



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

SAVE
DARFUR

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
The United Nations
1 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017-3515

Dear Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon,

It has been a long time since the UN Security Council authorized a joint United Nations/African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in July 2007. Activists worldwide are disheartened by news that UNAMID is already struggling to stay on its feet, with Khartoum obstructing full deployment at every turn, and even escalating regional conflict. The people of Darfur, suffering mass atrocities for five years, do not have time to wait.

As Khartoum continues its persistent policy of obstruction, and resumes direct attacks and destruction of villages, civilians in Darfur remain victims of murder, violence and displacement. Women and girls in Darfur have been and continue to be in particular danger, suffering assault, rape and other forms of gender-based violence at the hands of pro-government forces and their proxy militias.

Resolution 1769 expressly emphasized concern about the widespread sexual violence against women, and urged that perpetrators of such crimes be brought to justice. The UN High-Level Mission on the situation of human rights in Darfur, the International Criminal Court, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, moreover, have all reported on the extensive and systematic rape suffered by the women in Darfur. As you have said, "violence against women is always a violation of human rights; it is always a crime; and it is always unacceptable."

As you work now towards full UNAMID deployment, we urge you to act not only to protect the people of Darfur, but to pay particular attention to the needs of women in the context of the peacekeeping force. We ask that you immediately take steps to:

- Ensure that a fully-funded and fully equipped UNAMID is deployed to Darfur;
- Mandate that UNAMID employ all necessary measures to protect women and girls from acts of rape and sexual violence both outside and within Darfuri IDP camps;
- Provide sufficient resources and training to UNAMID troops and police to ensure a capability to properly respond to acts of rape and sexual violence;
- Provide for firewood patrols and other safeguarding measures to protect women and girls leaving refugee and IDP camps; and
- Include an adequate number of female troops and police in UNAMID to properly manage incidents of rape and sexual violence.

Sincerely,