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The project to end genocide and crimes against humanity

Chad

Key Terms and People

People

al-Bashir, Omar: Current President of Sudan. Took power in 1989 after leading a coup d'état against the democratically elected government. In July 2008, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, or ICC, requested an arrest warrant for Bashir accusing him of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Déby, Idriss: Current President of Chad. Déby rose to power in 1990 by overthrowing President Hissène Habré's regime with the aid of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Déby has since switched his allegiance to support the rebels in Darfur, particularly the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Déby is of the Zaghawa ethnic group, as are many of the rebels. In 2005, Déby's regime amended the constitution, allowing him to run for a third term. The last several Chadian elections have been boycotted by the country's opposition parties.

Habré, Hissène: President of Chad, 1982-1990. Habré was a brutal dictator and has been accused by an African Union tribunal of crimes against humanity and torture. His regime allegedly carried out tens of thousands of politically-motivated killings.

Nouri, Mahamat: Formerly allied with President Déby, General Nouri turned against him in 2006 and is the commander of a rebel coalition that has fought the national army in eastern Chad. He helped lead a coup attempt on N'Djamena in February 2008.

Tombalbaye, François: First President of Chad after independence from France in 1960. He was a southern Christian and ruled Chad until he was assassinated during a coup in 1975.

Groups

ARMED GROUPS

Chadian National Army (ANT): Since December 2005, the Chadian National Army has fought against Sudanese-backed Chadian rebel groups seeking to overthrow President Idriss Déby. The army is widely accused of forcibly recruiting child soldiers, and has failed to uphold UN-sponsored child demobilization efforts. The army has done little to protect civilians, and has itself committed abuses against civilian populations accused of supporting the rebels.

Janjaweed: Nomadic Arabic-speaking African tribes organized by the Sudanese government to attack sedentary African tribes in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM): A significant rebel group in Darfur, whose goal is regime change in Sudan. JEM began their rebellion against the Sudanese government in 2003, citing marginalization of the Darfur region. Covert Chadian government support for JEM became overt in late 2005 after Chadian rebels backed by Khartoum attacked a strategic border post in Chad, thus beginning the current proxy war between Chad and Sudan. In May, JEM launched a Chad-supported offensive on the Khartoum suburb of Omdurman, further escalating tensions between Chad and Sudan. Members of JEM have family ties to Chadian President Idriss Déby, and many of the rebels are from the same ethnic group as Déby, the Zaghawa.

Platform for Unity Democracy and Change (SCUD): Rebel group composed primarily of members of the Zaghawa ethnic group. It is led by deserters from the Chadian government and army, including members of President Déby's immediate family.

United Front for Democratic Change (FUCD): A former rebel group that recruited and used child soldiers. An FUCD-led offensive sought to oust President Déby and resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians. The FUCD signed a peace agreement with the government in late 2006 which allowed for integration of FUCD forces into the national army.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS): President Déby's political party. The MPS was founded in Sudan in 1990 by Déby and anti-Habré activists.

Party for Liberties and Development (PLD): A Chadian opposition political party. Supported primarily by eastern Chadians, this group is among those that have boycotted the most recent presidential and parliamentary elections.

International Actors

United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT): A United Nations peacekeeping mission focused on the Chad-Sudan border region of eastern Chad and northeastern Central African Republic. Authorized by the UN Security Council in September 2007, the military element of this operation is a 3,300 strong European Union force (known as EUFOR). However, EUFOR's mandate will end in March 2009, at which point a UN follow-on operation will commence.

Peace Agreements

Dakar Peace Agreement: The governments of Sudan and Chad signed the Dakar Peace Agreement in March 2008 in Dakar, Senegal. The agreement was mediated by the Presidents of Libya, the Republic of the Congo, and Senegal. It established a "Contact Group" to monitor the implementation of the Dakar Peace Agreement. It is the sixth peace agreement that has been signed between Chad and Sudan in the past five years, and it is unlikely to lead to lasting peace between the two nations because it does not include any rebel groups as signatories.

October 2007 Peace Accord: Signed by four Chadian rebel groups and Déby's government. The parties agreed to an immediate cease-fire and the integration of opposition fighters into the national army. However, heavy fighting resumed between the Chadian army and the rebel groups within months.

Other Useful Terms

Coup attempt on N'Djamena (2006): Sudan-backed rebels from the Chad-Sudan border region attacked the capital of N'Djamena, attempting to depose President Déby. Hundreds of people were killed in the fighting. The rebels were repulsed after French troops intervened on behalf of the Chadian government. Following the coup attempt, President Déby broke off relations with the Sudanese government.

Coup attempt on N'Djamena (2008): In February 2008, a coalition of Chadian rebels opposing Déby's rule stormed N'Djamena once again, and advanced to the doorstep of the presidential palace. The rebels were eventually forced to retreat after several days of intense fighting against government troops. Hundreds of civilians were killed and nearly 200,000 fled south to neighboring Cameroon.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons—(IDPs): An IDP is a person who has been forced to leave his or her home for reasons such as religious or political persecution, war, or natural disaster, but has *not* crossed an international border; a refugee is someone who has crossed an international border. While this is a technical distinction, it can often have considerable meaning in international law and crucial implications for an individual's ability to receive humanitarian assistance. There are currently over 180,000 IDPs and over 50,000 refugees in eastern Chad.

Zaghawa: A semi-nomadic ethnic group whose population straddles the Chad-Sudan border. The Sudanese Janjaweed forces targeted many of their attacks against the Zaghawa group. President Déby is a Zaghawa from northern Chad.

Enough is a project of the Center for American Progress to end genocide and crimes against humanity. Founded in 2007, Enough focuses on the crises in Sudan, Chad, eastern Congo, northern Uganda, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. Enough's strategy papers and briefings provide sharp field analysis and targeted policy recommendations based on a "3P" crisis response strategy: promoting durable peace, providing civilian protection, and punishing perpetrators of atrocities. Enough works with concerned citizens, advocates, and policy makers to prevent, mitigate, and resolve these crises. To learn more about Enough and what you can do to help, go to www.enoughproject.org.

