

American

NEWS & VIEWS

A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

June 16, 2011

President Obama on Violence in Sudan.....	1
U.N. Human Rights Council Action on Syria.....	1

President Obama on Violence in Sudan

Washington, D.C.
June 14, 2011

Statement by President Obama on Sudan

The United States is deeply concerned by the crisis that is unfolding in Sudan, including the fighting in Southern Kordofan and the assaults on innocent civilians. So along with our allies and partners in Africa and around the world, the United States is working to end the violence and to protect innocent civilians.

There is no military solution.

The leaders of Sudan and South Sudan must live up to their responsibilities. The Government of Sudan must prevent a further escalation of this crisis by ceasing its military actions immediately, including aerial bombardments, forced displacements and campaigns of intimidation.

Negotiations are now underway that offer a path to peace. Both sides must agree to end the violence; to allow free movement of aid workers and relief supplies to help those in need; to fulfill their commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to resolve their differences peacefully.

Today, I want to speak directly to Sudanese leaders: you must know that if you fulfill your obligations and choose peace, the United States will take the steps we have pledged toward normal relations. However, those who flout their international obligations will face more pressure and isolation, and they will be held accountable for their actions.

In three weeks, after decades of civil wars that have killed millions and turned millions more into refugees, South Sudan will gain its independence and become the world's newest nation, and the people of both north and south will have the opportunity to move toward the promise of greater peace and prosperity.

The Sudanese people have come too far, and sacrificed too much, to see their dreams of a better future slip from their grasp. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders to show the courage and vision that true leadership demands. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders, north and south, to choose peace.

U.N. Human Rights Council Action on Syria

U.S. Department of State

Press Statement by Ambassador Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe
Geneva, Switzerland
June 15, 2011

Press Statement Following the Delivery of a Joint Statement by Human Rights Council Members on the Situation in Syria

Just six weeks ago the Human Rights Council held a Special Session on the urgent human rights crisis emerging in Syria. At that session, the Council unequivocally condemned the use of violence against peaceful protestors by Syrian authorities, and called upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urgently dispatch a mission to Syria to investigate the Government's ongoing violations of its citizens' human rights. But the Syrian government has chosen intransigence and not allowed the High Commissioner's office to enter Syria to investigate the Government's ongoing human rights violations and crimes.

Regrettably, since the urgent Special Session, the already troubling human rights situation in Syria has continued deteriorated. The Syrian government continues to use its military and security forces against peaceful protestors, and over 1000 civilians have died. The region and the wider international community have been shocked by horrific reports of torture and arbitrary arrests, and widespread use of lethal violence against peaceful protestors. Today, the Human Rights Council has spoken again and used its voice to pressure the Syrian authorities to stop these human rights violations. The international community demands the immediate halt of violent repression by Syrian security forces, and calls on the Syrian authorities establish credible, independent and transparent investigations into these abuses, and accountability for those who perpetrated them, and to allow unfettered access to the OHCHR mission to investigate allegations of human rights violations.

We believe that this statement will show the resolve of the international community to support human rights at a time of great conflict, unrest, and transition throughout the Middle East.

The United States strongly supports the universal rights of the Syria people, including the rights of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and the ability to determine their own destiny. These are human rights. They are universal. They are not negotiable. They must be respected in every country. And they cannot be denied through violence or suppression.

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