

## **No More Empty Promises: Make the Full Deployment of UNAMID a Reality**

On January 1, 2008, a UN-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) was deployed to Darfur with the mandate of protecting civilians. Many countries pledged troops and military hardware; but more than a year since its initial deployment, UNAMID remains severely under-resourced and just over 50% deployed. This failure by the international community continues to undermine UNAMID, which is hardly able to protect its forces, let alone the civilian population that it is mandated to protect.

Urge key international actors – China, Egypt, South Africa, the U.K., and the U.S. – to fulfill their pledges and do everything in their capacity to ensure that UNAMID receives the equipment, troops, and funding it needs to operate successfully in protecting the people of Darfur.

### **Send your letters to:**

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## **Sample Letter**

Dear **Ambassador**:

I am writing to you with regard to the United Nations–African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), which began deploying on January 1, 2008. Despite pledges and repeated expressions of commitment by the international community to provide UNAMID with adequate troops and military hardware, more than year after deployment began it remains significantly under-resourced.

The United Nations Secretary General’s repeated requests to the international community for the immediate provision of essential equipment to UNAMID have largely been ignored. In the December 2008 report to the United Nations Security Council, the UN Secretary General once again listed the military equipment and other hardware that the peacekeeping operation is still lacking, including in particular 18 medium-utility helicopters.

The failure by the international community to provide UNAMID with the necessary equipment as well as a sufficient number of troops and other resources, including funding, continues to undermine its effectiveness. This situation has left civilians unprotected and at the mercy of various armed groups operating in Darfur. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the fighting between government forces and the armed opposition groups. They continue to be killed, raped, and forcibly displaced from their homes, and the humanitarian situation remains dire. Out of a population of approximately 6 million, at least 2.7 million people are now living in camps for the internally displaced in Darfur while others are refugees in eastern Chad.

I urge you to use all your influence to ensure that your government contributes to the protection of civilians in Darfur by UNAMID. Civilians in Darfur continue to bear the brunt of the fighting between government of Sudan forces and armed opposition groups. Without the necessary support, the UNAMID force will continue to struggle, if not fail, to protect civilians in Darfur.

Please use your influence to ensure that UNAMID is provided with all the resources that it requires.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

{Signature}

## **Background Information**

The conflict in Darfur, in western Sudan, has led to some of the worst human rights abuses imaginable, including systematic and widespread murder, torture, rape, abduction, looting, and forced displacement.

Since February 2003, 300,000 civilians have been killed by both deliberate and indiscriminate attacks, and 2.7 million have been displaced, including some 250,000 who are refugees in eastern Chad. Humanitarian aid agencies are under daily threat because of rampant insecurity throughout the region, with some forced to leave due to banditry and attacks against their workers. All parties to the conflict have committed human rights abuses, but the Sudanese government, based in Khartoum, and the government-backed *Janjawid* militia bear primary responsibility for the systematic and widespread human rights violations that have characterized the Darfur conflict over the past six years.

There are currently three main sets of obstacles to UNAMID deployment: deliberate obstructions erected by the Government of Sudan, internal UN operations, and the gap between the amount of resources needed by UNAMID and the amount of resources the international community has provided to the force. Logistical support, including desperately needed air and ground transport equipment, have yet to be provided by the international community.

From July 2004 until January 2008, the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) attempted to provide some measure of security for civilians and aid workers in Darfur. On July 31, 2007, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1769 authorizing a hybrid United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) of 26,000 peacekeepers. A formal transfer of authority from AMIS to UNAMID took place on December 31, 2007, but more than one year later, just 60% of the force has been deployed. Recent fighting between rebel forces and Sudanese government troops and allied *Janjawid* militia in the Muhajariya, Sheria, and Labado areas of South Darfur make UNAMID's full and speedy deployment all the more urgent.