

## Letter from The Executive Board

Hi Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to the United Nations General Assembly to be simulated at the 2 nd Edition of CET MUN. It will be an honor and a privilege to serve as your Executive Board members for the duration of the conference.

This Background Guide has been compiled to provide you with a brief idea about the agenda at hand. Careful reference is highly recommended. The background guide shall serve the purpose of providing you with a basic idea and shouldn't be considered as the only source of research.

Delegates are highly recommended to do a good amount of research beyond the study guide. The agenda at hand is comprehensive and complex at the same time. A detailed study and a thorough discussion can lead us to solve this issue and derive plausible solutions to be implemented. It shall be your prerogative to decide the direction in which you want to take this committee.

We hope that this simulation will help you be better denizens of this global village.

In case you find any difficulty in understanding the guide, do not hesitate to contact us at email: [uh15113@stu.ximb.ac.in](mailto:uh15113@stu.ximb.ac.in) or [140301mer172@cutm.ac.in](mailto:140301mer172@cutm.ac.in)

Looking forward to a constructive debate,

**Soumya Mohapatra & Anindya Mishra**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNGA (DISEC)

CET MUN 2017

# Armed Conflict in Darfur:

Possible solutions to the hostilities.



Sudan's western Darfur region is considered to be one of the world's worst humanitarian crises where more than 2.3 million people got displaced, most of them living in camps in Darfur and neighboring Chad as well as Central African Republic.

The conflict flared in 2003 when rebels in Darfur took up arms, accusing the government of neglecting the region. The government responded with a counter-insurgency campaign.

Since then, civilians have come under attack from government troops, pro-government militia and rebel groups. Arab militias are also fighting each other, and there are frequent clashes between tribes.

Levels of violence fell after 2005, but have risen since the start of 2013. Nearly 400,000 people were displaced in the first half of 2014 alone.

## Details of the Conflict:

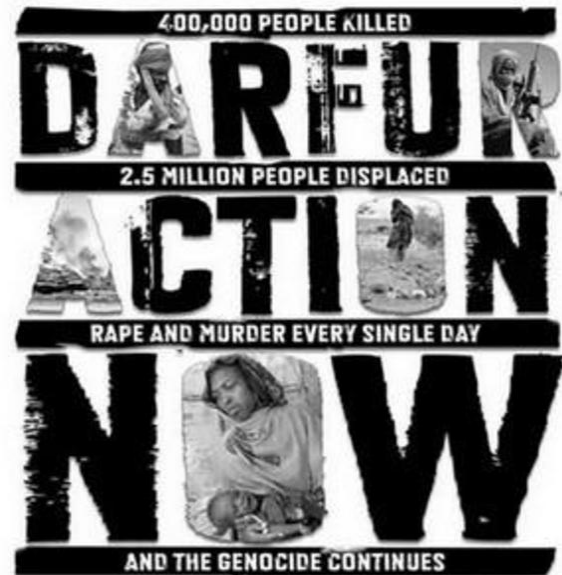
The Darfur conflict is a product of an explosive combination of environmental, political, and economic factors. It is well known that environmental degradation and competition over shrinking resources have played, and continue to play, a critical role in communal conflicts in this region as well as some others like Chad and Niger.

The real conflict began when two rebel groups JEM and Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) announced their opposition to the government in Khartoum, and shortly after they launched an attack on the area under the government's control. JEM was dominated by the Zaghawa clan while the SLM were Futura, Masalit and Zaghawa as well as other clans. After a period of confusion, the government mobilised the militia of loyal Arab tribes, Janjaweed, which supported their huge campaign to combat the insurgency. The most intense fight took place in the years 2003-2004. The government's main tactic was launching aircraft raids. The land army, though, was also involved in shooting men, raping girls and women, killing and stealing animals and poisoning wells. Systematically, bodies have been removed and thus whole villages started diminishing.

Security Council Resolution 2007 was established by the United Nations and the African Union UNAMID peacekeeping forces which currently include 19,000 troops and police officers. Their leader Martin Agwaj, in August 2009, found that the threat of war is serious. In March 2009, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, describing the Janjaweed as allies of the Sudanese armed forces. Though the charges were dismissed. (United Nations Information Centre, 2013).

But the situation escalated in 2010, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes. In 2010, the ICC issued a second arrest warrant for Bashir, this time for charges of genocide.

The reason Darfur conflict is said to be the one of the worst humanitarian crisis is because, the number of people killed in this conflict is almost around 400,000 since 2003 as per United Nations. This conflict destroyed many villages and hundreds of thousands of people have fled the violence and are still living in camps in Darfur and Chad. [Around 2 million people are still displaced, having fled their homes between 2003 to 2005.]



## Human Rights Abuses:

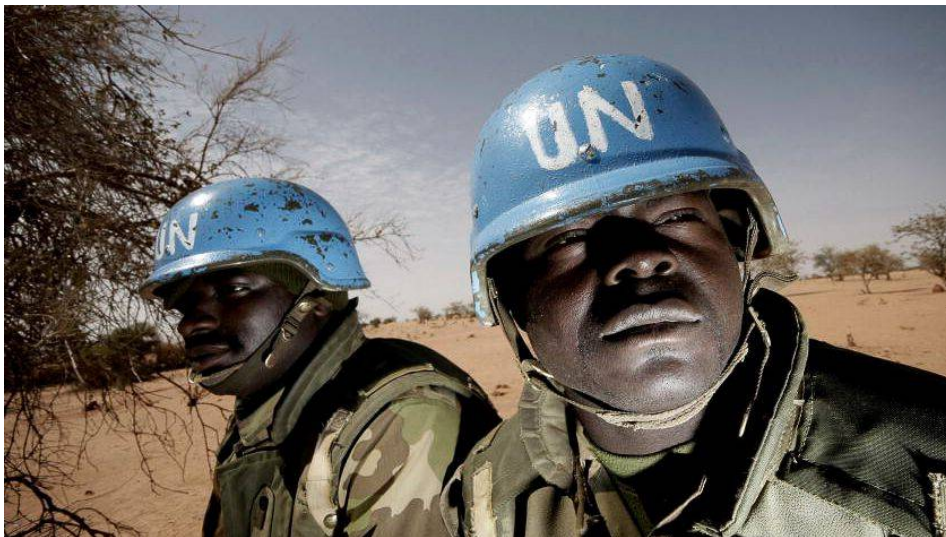
Though Khartoum being accused of torture and severe repression of political opposition and religious freedoms U.N. appointed commission concluded in 2005 that there had been heinous war crimes where individuals may have acted with genocidal intent.

In Darfur region, approximately 2.5 million people were subjected to a campaign of “Rape, Hunger and Fear” in refugee camps. The U.N. Security Council has also referred dozens of other Sudanese war crime suspects to the ICC.

Janjaweed were funded and were seen given arms by a Junior Humanitarian Affairs Minister, Ahmed Haroun. Ali Kushayb, the militia commander, was allegedly seen giving orders to the Janjaweed, inspecting naked women before they were raped by men in military uniforms.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed an arms ban on all non-government groups, and sanctions on leaders of armed groups accused of abuses in Darfur, yet the Sudanese government has not enforced them.

In 2005, the Council also called on Khartoum to end all aerial attacks in Darfur, but still the military continues to carry out aerial bombings.



## TIMELINE:

**February 2003** - Two anti-government groups rise up, saying Khartoum neglects arid region and arms Arab militia against civilians.

**January 2004** - The army moves to quell uprising in western region of Darfur; hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring Chad.

**March 2004** - UN says pro-government Janjaweed militias are carrying out systematic killings of African villagers in Darfur.

**April 2004** - Government, Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) fighters agree on ceasefire.

**September 2004** - UN says Sudan had not met targets for disarming pro-government militias and must accept outside help to protect civilians. Colin Powell, US secretary of state, describes Darfur killings as genocide.

**January 2005** - UN report accuses the government and militias of systematic abuses in Darfur, but stops short of calling the violence genocide.

**March 2005** - UN Security Council authorises sanctions against those who violate ceasefire in Darfur. Council also votes to refer those accused of war crimes in Darfur to International Criminal Court.

**May 2006** - Khartoum government and the main anti-government faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement, sign a peace accord. Rival SLA faction and the smaller JEM reject the deal.

**August 2006** - Sudan rejects UN Resolution 1706 calling for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, saying it would compromise Sudanese sovereignty.

**September 2006** - Sudan says African Union troops must leave Darfur when their mandate expires at the end of the month, raising fears that the region would descend into full-blown war.

Activists rally in major cities around the world calling on Sudan to allow UN peacekeepers into Darfur.

**October 2006** - Jan Pronk, the UN's most senior official in Sudan, is expelled.

**November 2006** - African Union extends mandate of its peacekeeping force in Darfur for another six months.

**December 2006** - Sudan agrees in principle to accept the deployment of UN troops in Darfur as part of an expanded peacekeeping force.

**February 2007** - International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor names first two war crimes suspects in Darfur. Sudan says the ICC has no jurisdiction and rejects arrest warrants.



**May 2007** - George Bush, US president, imposes new US sanctions on Sudan and asks for support for an international arms embargo to end what he calls genocide in Darfur.



**August 2007** - Security Council authorises 26,000 troops and police for Darfur's hybrid mission and approves the use of force to protect civilians.

**October 2007** - Darfur peace talks open in Libya and the government declares an immediate unilateral ceasefire, but important anti-government groups are absent.

**May 2008** – JEM fighters make a lightning attack that reaches outskirts of Khartoum. About 65 people are killed.

**July 2008** - Luis Moreno-Ocampo, prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC), asks judges for an arrest warrant for al-Bashir on crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

**October 2008** - Al-Bashir pledges more co-operation with Unamid to secure the passage of aid convoys, along with up to \$350m of spending on development in the region.

The UN says up to 400,000 people have died in Darfur and some 2.5 million have fled their homes since 2003.

**November 2008** - Al-Bashir announces a ceasefire in the region but Jem says the announcement is not serious and vows to fight on.

**December 2008** - Sudan government sends more troops to Darfur border as a preventive measure, it says, against rebel threat.

The Darfur Consortium of over 50 African charities releases report saying hundreds of non-Arabic speaking civilians have been made slaves to militias and government troops.

**February 2009** - Sudanese army declares the capture of a town in Darfur after three weeks of clashes with Jem fighters.

Qatar hosts first peace talks in nearly two years between Sudanese government and Jem rebels with the two sides agreeing to undertake "good faith" measures.

**March 2009** - ICC order the arrest of al-Bashir on seven charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, the first warrant issued for a sitting head of state.

Al-Bashir expels 13 international aid organisations accusing them of working with the ICC on the arrest warrant. Three local groups are also shut down.

JEM rebels pull out of second round of peace talks scheduled to be held in Doha in April and demand that the aid groups are allowed to return.

**February 2010** - Appeals chamber of the ICC directs judges to rethink their decision to omit genocide from the warrant out for al-Bashir's arrest.

## Questions a Resolution should answer

1. How can the internal ethnic conflicts be resolved?
2. How can the humanitarian situation be improved?
3. How can the tension and the border conflict be resolved?
4. What are the issues that need to be resolved in the conflict?
5. What kind of a conflict is it? How bad has the situation gotten? Can it be classified as genocide?
6. What has the Sudanese government done to resolve the issue? What has the International community done to resolve the issue?