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## Report from Darfur

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# Sudan Counters Effect of Foreign-Backed Rebellion

by Douglas DeGroot

April 17—The London-based imperial financial cartel, creators of the illegitimate International Criminal Court which issued an arrest warrant for Sudan President Omar al-Bashir, is seeking to give credibility to the ICC charge by projecting the image of an overwhelming humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. George Soros and his colleague and reputed controller, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, were instrumental in founding the ICC. Malloch-Brown is now Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the British government with responsibility for Africa, Asia, and the United Nations.

After the Sudan government expelled a small number of NGOs for collaborating with the ICC, the imperial cartel immediately sought to raise the “humanitarian crisis” issue to a higher level, to give credibility to the March 4 ICC charges. The ICC claim of genocide being committed in Darfur by the Khartoum government, however, is a lie; it does not correspond with what is actually taking place on the ground.

In what has become a big fight over what the Obama Administration’s policy towards Sudan will be, the imperial cartel, with the media of the Western industrial nations and the anti-Sudan activist movement that has been built up in the United States firmly in tow, is beating the “humanitarian crisis” drum, with the intent of entrapping the Administration into an anti-Sudan policy that will wreck U.S. foreign policy overall. The African Union and the Arab League are both united behind Sudan, in face of the ICC assault on Bashir. If the Administration backs the ICC (of which the United States is not a signatory), its foreign policy initiatives in Africa and Southwest Asia won’t have a chance.

### Origin of the Darfur Rebellion

At the end of 1999, the Sudan government made a nationalist turn against Hassan al-Turabi, the Speaker

of the National Assembly, and an asset of the British Intelligence-controlled Muslim Brotherhood, removing him from the government. Turabi had played a key role in Bashir’s becoming President in 1989, but wanted to turn Sudan into a base for the global Islamist movement. It was during his period of influence in the government, that Osama bin Laden and other radicals were invited to Sudan, turning Sudan into a pariah nation.

With Turabi no longer playing a leading role, the Bashir Administration was able to initiate the talks with the South that culminated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, which would have ended Sudan’s pariah status.

As the agreement with the South was being worked out, the Muslim Brotherhood capability in Sudan, which had lost its position inside the government with Turabi’s ouster, shifted its attention to Darfur. In a region already in crisis for many years, a rebellion which targeted law enforcement and other elements of government was launched in early 2003.

The government’s counterinsurgency campaign prevented the rebellion from sabotaging the CPA, but the effects of that government campaign, on top of the fighting in Darfur among local groups, which had been going on before the Bashir government came to power, resulted in people being driven from their homes and becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs). The pre-existing breakdown of the Darfur economy due to drought, compounded by a high level of immigration from neighboring Chad, plus the effects of the government’s anti-insurgency campaign, resulted in many people moving to IDP camps. This issue has been used by the propaganda arm of the rebels (the British-led Western media) as the pretext to maintain Sudan as a pariah state.

According to UN sources, by the beginning of 2005, when the CPA was signed, the violence in Darfur dropped to pre-2003 levels. By 2008, of the 1,520 conflict-related deaths in Darfur, 600 resulted from conflicts over grazing lands among nomadic tribes. Of the remaining 920, UN peacekeepers reported that more civilians were killed by rebel movements than by government-organized counterinsurgency forces. People in the camps, and those living outside them, are living under difficult, desert conditions. Only the industrial, agricultural, and infrastructural development of Sudan could rectify this situation, but the development of Sudan is ardently



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*Author Douglas DeGroot visits a displaced persons camp in Darfur, April 7, 2009. Those living both inside the camps and outside them in Darfur, are living under harsh desert conditions, which can only be rectified by economic development. The ICC and its media promoters aren't interested.*

opposed by the controllers of the anti-government activists.

### Expelled NGOs

Sudan revoked the NGO status of 13 international NGOs operating in the country, out of a total of 188. Eighty-one of these groups were operating in the Darfur region. Ten of those which had operations in Darfur, had their registration revoked and were expelled on March 4.

The following NGOs operating in Darfur had their status revoked:

1. IRC-USA
2. CARE-USA
3. SC-USA
4. CHF-USA
5. Mercy Corps-USA
6. Solidarities-FRANCE
7. MSF-FRANCE
8. ACF-FRANCE
9. OXFAM-UK
10. MSF-HOLLAND

According to a briefing by Hassabo Mohammad Abdal Brahman, commissioner for humanitarian aid in the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) of the Min-

istry of Humanitarian Affairs, these NGOs had carried out the following types of activities, which were not in accordance with their established purpose, and to which the Sudan government objected:

- signing cooperation agreements with the ICC;
- fabricating reports on rapes, racial cleansing, and genocide;
- urging international intervention against Sudan;
- participating in sending people from Darfur to neighboring countries and ICC headquarters, as witnesses against the Sudan government;
- facilitating the transmittal of reports and statements on alleged rape cases to human rights organizations. According to recovered documents, people involved in facilitating these reports were designated as working on “outreach.”

The HAC has documents of NGOs, such as the International Rescue Committee, which contain “Guidelines on Cooperation with the International Criminal Court.” The NGOs facilitated the visit of teams to Darfur, to give more credence to unverifiable claims being sent to the ICC.

A UN report indicated that there was no increase in the death rate, and no health deterioration after the 13 NGOs were expelled.

Sudanese sources say that the NGOs do not deal with the root causes of the problem in Darfur: where the weapons come from, and who provides logistical support to the rebels. The Justice for Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) are the two main rebel groups. The leaders of the JEM, except for Khalil Ibrahim, live in London. SLA leader Abdelwahid Muhamed al-Nur lives in Paris. They are able to fly around the world to attend conferences and negotiations; but no one ever says who is paying their expenses.

The NGOs are also not very efficient. Sudanese sources report that up to 80% of NGOs funds are spent on administration and other overhead costs. The number of organizations operating in Darfur increased from 23 in 2003, to 258 in 2008. These organizations account for a staff of 15,392 people, of whom only 674 are foreigners, according to HAC statistics.

The NGOs have been authorized to work in the



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*Hussein Askary of the LaRouche delegation talks with youngsters in a Darfur camp for displaced persons.*

areas of: preventive and curative medicine, education, water, social work, and resettlement of people into villages.

As of now, the population of Darfur is 6,750,000. The number of displaced and affected people is 1,777,470, of whom 327,470 are IDPs in 21 camps.

### **Joint Sudan-UN Assessment**

According to a joint assessment, dated March 6, 2009, on the Darfur humanitarian situation by HAC Commissioner Hassabo Rahman and UN Humanitarian Coordinator Ameerah Haq, it was determined that:

1. Food distribution to affected people for March/April has been completed.

2. Food is available until the end of the year. Plans are being finalized for new partners needed for some of the food distribution that had been handled by the expelled NGOs.

3. The report confirms the continuity and stability of health services in Darfur, including availability of medicine, personnel, and operating budget.

4. Only 4.7% of health facilities were supervised by the expelled organizations.

5. The affected health facilities, which had to be taken over by others because of the expulsion of the NGOs, amount to only 43 out of 908 in Darfur.

6. All water stations are operating.

7. Only 38 water stations were affected, out of a total of 840 (4.5%).

8. More than 90% of staff in the water and health sectors are Sudanese.

9. All humanitarian indicators are stable.

10. The government confirms its commitment to the provision of the necessary funds until the end of the year.

11. The government confirms that it will use the Sudanese personnel who worked with the expelled organizations.

12. The UN confirms its obligation to work jointly and in coordination with the government of Sudan.

13. The government confirms its obligation to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid to Darfur.

The following are the agencies, as of now, which will replace the expelled agencies, according to the HAC:

**Action Contre la Faim** (Action Against Hunger) distributes food on behalf of the World Food Program in the Dar al-Salam area; it will be replaced by the American Humanist Association (AHA) and the Sudan Red Crescent.

**OXFAM** (British): Its work in North Darfur on water and sanitation at the camps of Abo Shawk, al-Salam, Kabkabya, Saraf Umara, and Tawela will be replaced by the Water and Environmental Sanitation project (WES), the Islamic Medical Society, and the Sudan Red Crescent.

**International Relief Committee (IRC)** worked at the Abu Shawk Medical Center and Medical Clinic in Dar al-Salam; this work will be carried out by the Islamic Medical Society and the Ministry of Health.

**CHF International** (originally established as the Foundation for Cooperative Housing in 1952) worked in the areas of Hashaba, al-Helief, Malum al-Hawsh, and al-Wakhyim. Its health services will be carried out by staff from the State health project. Its water services will be carried out by staff from the WES.