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**NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS** ■ After much anticipation, Darfur Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole recently announced that the negotiations team intend to submit a final draft peace agreement on April 27th for final consideration. The presentation of a final report has been delayed numerous times on account of various disagreements between the rebels and the NCP. Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir plans to meet with the leader of the opposition party NUP, Sadiq Al-Mahdi. The NUP has suggested that their intention in meeting with the NCP is to contribute to defining the national agenda, ensuring that a new constitution of will include a solution to the conflict in Darfur, a means to mitigate the economic burden experienced by Sudan, and a national government which would incorporate the NUP. The NUP have warned that should the NCP fail to reach an agreement on the agenda items, they will face an uprising. When the South officially secedes from the North in July of this year, the CPA will officially expire; however, many have suggested that the CPA should be extended beyond the interim period required under the terms of the CPA. Many have suggested that the actions of the NCP in the North and the conscription policy of the SPLM in the South violate the terms of the CPA, and therefore, the CPA must be extended.

**DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS** ■ This month, a Canadian delegation led by the Chargé d'affaires of the Canadian Embassy in Sudan, spent a week in South Darfur visiting the UNAMID offices in Darfur. The team conferred with the mission's leadership and the Formed Police Units, and assessed the utility of its contribution to the overall operations of UNAMID.

**DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN** ■ The dispute over the oil rich Abyei region still contributes to much of the ongoing tension occurring between South Sudan and its Northern counterpart. Media censorship also continues to be a growing concern, as South Sudanese police have confiscated newspapers, eliciting other members of the print media to stop publishing as a measure of protest. With regard to separation, South Sudan appears to have gained one of its first moments of international recognition.



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## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS //

- 1** The people of South Sudan have voted overwhelmingly for independence, but with less than 4 months before the Comprehensive Peace Agreement comes to a close, there is still much work to be done. 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
- 2** 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 immediately following the referendum 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 Canada's continuing commitment in the region to the people of Sudan, Stand calls for the government to adopt this key recommendation.
- 3** 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.
- 4** Civil society participation in the Darfur peace process is essential if a sustainable peace is to occur. The inclusion of Darfur civil society in the Doha peace consultations will give the process the legitimacy it requires but it continuous to be fraught with difficulty. Canada has extensive experience in including civil society in public consultations and therefore should call on:
1. The fair representation of Darfuri civil society.
  2. The lifting of security measures and restrictions on civil society members that hamper their participation in the consultations.
  3. UNAMID (United Nations African Mission in Darfur) to help organize civil society members and facilitate their participation in the civil society consultations in Darfur and Doha.

## NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS //

BY CHELSEA SAUVÉ

After much anticipation, Darfur Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole recently announced that the negotiations team intends to submit a final draft peace agreement on April 27th, 2011 for final consideration. This report will be submitted to the (Northern) Sudanese government (the National Congress Party - NCP), as well as the two rebel groups involved in the peace talks, (the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)). The final draft peace agreement will address: "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; Power Sharing and Administrative Status of Darfur; Wealth Sharing; Compensation, Return of IDPS and Refugees; Justice and Reconciliation; Permanent Ceasefire and Final Security Arrangements; Implementation Modalities and Mechanisms and Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation." The Darfur stakeholders conference will take place in Doha during five days from May 19-23 this year. All attendees, including tribal leaders, civil society groups and representatives of displaced and refugees, will debate the final peace document and make a conclusive decision regarding its adoption.

JEM has expressed immense pessimism on the completion of negotiations. The presentation of a final report has been delayed numerous times on account of various disagreements between the rebels and the NCP. The primary issue which JEM maintains is the administrative status of the region of Darfur. Recently, the NCP presented a decree to hold a referendum on the administrative future of Darfur. On account of this unilateral decision, JEM decided to stop the direct talks with Khartoum; however, they remain a key player in the mediated negotiations held in Doha. While opposition parties, NCP and National Umma Party (NUP) differ in their perspectives on a multitude of issues including the issue of Darfur administrative status and the implementation of Islamic law on the non-Muslims, Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir plans to meet with the leader of the opposition party NUP, Sadiq Al-Mahdi. The NUP stands against the NCP treatment of Sudanese Christians, and strongly rejects the outcome of the elections

held last April (when the NCP once again became the ruling party). In line with this attitude, the NUP mandate calls for political mobilization to overthrow the regime of the ruling NCP. While the dialogue between these two political groups is symbolic of a cooperative stance, the NUP believes that talks to be futile. Tensions between the two groups grew following the secession of south Sudan from North Sudan- for which the NUP blames the NCP. The NUP has suggested that their intention in meeting with the NCP is to contribute to defining the national agenda, ensuring that a new constitution will include a solution to the conflict in Darfur, a means to mitigate the economic burden experienced by Sudan, and a national government which would incorporate the NUP. The NUP have warned that should the NCP fail to reach an agreement on the agenda items, they will face an uprising. When the South officially secedes from the North in July of this year, the CPA will officially expire; however, many have suggested that the CPA should be extended beyond the interim period required under the terms of the CPA. Despite such suggestions, Omar Al-Bashir has stated that the NCP see no benefit in extending the CPA, and therefore reject calls for its extension, suggesting that they do not see any justification for its extension. However, given ongoing violence in the Darfur region, it seems as though the extension of the CPA would be welcome. While the North continues to violate the terms of the CPA, the SPLM has initiated a conscription based military policy which many argue, also counters the spirit of the CPA.

South Sudan has recently announced a policy forced military recruitment, as upwards of 6000 men, are sought to be enlisted in the Southern army. Issued by Sudan's Unity State Governor, General Taban Deng Gai, this policy is geared at building the Southern People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the official army of South Sudan. According to sources, this policy was chosen when voluntary based army service proved inefficient in accumulating great numbers. According to the governing party of South Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the SPLA has experienced various challenges in the building of a proper army, including the level of response of local people. Despite such challeng-

es, the methods used in recruitment have been described as illegal. Many have suggested that the ongoing conscription is illegal in that it violates both individual human rights and the terms of the CPA. The illegality associated with this recruitment process, has led to an appreciation for defector, Peter Gadet and his movement titled the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA), which was announced in his recent statement titled the Mayom Declaration. This army stands against the alleged corruption of the SPLM and SPLA.

## DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS //

BY JESSICA DUFFY

This month, a Canadian delegation led by the Chargé d'affaires of the Canadian Embassy in Sudan, spent a week in South Darfur visiting the UNAMID offices in Darfur. The team conferred with the mission's leadership and the Formed Police Units, and assessed the utility of its contribution to the overall operations of UNAMID.

Amnesty International issued a report at the end of March featuring criticism and advice with regards to Canada's domestic and international human rights agenda. The report, 'Getting Back on the "Rights" Track', provides a blueprint for Canadian leadership at home and "a consistent and principled stand" for Canada internationally. Amnesty International urges all politicians to adopt the action plan during the upcoming Canadian federal election and, most importantly, for those who win the election, to implement the plan.

"In recent years there has been a decline in Canada's international human rights leadership," said Salil Shetty, Secretary of Amnesty International. "Canada can be a human rights champion again. Candidates vying for office must know that Canadians are expecting and demanding they meet this international human rights challenge."

Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire continues to speak to students and challenge them to get involved in humanitarian issues. "Get off your butts and get engaged," he said to students at the University of Toronto at Scarborough. "The youth of this nation should have [...] a sort of right of

passage," he said. "Under their bed, [they should have] a pair of boots that have been dirtied with the soil of [developing] countries." Senator Dallaire said that Canadian citizens need to stop only looking at near-term goals and local issues, and recognise that Canada, as one of the "most powerful nations in the world", has a responsibility to countries beyond its borders. Referencing recent violence in a number of African countries, including in Sudan, Dallaire once again touched on the issue of responsibility. "If we do not engage in [...] [protecting others], and [do not] inspire our leaders to have the will to intervene [...] we will be held accountable in history as having failed."

## DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN //

BY STEVEN CHUA

Abyei continues to be a point of contention between the North and South regions of Sudan. The commander of the United Nations' peacekeeping force in Sudan reported that both North and South factions have deployed military forces armed with heavy weaponry to the disputed region. This claim has been the first verification of satellite images displayed by activist groups warning of possible conflict to come.

Violence in South Sudan has been reported to have returned to the level present before the referendum. A number of renegade military leaders continue to conduct raids throughout the region. These raids have been followed by retaliatory attacks from the Southern military, which have contributed to much instability in the area. Officials from Juba once again blame the North for arming and financially supporting the rebels, a claim that both rebel groups and Khartoum staunchly deny. In an effort to help alleviate the violence present in the South Sudan, Juba has re-extended its offer of amnesty to all rebel militia groups present in the South. The UN has reported that the violence in the area has displaced over 80,000 people, and has led to at least 800 deaths this year.

The print media have suffered a number of setbacks, the most severe being the confiscation of over 2,500 copies of the Juba Post's newspapers by the South Sudanese police force. This

form of print censorship is perhaps the most harmful, since it prevents the publisher from recovering any of the resources spent on creating and printing the issue. With South Sudan's rather sketchy past regarding the freedom of press, this action has sparked major fear over an impending crackdown on the media. In North Sudan, an opposition paper linked to the SPLM was also confiscated members of the Sudanese security forces. Two other opposition papers said they would suspend all publication against this act of censorship.

With regard to international news, South Sudan stands to gain one of its first moments of official recognition as a separate state. Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Elaraby paid his first visit to Sudan since the popular uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak. During this trip, Elaraby promised South Sudan will gain Egypt's recognition as a sovereign nation upon its separation.

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