



## Sudan Timeline

### Political unrest history

- 1956 Sudan becomes independent
- 1958 – 1971 Unrest in the country, October Revolution and May Revolution military coups take place
- 1972 Addis Ababa Peace Agreement: South to become a self governing region
- 1978 Oil discovered in Bentiu in Southern Sudan
- 1983 Civil war in the South between the Government and Garang led Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)
- 1983 President Numeiri declares Sharia law (Islamic Law) which pits the Christian/animists in the South against the Muslims in the North
- 1985 Widespread unrest, Numeiri deposed, Transitional Military Council rules Sudan
- 1986 General elections, Coalition government set up: Sadiq al-Mahdi becomes Prime Minister
- 1988 Democratic Unionist Party/Coalition draft cease-fire agreement with SPLM; cease-fire not implemented
- 1989 Military coup: National Salvation Revolution in power
- 1993 Omar al-Bashir appointed President, Revolution Command Council dissolved.
- 1995 Sudan accused of masterminding assassination attempt on Egyptian President Mubark
- 1998 Pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum – allegedly manufacturing chemical weapons - in Khartoum, attacked by US missiles
- 1998 Referendum for new constitution endorsed by over 96% voters
- 1999 Power struggle between President Bashir and Speaker of the House, Islamic leader Hassan al-Turabi, National Assembly dissolved, state of emergency declared

### Advent of oil

- 1999 Sudan begins to export oil.
- 2000 President Bashir meets National Democratic Alliance in Eritrea.  
Elections: Main opposition parties boycott, Bashir is re-elected for another five years.
- 2001 Memorandum of Understanding signed by al-Turabi's party, the Popular National Congress, rebel group of SPLM, Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Government arrests several opposing political leaders including Al-Turabi.
- 2001 Nairobi: Peace talks fail between Bashir and SPLM leader Garang  
Initiatives: Government accepts offer of Egypt/Libya to end civil war  
Unilateral sanctions extended: U.S. cite terrorism and rights violations

## Peace deal

- 2002 Nuba Mountains (key rebel stronghold): Bashir and SPLA sign landmark ceasefire agreement, providing a 6-month renewable ceasefire
- 8-year peace process ended: deal to end conflict in South Sudan
- Kenya: Breakthrough agreement between the Government and Southern Rebels to end 19-year civil war.
- Machakos Protocol: South to seek self-determination after 6 years
- 2003 Feb Western Darfur: Rebels rise against Government, cite neglect of region by Khartoum
- 2003 Oct PNC leader Turabi released from detention after 3 years, ban on PNC lifted

## Uprising in west

- 2004 Jan Western Darfur: army quells rebel uprising; hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring Chad.

## Darfur conflict kills tens of thousands, displaces millions

- 2004 Mar UN official says government sponsored Arab "Janjaweed" militias carrying out systematic killings of African villagers in Darfur.
- Detentions: Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, army officers and opposition politicians detained over alleged coup plot
- 2004 May Breakthrough: division of oil and non-oil resources between North and South
- Power sharing: Government and southern rebels agree on power sharing
- 2004 Sept Intervention to stop genocide
- Sudan fails to meet targets for disarming Janjaweed militias, UN forces intervene to protect civilians
- U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell describes Darfur killings as genocide.

## Peace agreement

- 2005 Jan Peace deal: Khartoum Government and Southern rebels sign peace deal: permanent ceasefire; wealth and power sharing
- Garang's term in government cut short
- Systematic abuses in Darfur: UN report accuses the government stops short of calling the violence genocide.
- 2005 Mar Sanctions and War Crimes
- UN Security Council authorises sanctions against ceasefire violators in Darfur; Council votes those accused of war crimes in Darfur to be referred to the ICC
- 2005 June Reconciliation Deal: Government and exiled opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) sign reconciliation into power-sharing administration.

Detainee Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi released

### **Southern autonomy**

- 2005 9 July Garang sworn in as first Vice President: constitution giving South a degree of autonomy is signed
- 2005 1 Aug Garang killed in plane crash after visiting Ugandan ally Museveni. Salva Kiir succeeds Garang. Widespread clashes between northern Arabs and southern Sudanese
- 2005 Sept Power-sharing government formed in Khartoum.
- 2005 Oct Autonomous government formed in the South in accordance with Jan 2005 peace deal. Administration dominated by former rebels.

### **Darfur conflict**

- 2006 May Peace Accord signed: between Khartoum government, main rebel faction in Darfur and the Sudan Liberation Movement. Smaller rebels groups left out and reject accord. Fighting continues
- 2006 Aug UN peacekeeping force in Darfur rejected: Sudan says its sovereignty compromised.

### **African Union struggles to contain the escalating Darfur violence**

- 2006 Oct UN top official expelled: Jan Pronk leaves Sudan
- 2006 Nov Peacekeeping Mandate: African Union extends AU peacekeeping force's mandate in Darfur by six months
- Heavy fighting erupts around southern town of Malakal, between the north Sudanese forces and former rebel foes in the south. Hundreds thought to have died
- 2007 Apr UN troop deployment to reinforce AU peacekeepers in Darfur
- Sudan accepts a partial UN troop deployment, but not 20,000 strong.

### **War crimes charges**

- 2007 May ICC arrest warrants: for State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun and the Janjaweed militia leader known as Ali Kosheib (a pseudonym for Ali Mohammed Ali) both suspected of war crimes in Darfur.
- Fresh sanctions: U.S. issues fresh sanctions against Sudan
- 2007 July UNAMID: UN Security Council approves a resolution authorising a 26,000 hybrid force for Darfur (United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur); Sudan agrees to co-operate with UNAMID.
- 2007 Oct Accusations: SPLM temporarily suspends participation in national unity government, accusing Khartoum of failing to honour the 2005 peace deal.
- 2007 Dec SPLM resumes participation in national unity government.
- 2008 Jan UN takes over Darfur peace force:
- Sudan opens fire on UNAMID convoy: Sudan apologises

Bombing in West Darfur: Government planes bomb rebel positions; areas become no-go zones for aid workers.

2008 Feb UNAMID underpowered: Commander of the UN-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, Balla Keita, says more troops needed urgently in west Darfur.

Clashes break out in Abyei – oil rich town in the South: key sticking point of 2005 peace accord

2008 Mar Urgently need helicopters to patrol: Russia prepared to provide some helicopters to UN-African Union peacekeepers.

Rising tensions: clashes break out between Arab militia and SPLM in Abyei on north/south divide

Sudan/Chad peace accord: halts 5 years of hostilities between Sudan and Chad

### **Controversial 2008 Census and Sudan's political future**

2008 Apr National census counting: a vital step towards holding democratic elections after 2005 north/south peace deal

Rising death toll: UN humanitarian chief John Holmes says 300,000 people may have died in the five-year Darfur conflict

2008 May Plane crash: Southern defence minister Dominic Dim Deng killed in a plane crash in the south.

Sudan/Chad tensions: Darfur rebel groups raid Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Nile; Sudan accuses Chad of involvement and breaks of diplomatic relations

Abyei: intense fighting breaks out between north/south forces over disputed oil rich Abyei

2008 June Arbitration over Abyei: al-Bashir and Salva Kiir agree to international arbitration to resolve dispute over Abyei.

2008 July Calls for arrest of President Bashir for crimes against humanity

ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo presents evidence showing al-Bashir committed the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur

Appeal first ever request to the ICC for the arrest of a sitting head of state;

Sudan reject the indictment.

2008 Sept Census Results to be announced

Southerners reserve the right not to be bound by the results: Count will help determine distribution of wealth and power, set constituencies for the first time since 23 years of strife, due in 2009.

Millions of southerners displaced by the war have not returned to their homes in the South;

Questions of ethnicity and religion were not inserted into the census questionnaire

Western Darfur region also reject the census: hundreds of thousands of victims of the 5-year conflict in Western Darfur will not accept the results owing to a distrust of the government