

PROMISES **BROKEN**

**TIME AND TIME AGAIN:
President al-Bashir's broken
promises on Darfur...**

FACT: PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR MAKES, AND BREAKS, CEASE-FIRES.

PROMISE MADE...

Example #1:

The Sudanese Government and Sudan Liberation Army signed a cease-fire agreement effective September 6, 2003. (BBC Monitoring International reports — Sudan TV, Omdurman in Arabic, September 6, 2003) **President al-Bashir termed the ceasefire a true accomplishment through which Darfur would bid farewell to war.** (BBC Monitoring International Reports – Sudan TV, in Arabic, September 4, 2003)

Example #2:

The Sudanese government signed a cease-fire with rebels in the western Darfur region. (The Associated Press, April 8, 2004). **President al-Bashir said in a live televised speech, “Bye-bye to military operations” and “the coming period is for peace, development and progress.”** (Panafican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire, April 28, 2004)

Example #3:

Government negotiators issued a statement Friday saying Sudan would uphold an AU-brokered, April cease-fire. (Associated Press Worldstream, September 17, 2004)

Example #4:

President al-Bashir agreed to a 60-day cessation of hostilities in a joint statement with New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. (Joint Press Statement on the Conclusion of the Visit by Governor Bill Richardson to the Sudan, 7th – 10th January 2007)

PROMISE BROKEN...

The government is immediately accused of breaking the cease-fire, with reports of tens of villages attacked, thousands of civilians displaced and dozens of civilians killed. (Panafican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire, September 8, 2003; Africa News, September 15, 2003; BBC Monitoring International Reports, September 20, 2003; BBC Monitoring International Reports – Al Khartoum, Khartoum in Arabic, September 20, 2003)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported fighting in Darfur continued to displace citizens despite the cease-fire. (Africa News, July 6, 2004) New attacks continued to be reported, including in Um Hashab, Darfur, where residents said Sudanese soldiers attacked with a warplane and helicopters, driving farmers from their homes days before a U.N. deadline to end the violence. (The Chicago Tribune, August 30, 2004)

Months later, the Sudanese air force bombed villages in South Darfur, observers from the African Union reported. “It is a major cease-fire violation,” said the senior AU political officer for Sudan, Jean-Baptiste Natama. (The Associated Press, January 26, 2005)

Government planes soon breached a cease-fire by bombing villages in northern Darfur, rebel commanders said. “It’s too early to count the dead, but there are probably many,” said rebel commander Abdallah Banda. (The Associated Press, January 21, 2007)



PROMISES **BROKEN**

FACT: PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR HAS PROMISED, BUT FAILED, TO DISARM THE JANJAWEEED MILITIAS.

PROMISE MADE...

With the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement, the Sudanese government agreed to complete verifiable disarmament and demobilization of Janjaweed militia by mid-October 2006. (Fact Sheet, Office of the Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, May 8, 2006). In mid-October, the Sudanese government again announced a plan to disarm the Janjaweed over the next two months. (Agence France Presse – English, October 16, 2006)



PROMISE BROKEN...

The U.N. reported that “Janjaweed militia forces killed about 50 civilians in an attack this week on Darfur villages in the latest atrocity that can be linked to the Sudanese government. “At the very least, the attacks demonstrated the government of Sudan’s continued failure to disarm militias in Darfur.” (Associated Press Worldstream, November 3, 2006) Amnesty International sharply criticized Sudan for failing to disarm Janjaweed militias: “A government promise to disarm the Janjaweed was broken, as it had been after numerous previous agreements.” (Agence-France Presse – English, May 23, 2007)

FACT: PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR BLOCKS THE PEACE PROCESS.

PROMISE MADE...

Example #1:

President al-Bashir said the army will be rehabilitated and trained to keep the country’s peace. He called the army “the vanguard for peace” and said soldiers will “deter any attempt to undermine the peace achievements,” the official Sudan News Agency, SUNA, reported. (UPI, January 13, 2005)



PROMISE BROKEN...

One month later, Sudan’s military itself undermined the peace when it bombed and destroyed eight villages in Darfur. (Associated Press Worldstream, February 23, 2005)

Example #2:

al-Bashir said peace talks aimed at a political settlement “should be expedited at the earliest possible time,” and he called on “those who have influence” on rebel groups outside of the peace agreement to “use it for the sake of peace and stability in Darfur.” (Associated Press Worldstream, December 27, 2006)



A few days later, the AU reported that Sudanese forces bombed two rebel locations in Darfur just days after the head of the African Union’s peacekeeping force visited the area to urge the rebels to join a cease-fire agreement. (Associated Press Worldstream, December 31, 2006)

PROMISES **BROKEN**

FACT: PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR AND HIS GOVERNMENT RESIST THE HYBRID PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

PROMISE MADE...

Example #1:

Sudan agreed to accept a U.N. team to prepare for the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Darfur, but cautioned that any U.N. role in the troubled western region would be smaller than some UN Security Council members want. (Associated Press Worldstream, May 25, 2006)

Example #2:

A top Sudanese official signaled that Khartoum would accept U.N. troops as part of an African-led peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Maghzoub al-Khalifa, the special adviser to the president on Darfur issues, said “the concept of a mixed AU-U.N. force for Darfur is not a problem, as long as it remains clear that the leadership of the force, and its largest component, remain African.” (Associated Press Worldstream, November 17, 2006)

Example #3:

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, al-Bashir dropped his opposition to the hybrid force. He said the conclusions of a November 16, 2006, meeting of key Sudanese and international diplomats in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the November 30, 2006, summit of the African Union’s Peace and Security Council in Abuja, Nigeria, which endorsed the three-step U.N. plan, “constitute a viable framework for peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur.” (Associated Press Worldstream, December 27, 2006)

“President al-Bashir reaffirmed his commitment to continue to facilitate the deployment of U.N. personnel and equipment consistent with his agreement with the Secretary General of the U.N. on Phases II and III...” (Joint Press Statement on the Conclusion of the Visit by Governor Bill Richardson to the Sudan, 7th – 10th January 2007)

PROMISE BROKEN...

President al-Bashir’s tone was harsher: “Any attempt of deploying U.N. forces in Darfur is totally refused by the Sudanese people,” he said. (Xinhua General News Service, June 29, 2006)

Sudan’s president rejected a proposal to send U.N. troops to Darfur. “We want an African force,” President al-Bashir told reporters after leaving a closed-door African Union summit in Abuja. “We can take technical advisory and financial support from the U.N., but no U.N. force,” he said. (Associated Press Worldstream, November 30, 2006)

President al-Bashir rejected the deployment of U.N. troops in Darfur. “There are sufficient forces in the Sudan from African countries to maintain order, and they can provide order,” he said. (Associated Press Worldstream, January 10, 2007 Wednesday 6:50 PM GMT)

Weeks later, President al-Bashir said: “Only an African Union force, led by an African commander and raised completely by the African Union is acceptable in Darfur,” (Associated Press Worldstream, February 7, 2007)

PROMISES **BROKEN**

FACT: PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR DISPUTES UNITED NATIONS REPORTS.

AL-BASHIR'S "FICTION"...

Example #1:

al-Bashir told Ann Curry in an NBC News interview that "It is not in the Sudanese culture of people of Darfur to rape. It doesn't exist." He claimed that rape is not committed in Sudan because it is a religious crime. (NBC News interview with Ann Curry aired March 19 on NBC Nightly News and March 20 on The Today Show)



DARFUR'S FACT...

But according to the U.N. High-Level Mission report, rape and sexual violence are widespread in Darfur, Sudan. The report says that, "in particular, rape and sexual assault have been widespread and systematic, terrorizing women and breaking down families and communities." (U.N. High-Level Mission report, pages 12-14).

Example #2:

al-Bashir said in the same interview that only 600,000 Sudanese citizens have been displaced – and everything is provided for displaced persons. (NBC News interview with Ann Curry aired March 20 on the Today Show)



But, according to the U.N. High-Level Mission report, there are "well over two million displaced people in Darfur – and more than 30,000 more refugees in the camps in Chad, with new arrivals daily." (U.N. High-Level Mission report, page 13). The report also states that aid to displaced persons has been thwarted by "attacks on humanitarian workers, obstacles and interference with humanitarian aid by the government and armed militia, which have increased during 2006-2007." (U.N. High-Level Mission report, pages 2, 16).

Example #3:

He went on to say that "We have the judicial system in Sudan – anyone who committed a war crime, anti-human crime or any other crime will be locked up." (NBC News interview with Ann Curry aired March 19 on the NBC Nightly News)



But, according to the U.N. High-Level Mission report, "Mechanisms of justice and accountability where they exist in Sudan are under-resourced, politically compromised and ineffective. The region is heavily armed, further undercutting the rule of law, and meaningful disarmament and demobilization of the Janjaweed, other militia and rebel movements is yet to occur." (U.N. High-Level Mission report, pages 2, 16)