, food supply is nearly exhausted and available shelter is rapidly diminishing. This crisis reflects a failure to implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with regard to Abyei. Under the agreement, citizens of Abyei were required to vote in a referendum that would determine whether the region was to remain in northern Sudan or join the new southern state. The main challenge was agreeing on the boundaries of Abyei.

Recently, John Baird, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, condemned the escalating violence and the horrifying state of affairs within the region of Abyei, by specifying that the recurrent attacks are contrary to the principles outlined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and others that followed. To put words into action, the Canadian government communicated with both northern and southern Sudanese officials, by inciting both parties to immediately withdraw forces in a constructive effort to place a higher value on civilian rights, and cease any undertakings that may aggravate the situation.

In addition, during the annual G8 Summit meeting in France, the core members highlighted the imperativeness of President Bashir and President Kiir working together constructively towards measures that will re-establish levels of cooperation, in order to follow through with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The allotted time spans from now until July 9, 2011. Sadly, the prospects for a quick resolution appear unfavourable.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN //

BY JESSICA DUFFY

The violence that has plagued south Sudan since January's referendum intensified during May, and the death toll from clashes between the south Sudan army (SPLA) and militia has now surpassed 1,000, since the beginning of the year. The South accuses the North of backing the rebel militia; but this charge has been firmly denied by the North.

Oxfam has stated that over 1,400 people have been killed in south Sudan this year, already surpassing the total in 2010. Analysts fear that if the violence continues, south Sudan could quickly deteriorate into a failed state, which would have disastrous affects for the surrounding region.

The main hotspot is Abyei, a small town that seems to be a sticking point in the secession negotiations, with both the north and south each claiming the area as part of their respective future

nations. President Omar al-Bashir has even threatened to disregard the existence of the new nation if it attempts to claim Abyei for itself. The town is claimed by a southern group, the DinkaNgok, who reside there, and by the Misseriya, a crew of northern nomads. A referendum was scheduled for January to decide whether the town would be included in the northern or southern nation, but this broke down as a result of disagreement over whether the Misseriya were eligible to vote.

Since then, tensions have been high in the region. Earlier in May, it seemed as if progress had been made when both the north and south agreed to remove any unauthorised troops from the town. However, violence erupted again only a few days later. The north claimed that 22 of its military personnel were killed in a southern ambush while travelling with a UN envoy. Southern Sudanese forces denied responsibility for the incident.

In apparent retaliation, northern troops took control of Abyei, which was looted and set ablaze. Nearly all of its 20,000 residents have since fled their homes, seeking shelter across the border in south Sudan, where concern mounts about their arrival overloading already strained humanitarian resources.

In late April, the UN World Food Program announced that it had been forced to suspend operations in the south Sudanese states of Jonglei and Lakes. WFP said that one of their staffers was killed in an ambush, and that the SPLA also commandeered a lorry full of food aid destined for schools. The suspension will deny rations to about 235,000 people in the two states.

The fighting in Abyei has also further impeded the lives of thousands of displaced southern Sudanese people who are trying to return to the south. The International Organisation for Migration estimates that around 300,000 have already made the journey since October of last year, but estimate that some 25,000 are still stranded along the way. Many roads have been closed, or are considered too unsafe to use, and travel by train or barge is not always possible or affordable.

There are grave fears that the dispute over Abyei

will re-ignite the decades-long war between the North and the South, but southern Sudanese President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has insisted that there will be no return to war. However unsettled southerners are about the situation in Abyei, a return to open violence still may not be an option. The North has a better-equipped army, and its recent seizure of Abyei could be interpreted as a demonstration of military superiority. Therefore, it is questionable whether the south could retake Abyei even if it had the desire to do so. Ultimately, the South might find that the fight over Abyei may not be worth jeopardising a long-awaited independence that is less than two months away from becoming a reality.

DRC: THE WOMEN //

BY SAGAR GUPTA

VIP Profile: Dr. Denis Mugwege

On May 24th, 2011, in Brussels, the King Baudouin International Development Prize was awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege, a highly respected Congolese gynecologist, for his immeasurable impact on the fight against sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Throughout his childhood, Dr. Mukwege frequently visited the local hospital with his father, a Pentecostal minister, to pray for the patients' well being. But Mukwege knew that in order to have a more substantial impact on the lives of the patients, he would have to pursue medicine. While working as a doctor, he was awestruck by the number of women that were dying during childbirth. This led him to France to study gynecology.

Upon his return to the DRC, Dr. Mukwege set up a clinic in Lemera, South Kivu, which was destroyed during the civil war in 1996. Three years later, Mukwege opened Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, which focuses on treating victims of sexual violence. The clinic offers free, comprehensive care for female victims, including both psychological and physical treatment. The hospital also provides social support for women who have been assaulted, to help them cope with the social stigma that accompanies rape in the region. Dr. Mugwege has treated over 30,000 victims within the past ten

years, and has tenaciously advocated on behalf of these women.

Upon receiving his award at the Royal Place in Brussels, Dr. Mukwege said, "It is a privilege and an honour for me to be receiving the King Baudouin International Development Prize. Most importantly, I am grateful for the opportunity to reiterate the critical need for all of us to take action for women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We cannot risk being silent on this grave injustice – destroying women means destroying life." [3]

The King Baudouin International Development Prize was awarded for the first time in 1978. Since then, it has been awarded every other year, including a cash prize of 150,000 euros. Those who receive the award are leaders of humanitarian initiatives and "pioneers who have made outstanding contributions to addressing key challenges and advancing social progress in the developing world." The Prize is not only monetarily significant; it also publicizes important causes and serves as a means of garnering support for them. This kind of coverage enables winners to be recognized – and hopefully supported – by politically important organizations including the UN, World Bank, EU, and international NGOs. [4]

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