

Darfur and Chad: Analysis and Prospects, Summary

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1. The Darfur peace process in Abuja is painfully slow. The immediate reason for this is the limited capacity of the Movements to negotiate seriously, which in turn is related to their internal fragmentation, inexperience, deep suspicion of the GoS, and continuing belief that the U.S. will intervene on their behalf to deliver a much better deal. The GoS delegation has not been tested in Abuja but private consultations indicate a determination to bargain hard over every single small issue. There is no senior GoS figure ready to step in and take a bold leadership role in the way that Ali Osman Taha did with the SPLM in Naivasha. Other mechanisms would be needed to fix the high-level political issues.
2. Best estimates are that the Abuja talks will take 6-9 months to reach a successful conclusion. This reflects significant progress thus far (most procedural and representational issues are dealt with, and the Movements have accepted that they are negotiating broadly within the CPA framework) but major difficulties ahead on power-sharing and security arrangements.
3. Security arrangements will be the toughest issue. The sides are far apart on (a) modalities for an enhanced ceasefire (including redeployment of troops to zones of control), (b) disarmament of the Janjawiid and (c) integration of Movement fighters into Sudan Armed Forces. At present the Movements lack the technical expertise necessary to negotiate seriously on these issues, and are rightly suspicious of a quick fix settlement that they do not fully understand. Urgent technical training on these issues, follow up to the Nairobi seminar on November 9, is needed.
4. The war in Chad is underway. The basic reason for the war is the misgovernment of Pres. Idriss Deby and the lack of substantive democratization during his 14 years' rule. The secondary reason is GoS support for the armed opposition, especially the factions of Mohammed Nour and Ahmat Subian. GoS war aims include:
 - a. Regime change in N'Djamena.
 - b. Cutting off the rear bases of the Darfur Armed Movements.
 - c. Relocating the Western Darfur Janjawiid to Chad (where many of them originally came from), which serves multiple purposes: removing a security problem, circumventing the UNSC demand that they disarm them, keeping a reserve militia across the border.
5. Most likely, the next stage of the Darfur war will be fought out in Chad, with severe humanitarian and human rights consequences. While this war continues it is unlikely that a peace deal can be achieved in Darfur.

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