

ORIGIN AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	USNW-00	DODE-00	DOFE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	JUSE-00	L-00	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OIG-00
	EPAU-00	PA-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	USIE-00
	R-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	G-00	SAS-00

/003R

342843

SOURCE: CBLEXCLS.007716

DRAFTED BY: AF/PD:AMITCHELL -- 12/16/2003 202-647-6724

APPROVED BY: AF/PD:LWKOENGETER

-----D10D93 161931Z /38

P 161915Z DEC 03

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS STATE 342843

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP, OPRC, PREL, US, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICA PRESS GUIDANCE DECEMBER 16, 2003

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

ETHIOPIA: REPORTS OF KILLINGS IN GAMBELLA REGION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2003

KEY POINTS

REPORTS OF VIOLENCE IN GAMBELLA REGION IN ETHIOPIA  
HAVE PROVEN TO BE CORRECT.

WE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS  
WERE DEAD OR WOUNDED. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN  
LOCATED AND ARE ALIVE.

THE EMBASSY IS DISPATCHING A CONSULAR AND SECURITY  
TEAM TO THE REGION TO ASCERTAIN THE WELFARE OF ALL  
U.S. CITIZENS IN THE AREA.

## UNCLASSIFIED

THE EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA DISSEMINATED WARDEN MESSAGE TO THE LOCAL AMERICAN CITIZEN COMMUNITY ON DECEMBER 15TH, NOTING THE OCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE IN THE GAMBELLA REGION AND ADVISED U.S. CITIZENS TO DEFER ALL TRAVEL TO THAT REGION. THE WARDEN MESSAGE ALSO NOTED THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IS UNPREDICTABLE. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP AMERICAN CITIZENS APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY THROUGH THE WARDEN SYSTEM.

THE CURRENT CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET FOR ETHIOPIA OUTLINES THAT " INTERETHNIC CLASHES AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE ARE PREVALENT IN THE WESTERN-MOST TIP OF THE GAMBELLA REGION IN WEST ETHIOPIA. TRAVEL TO THIS REGION IS NOT RECOMMENDED. VISITORS SHOULD SEEK CURRENT GUIDANCE FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA OR LOCAL OFFICIALS BEFORE TRAVELING TO OTHER AREAS ALONG THE ETHIOPIA/SUDAN BORDER.

### BACKGROUND:

THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED REPORTS OF VIOLENCE OCCURRING DURING THE WEEKEND IN GAMBELLA, A REMOTE SOUTHERN REGION OF ETHIOPIA. A NUMBER OF ETHIOPIANS FROM THE ETHNIC ANUAK GROUP HAVE BEEN REPORTED KILLED, POSSIBLY BY ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS IN RESPONSE TO AN ATTACK ON A CONVOY BY A GROUP OF ANUAKS. THREE AMERICANS WERE REPORTEDLY AMONG THOSE KILLED, BUT SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION FROM POLICE AUTHORITIES INDICATES THAT THEY ARE SAFE.

THE GAMBELLA REGION HOLDS FIVE LARGE UNHCR REFUGEE CAMPS AND HAS A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS. IN LATE 2002, 41 PEOPLE, MAINLY DINKA REFUGEES FROM SUDAN, WERE REPORTED KILLED WHEN ANUAKS OPENED FIRE. THE VIOLENCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO RESOLUTION OF THE ETHIOPIA-ERITREA BORDER.

### AF PRESS GUIDANCE

SUDAN: DARFUR SITUATION

DECEMBER 16, 2003

### KEY POINTS

THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED WITH THE WORSENING

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SUDAN'S WESTERN PROVINCE  
OF DARFUR (DAR FOUR).

THE UNITED STATES CALLS ON ALL WARRING PARTIES TO  
HEED THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND GOVERNMENT  
OF CHAD TO FACILITATE A HUMANITARIAN CEASE-FIRE, END  
THE FIGHTING, AND PERMIT HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO REACH  
AFFECTED CIVILIAN POPULATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES ALSO CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SUDAN TO CONTROL THE MILITIA GROUPS IT HAS ARMED,  
AVOID ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, AND GRANT TRAVEL PERMITS  
TO HUMANITARIAN WORKERS.

THE UNITED STATES URGES ALL PARTIES TO SEEK PEACEFUL  
MEANS TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

THE FIGHTING IN DARFUR IS NOT LINKED TO THE ONGOING  
PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND THE  
SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY IN KENYA.

BACKGROUND:

THE DISPUTES IN DARFUR STEM FROM OVER SEVERAL DECADES  
OF POPULAR RESENTMENT CAUSED BY CONFLICT OVER RESOURCES,  
PARTICULARLY WATER AND GRAZING FOR LIVESTOCK. THIS  
MOST RECENT ITERATION OF FIGHTING BEGAN EARLY IN 2003,  
WHEN A REBEL MOVEMENT CALLING ITSELF THE SUDAN  
LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE  
SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY) ATTACKED THE  
CAPITAL OF NORTH DARFUR STATE, EL-FASHIR, DESTROYING  
GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT AND KILLING DOZENS OF GOVERNMENT  
SOLDIERS. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SLM/A SIGNED A  
CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT IN SEPTEMBER, WHICH ALLOWED  
HUMANITARIAN DELIVERIES TO SOME AREAS. HOWEVER,  
NOT ALL ARMED MILITIA GROUPS IN DARFUR (NOTABLY THE  
RECENTLY EMERGED JUSTICE AND EQUALITY MOVEMENT) ARE  
PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT, AND INSTABILITY REMAINS.  
USAID HAS PROVIDED ABOUT 5,000 TONS OF FOOD AID AND  
ABOUT \$3 MILLION IN EMERGENCY AID THIS YEAR. ON  
DECEMBER 5, THE U.N. EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR  
COMMENTED THAT THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN DARFUR  
IS QUICKLY BECOMING THE "WORST IN THE WO  
RLD."

THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY (SPLM/A)  
HAVE BEEN ENGAGED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN IN  
PEACE TALKS IN MACHAKOS, KENYA, SINCE JUNE 2002.  
KENYAN GENERAL (RETIRED) LAZARO SUMBEIYWO IS  
MEDIATING THE TALKS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD).  
IN JULY 2002, BOTH SIDES RESOLVED THE ISSUES OF  
STATE AND RELIGION AND THE RIGHT OF THE SOUTH TO  
SELF-DETERMINATION BY SIGNING THE HISTORIC MACHAKOS  
PROTOCOL. ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2003, BOTH SIDES SIGNED  
AN AGREEMENT ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. THEY ALSO  
COMMITTED TO THE SECRETARY TO CONCLUDE A FINAL  
COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT BY THE END OF 2003.  
SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT TAHA AND SPLM/A CHAIRMAN  
GARANG ARE PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING IN NAIVASHA,  
KENYA. THIS ROUND IS EXPECTED TO END ON  
DECEMBER 19.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      DECEMBER 16, 2003  
2003/

STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN

SUDAN: SITUATION IN DARFUR

THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE  
RAPIDLY DETERIORATING HUMANITARIAN AND SECURITY  
SITUATION IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN.  
HOSTILITIES IN DARFUR BETWEEN INDIGENOUS OPPOSITION  
GROUPS AND THE SUDANESE ARMED FORCES AND ITS  
ALLIED MILITIAS HAVE CAUSED NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS AND THE U.N. TO CURTAIL NEEDED  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE UNITED  
STATES DEPLORES THE PARTIES' LACK OF ENGAGEMENT TO  
END HOSTILITIES IN DARFUR, DESPITE EFFORTS BY THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD TO  
FACILITATE TALKS AND A HUMANITARIAN CEASE-FIRE.

REPORTS INDICATE MORE THAN 600,000 CIVILIANS  
HAVE BEEN INTERNALLY DISPLACED, 75,000 REFUGEES  
HAVE FLED TO NEIGHBORING CHAD, AND AS MANY AS  
3,000 UNARMED CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED. MANY  
MORE HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM PLANTING OR  
HARVESTING CROPS. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS CONTINUES  
TO BE INHIBITED BY ONGOING INSECURITY AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN'S DENIAL OF TRAVEL PERMITS TO  
HUMANITARIAN WORKERS.

THE UNITED STATES CALLS ON ALL PARTIES TO AGREE  
TO AN OBSERVABLE HUMANITARIAN CEASE-FIRE AND ENGAGE  
IN SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE ON ENDING THE HOSTILITIES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

IN DARFUR. FURTHER, THE UNITED STATES CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO CONTROL THE MILITIA GROUPS IT HAS ARMED, TO AVOID ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS AND TO FULLY FACILITATE THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO CIVILIAN NEEDS.

THE FIGHTING IN DARFUR IS NOT LINKED TO THE ONGOING PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY IN KENYA.

##  
POWELL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED



National Security Archive,  
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,  
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,  
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, [nsarchiv@gwu.edu](mailto:nsarchiv@gwu.edu)