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QUARTERLY UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN DARFUR  
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On May 28, 2007, President Bush imposed sanctions against Sudan in reaction to the violence in Darfur. The President had intended to announce the sanctions in April in a speech at the Holocaust Museum in Washington but had delayed the announcement to give the United Nations and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir more time to try to resolve the situation. Consistent with his promise, he waited only a few weeks. Now, the President has ordered actions against 31 companies and three people - preventing them from doing business in the United States or with U.S. companies. The three Sudanese people affected include two high-ranking government officials and a rebel leader, according to the United States Treasury Department. "<sup>1</sup>

The sanctioned companies include 30 companies owned or controlled by the Government of Sudan, and one company that has violated the arms embargo in Darfur. "These companies have supplied cash to the Bashir regime, enabling it to purchase arms and further fuel the fighting in Darfur," said U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr. "By denying these companies access to the U.S. and international financial system, we will make it harder for the Government of Sudan to pursue its deadly agenda."<sup>2</sup> The companies are accused of transferring small arms, ammunition and artillery to government forces and Janjaweed militia in Darfur.<sup>3</sup>

The three individuals are *Ahmad Muhammed Harun*, Sudan's state minister for humanitarian affairs, who has been accused of war crimes in Darfur by the International Criminal Court in The Hague; *Awad Ibn Auf*, Sudan's head of military intelligence and security; and *Khalil Ibrahim*, leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, a rebel group that has refused to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement. These individuals were targeted "for their roles in fomenting violence and human rights abuses in Darfur."<sup>4</sup>

The sanctions are in the form of Treasury designations, which mandate that any assets held by these entities or individuals within U.S. jurisdiction must be frozen and U.S. citizens are prohibited from transacting or doing business with them. Further, President Bush has ordered Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to draft a

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<sup>1</sup> "Bush Announces Sanctions against Sudan," CNN Money.com, May 29 2007.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Included in the 30 companies are Azza Air Transport Company; GIAD Industrial City, which has supplied armored vehicles to the Sudanese government for military operations in Darfur; Sudatel; the national telecommunications company; and five firms in the petrochemical sector, including Advanced Petroleum Company, RAM Energy Company, Bashaier, Hi-Tech Petroleum Group, and Hi-Tech Chemicals. ("Bush Announces Sanctions against Sudan," CNN Money.com, May 29 2007.)

<sup>4</sup> "Bush Announces Sanctions against Sudan," CNN Money.com, May 29 2007.

resolution that will be presented to the U.N. Security Council, in an effort to convince the body to impose U.N. sanctions on Sudan.<sup>5</sup> The multilateral U.N. sanctions are to include an expanded embargo on arms sales and a no-fly zone over Darfur.

Andrew S. Natsios, the U.S. special envoy for Sudan, acknowledged that the new sanctions would have limited effects on Sudan's oil production and exports. "The purpose of these sanctions is not sanctions. The purpose of these sanctions is to send a message to the Sudanese government to start behaving differently when they deal with their own people."<sup>6</sup>

### The Anticipated Efficacy of the Sanctions

The U.S. government has applied strict sanctions to Sudan since 1997 (when the country played host to Osama bin Laden), so it remains unclear how powerful an effect additional sanctions will have. "We don't have much commercial activities or fat targets of opportunities for slapping new sanctions on Sudan," said J. Stephen Morrison, director of the Africa program at the Center for International and Strategic Studies in Washington.<sup>7</sup> Indeed, business leaders are predicting that new U.S. sanctions will have little effect on the Sudan's booming oil-driven economy, largely because the measures avoid targeting key Chinese interests. Last year, Sudan's economy grew by 12 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund. That growth was propelled by the estimated 500,000 barrels of oil produced each day -- two-thirds of which were purchased by China.<sup>8</sup>

Abdul Rahim Hamdi, a former Sudanese finance minister, noted that only Sudanese oil-drilling companies are on the new sanctions list, not Chinese or other foreign corporations -- some of which pay huge royalties to Sudan's government. U.S. authorities have defended the new measures, saying they both broaden the target list of sanctioned companies and provide better methods to track down embargo evaders. U.S. officials reject the idea that they are leery of disrupting Chinese relations over Darfur. "We can very definitely say that the issue of Sudan is on the United States-China bilateral agenda," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte said last week.<sup>9</sup>

Notwithstanding such assurances, Washington does seem to be toeing a sensitive line. It wants to increase the pressure on the Sudanese government without alienating China, a top American trading partner. It is

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Jad Mouawad, "Oil May Allow Sudan to Escape Sanctions' Pain," New York Times.com, May 30, 2007.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Associated Press, June 5, 2007.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

also apparently unwilling to consider outright oil sanctions against Sudan at a time when global energy prices are high.<sup>10</sup>

### International Developments

In international developments, the European Parliament has called for serious sanctions against the Sudanese government, whose key players were clearly identified by a UN Commission of Inquiry and Panel of Experts. Joschka Fisher, formerly the Foreign Minister of Germany, has said that the European Union must freeze these individuals' assets and impose an EU-wide travel ban on them. He further suggested that measures should target the Sudanese government where it will have the most impact: revenue and foreign investment inflows into Sudan's petroleum sector, and supply of goods and services to that and associated sectors. The EU and its member states' governments must enact legislation to ban companies based in their countries from direct involvement in Sudan's petroleum sector and in industries related to it. Along these lines, he called for an investigation into the offshore accounts of Sudanese businesses affiliated with the National Congress Party, the ruling majority party in Khartoum, which could lead to sanctions against the regime's commercial entities, which form the main conduit for financing its Janjaweed proxies in Darfur.<sup>11</sup>

In France, under the leadership of its new President Nicolas Sarkozy, French officials have approached several European Union member states including Germany, which holds the EU's rotating presidency with the idea, of deploying thousands of European troops in Chad to protect refugees from Darfur. Bernard Kouchner, France's foreign minister and a well-known champion of humanitarian intervention, raised the issue with G8 foreign ministers last week. diplomats say. In addition to sending troops to Chad, an involvement on the Sudanese side of the border could also be explored. Diplomats said yesterday that the French plans were at an early stage and would face opposition from several EU countries reluctant to commit troops to such a mission.<sup>12</sup>

Britain, too, is threatening to impose sanctions on Sudan. Britain will push for tougher U.N. sanctions against Sudan if its government does not support international efforts to end the conflict in Darfur, Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said on June 5, 2007. All sides in the Darfur conflict faced a choice of committing to the political process outlined by the African Union and United Nations or "face the consequences," Beckett told Britain's parliament during a debate on Darfur. She noted that Sudan's cooperation would lead to an end of sanctions and more money for reconstruction and development, but if Sudan failed to honor agreements, Britain and its partners would seek to introduce a further sanctions resolution at the U.N. Security Council. She directed her ire and comments to the rebel groups as well: "And what goes for the government of Sudan goes

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<sup>10</sup> Mouawad, "Oil May Allow Sudan to Escape Sanctions' Pain," *New York Times.com*, May 30, 2007.

<sup>11</sup> Joschka Fischer, "The European Union Must Act in Darfur", *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*, May 7, 2007.

<sup>12</sup> "France Airs Plan to Protect Darfur Refugees," *Financial Times*, June 5, 2007.

for the rebel groups: If they do not cooperate, if they are not willing to enter into a genuine ceasefire, then in our view they too should, and will, be subjected to sanctions.”<sup>13</sup>

China's new Foreign Minister, Yang Jiechi, has U.S. and European efforts to link the Beijing Olympics with Chinese policy in Darfur, saying such efforts run counter to the Olympic spirit. His comments underscored China's determination to prevent anything from spoiling the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, which are viewed by the public and government as an international endorsement of China's rising status and its effort to cultivate friendly relations with countries around the world. These comments appear to be in response to Britain's and the United States' efforts to pressure China to exert its influence in Sudan. (A group of 108 members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to the Chinese government last week warning that the Beijing Olympics could be endangered if China did not change its policies in Sudan. The Bush administration, while praising China for recent steps, has long complained that Beijing is not doing enough to pressure the Sudanese government to accept a full U.N. peacekeeping force in the Darfur region.)<sup>14</sup>

Notwithstanding such condemnations of international pressure, in an apparent reaction to that pressure, on May 11, 2007, Chinese President Hu Jintao's government appointed its first special envoy for Darfur, Liu Guijin. Further, days earlier in May, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced the dispatch of 275 Chinese military engineers, assigned to participate in a U.N.-organized reinforcement to help a beleaguered 7,000-member African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur. Both decisions were seen as gestures to demonstrate China's support for a U.N. plan to station more than 20,000 soldiers and police officers in the Darfur region to stanch the war there.<sup>15</sup>

Updated by Honey Kessler Amado  
for *Jewish World Watch*

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<sup>13</sup>Adrian Croft (Reuters), “UK says Sudan Faces Tough Action if No Darfur Progress,” *WashingtonPost.com*, June 5, 2007.

<sup>14</sup>Edward Code, “Chinese Official Decries Attempts to Link Darfur, Olympics,” *Washington Post*, May 19, 2007, page A12; and see *WashingtonPost.com*, May 19, 2007.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*