

Assessment of EU statements on Sudan and their reference to the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, protection of civilians and the use of aerial bombardments 2012-2015

Table of content

Introduction..... 3

Method..... 3

Outcomes 4

Conclusions..... 9

ANNEX I 10

ANNEX II 23

Introduction

The goal of this research was to see if the EU has taken any position over the past years on the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, condemning the aerial bombardments by the Government of Sudan (GoS) on civilians and calling for the protection of civilians.

Method

Different type of statements have been researched, such as council conclusions, declaration by the High Representative (HR) on behalf of the EU, statements from the EU HR, statements by the spokesperson of the HR and press releases/statements by the EU delegation in Khartoum.

For the statements coming from the Brussels headquarters different statements as of January 2012 have been researched. It was attempted to have a complete overview, pulling together statements from the EEAS website and PAX staff inboxes, however the list of statements may still not be complete. Also, sometimes statements are indirectly about Sudan, but the word Sudan isn't in it, which makes it hard to find them. For example, last June there has been a statement by the EU HR on South Africa and upholding their responsibilities stemming from the signing of the Rome Statute. There is no reference to Sudan, or President Bashir, however the statement comes at a time when the world is watching whether South Africa will hand over Bashir to the ICC.

To test whether the EU delegation in Khartoum has other statements or positions the website of the EU delegation has also been looked into. However, a lot of different types of documents are posted on the website; ranging from press releases on meetings the EU Ambassador has had (with Minister of Foreign Affairs, opposition, youth leaders), general statements on particular international days (children in conflict, women's day etc), to publishing statements by the HR or Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid Stylianides. As there is a bulk of this type of information on the website of the Khartoum delegation, the research for the delegation was limited to the year of 2015 and only relevant statements in the context of this research are mentioned here.

Within the statements it was looked at whether the EU uses words like "protection of civilians", "aerial bombardments" and specifying on the role of the GoS and explicitly referring to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

In annex I you can find the links to the different statements, a short description what they are about, when relevant a few quotes from the statement, followed by a brief analysis in which way the text refers to the elements looked for. In annex II you can find the links to statements posted in 2015 on the website of the EU delegation in Khartoum.

Outcomes

The table below provides an overview of the different type of statements used by the EU and whether they have been referring to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, the responsibility of the GoS, protection of civilians and aerial bombardments.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Council Conclusions	23 July 23 April	22 July	20 October	
Declaration by HR on behalf of the EU				9 April
Statements by HR	3 April 7 May 4 August 21 September 27 September			
Statements by spokesperson HR	3 March 8 March 28 March 11 April 26 April 30 June 4 October 18 October	4 January 8 January 21 February 26 April 1 May 10 June 16 July 6 September	27 February 15 May 30 December	
Total of statements	15	9	4	1
- On PoC	None	II 22 Jul – very explicit reminder of responsibility GoS to PoC 1 May – attacks on civilians	I 20 Oct	None
- On SK / BN	VII – 8 Mar, 11Apr, 23 Apr, 26 Apr, 23 Jul, 4 Aug, 21 Sep, 27 Sep	II - 22 Jul, 1 May	I 20 Oct	Very indirect
- On aerial bombardments	VI– 8 Mar, 28 Mar, 11 Apr – unacceptable, 23 Apr, 26 Apr, 4 Oct	None	None	None

2012

In 2012 there are many different statements on Sudan, the majority of them detailing on the relation with South Sudan. There are a few exceptions that are dealing with the need for other countries to uphold their responsibilities under the Rome statute when President Bashir or other indicted

representatives of the GoS are visiting [3 March] and condemning a lethal incident where UNAMID peacekeepers got killed in Darfur [4 October].

In 2012 the EU on numerous occasions speaks out on the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile [8 March, 11 April, 23 April, 26 April, 23 July, 4 August, 21 September, 27 September]. Clear calls are being made on the parties involved; enter into direct talks, agree on complete cessation of hostilities, reach political settlement. For example the statement of 23 July reads: *“The EU is deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile (...) The EU calls on the GoS and SPLM/North to resume talks without further delay in order to reach a negotiated political settlement to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile (...)”*. The link between the humanitarian plight of the people and the conflict is recognised, but there is no reference to protection of civilians.

In 2012 there is also explicit use of the wording “aerial bombardment” [statements of 8 March, 28 March, 11 April, 23 April, 26 April, 4 October], at some point even being called “unacceptable” [statement of 11 April]. However the reference is only made in relation to the use of aerial bombardment on the territory of the neighbouring country or in relation to Darfur. For example the statement of 23 April reads: *“The EU condemns continued aerial bombardments and reported ground incursions into South Sudan by the Sudan Armed Forces.”*

Striking is the one statement of 3 April 2012 reacting to video footage that has emerged. The EU HR speaks out on statements by Sudanese officials regarding a “take no prisoners” policy. It’s the only time in the context of this research that the EU says that *“The GoS must ensure that the Sudan Armed Forces and other security forces abide by international humanitarian law at all times.”*

Two other interesting statements are the one from 30 June about the crackdown on demonstrations in Sudan and the one from 18 October on the attack against a UNAMID convoy in North Darfur. The latter states: *“A group of EU Ambassadors is currently visiting North Darfur to get a better understanding of the security situation.”* This approach hasn’t been repeated, at least other information has not been found, until September 2015, when it was said that EU Ambassadors will visit East Sudan, including Blue Nile: *“The European Union Ambassador publicized at the meeting an imminent visit by all the European Ambassadors to East Sudan to be informed about the progress in development and stability of the situation in the East. Ambassador Tomas Ulicny added that the visit will include also the Blue Nile State.”* [Statement by the EU delegation September 2015, exact date unknown]

2013

In 2013 there are 9 different statements on Sudan. Interesting is the one statement on the 8th of January 2013 where the EU reacts to the closure of 4 civil society organisations in Sudan, calling “on the GoS to reverse its decision (...) and promote an environment where independent civil society organisations can operate freely.”

On three occasions [21 February, 26 April and 16 July] the EU calls on ICC countries to uphold their responsibilities under the Rome statute when President Bashir or other indicted representatives of the GoS are visiting Chad and Nigeria.

There are four different statements that in one way or another are dealing with the relations with South Sudan; on the 4th of January there is a statement on the Summit between the presidents of Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa; on the 10th of June about the implementation of the Addis Ababa agreements of 27 September 2012; on the 22nd of July there are council conclusions on Sudan and South Sudan; on the 6th of September in response to the GoS's announcement to stop oil exports from South Sudan about the implementation of the Addis Abeba agreements, Abyei and border related issues.

On two occasions the EU statements really speak out on the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile [1 May, 22 July]. The statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the conflict in Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states from the 1st of May is the only statement in the context of this research that specifically deals with this conflict. It comes in response to the start of direct talks in Addis Ababa between the GoS and the SPLM-N. The EU HR *"condemns the most recent attacks on civilians including that by the Sudan Revolutionary Front on Um Rawaba town in Northern Korodofan as well as the ongoing fighting between the Government and SPLM/North forces in Southern Korodofan and Blue Nile."* The statement has a balanced approach to the GoS and SPLM/North: *"She urges both parties to commit to resume negotiations in good faith in order to agree on an immediate ceasefire, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and on a comprehensive solution to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile with a view to an inclusive national dialogue."* This statement does not refer to bombardments by the GoS on civilians, nor on the responsibility of the GoS to protect its citizens.

In the Council Conclusions on Sudan and South Sudan from the 22nd of July there is explicit reference to the conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile: *"The EU remains deeply concerned by the long running conflict in Darfur and the ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions of Sudan."* The EU doesn't refer to bombardments by the GoS on its citizens explicitly, but there is more strong language towards the GoS, reminding it of its responsibilities in terms of protection of civilians (PoC): *"The EU recalls the responsibility of the Government of Sudan to protect all its civilians and the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian and human rights law."*

2014

In 2014 there are four different EU statements on Sudan; a clear drop in the number of statements in comparison to the years before. Three out of the four statements are responses to incidents that require a response by the EU on a principle (and that you would see in the context of different countries as well); for DRC to uphold its responsibilities under the Rome statute [27 February], sentencing Meriam Yahya Ibrahim to flogging and capital punishment on charges of adultery and apostasy [15 May] and the expelling of UN officials [30 December].

Only in the Council Conclusions on Sudan [20 October], which are setting different conditions for the National Dialogue to succeed, is there clear reference to the conflicts in Southern Korodofan and Blue Nile: *"The European Union remains deeply concerned at the ongoing conflicts in Sudan, notably in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and the accompanying violations of humanitarian and human rights law (...)"*. There is no specific mentioning of the bombardments by the GoS on its citizens and a balanced approach to all groups is chosen: *"These [confidence-building measures] should include, first and foremost an immediate, sustained and verifiable cessation of hostilities and free and unhindered humanitarian access to all civilians in the conflict areas. This is of relevance both*

to the Government of Sudan and to the armed movements.” In the context of describing the worsening humanitarian situation the EU does make a call in relation to the PoC: “It reiterates its call on the Government of Sudan, as well as on armed movements to guarantee safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas by humanitarian agencies, in particular in conflict affected areas in line with international humanitarian principles. Civilians, humanitarian staff and assets must be protected.”

2015

Although 2015 hasn't come to an end yet, the number of statements by the Brussels headquarters in relation to Sudan has only further decreased. So far only one statement by the EU High Representative on behalf of the EU on the lack of a conducive environment for the upcoming elections in Sudan has been released [9 April]. In this statement there is only very indirect mentioning of the conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile: *“In its conclusions of October 2014, the EU called for a comprehensive solution to Sudan's conflicts and that this should lead to an inclusive political process that would provide peace and prosperity for Sudan.”*

For the year 2015 the statements by the EU delegation in Khartoum are also assessed. It's interesting to see that following the statement by the HR on the 9th of April another statement by the EU delegation in Khartoum is made public saying: *“With the EU commitment to the people of Sudan unwavering, the EU Ambassador is confident that the EU statement will not significantly impact relations with Sudan.”*

In a statement by the Commissioner for Humanitarian aid, posted by the EU delegation in Khartoum, the EU does refer to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile: Commissioner Stylianides: *“I am extremely worried by the worsening situation in the conflict-affected areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan (...)” “On 20 January, a hospital was bombed in Frandala, in the Nuba mountains in South Kordofan, while on 26 January a clearly marked humanitarian helicopter was forced to land in a rebel-held area in South Kordofan State.”*

Furthermore there has also been a statement by the EU on South Africa and the ICC: *“(.)the EU expects South Africa, a founding State Party of the Court, to act in accordance with UN Security Council 1593, in executing the arrest warrant against any ICC indictee present in the country.”* Even though this statement is in response to President Bashir visiting South Africa, there is no reference at all to Sudan, nor President Bashir in the statement.

The statements in 2015 seem to suggest that the EU is becoming more careful when speaking out on Sudan, or at least tries to soothen them when semi-harsh words have been said. For the limited number of public statements that has been published in 2015, there is hardly any to no reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, the bombardments by the GoS on its own citizens and the responsibility of the GoS to protect its people.

The current debate on migration at the EU leads the EU *“to step up its cooperation and support to key countries in Africa. (...) We are increasing our work within existing dialogues and partnerships as well as regional efforts such as the Rabat and Khartoum processes.”* , as EU HR Mogherini has stated at the UNSC during her intervention on migration in May 2015. However, these type of statements,

relating to thematic issues, that may touch upon Sudan have not been looked into in the context of this research.

Conclusions

- The number of statements on Sudan in general and on the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in particular has decreased significantly over the past four years. In 2013 there has been one statement completely dedicated to the conflict, but that's the only time. In 2014 three out of the four statements are responses to incidents that require a response by the EU on a principle (death penalty, upholding Rome Statute/ICC, expelling UN officials) and that you could see in the context of different countries as well and are not Sudan specific.
- It should be noted that the decrease in statements on Sudan coincides with the ending of the mandate of EUSR Marsden in October 2013 who was succeeded by EUSR Rondos. EUSR Rondos has a broader mandate, covering the whole region and not Sudan and South Sudan alone. Rondos also seems to operate in a different manner; not wanting to put words to paper and making a moral statement, when they are not having the desired impact with the GoS.
- In 6 out of the 15 statements in 2012 did the EU speak out explicitly on aerial bombardments, albeit not in relation to the GoS bombing its own citizens in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, rather about the government's bombardments in South Sudan and Darfur. In the following years the words "aerial bombardments" are no longer used in statements.
- Reference to protection of civilians is very limited. Only on three occasions is there reference to it. Only in July 2013 is there very explicit reference: *"The EU recalls the responsibility of the Government of Sudan to protect all its civilians and the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian and human rights law."*
- The EU uses a balanced approach when speaking to parties involved in the conflicts.
- The tone of language also changed over time; from encouraging words in 2012 [Council Conclusions on the Roadmap for Sudan and South Sudan, 23 July 2012], perhaps following the optimism over South Sudan's peaceful separation, to using more strong language, telling Sudan what to do [Council Conclusions on Sudan stating conditions for a successful national dialogue, 20 October 2014].
- At the same time the language becomes less explicit and more diplomatic. Not the least in 2015, when the EU is seeking more cooperation with Sudan on migration issues. This can be seen in the statement by the EU delegation more or less undermining the April 9 statement of the EU HR and the Member States on the so called elections in Sudan; or the lack of even mentioning Sudan when telling South Africa to uphold its responsibilities under the Rome Statute.

ANNEX I

14 June 2015


http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150614_02_en.htm

- Statement by the Spokesperson on South Africa and the ICC

“(..)the EU expects South Africa, a founding State Party of the Court, to act in accordance with UN Security Council 1593, in executing the arrest warrant against any ICC indictee present in the country.”

- Analysis: The messages is a reaction to the presence of Bashir in South Africa, but Bashir, nor Sudan, is mentioned at all.

EU DEL 21 April 2015

[The EU Ambassador says EU position on elections and dialogue will not significantly impact relations with Sudan](#)  [361 KB]

- On a meeting between the Sudanese MFA and the EU ambassador
- “The delegation of the EU to Sudan confirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an exchange of views with the EU Ambassador Tomas Ulicny on 21 April 2015 about the elections and the EU position on it”
- “With the EU commitment to the people of Sudan unwavering, the EU Ambassador is confident that the EU statement will not significantly impact relations with Sudan.”

9 April 2015

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/04/04-declaration-hr-upcoming-elections-sudan/>

- Declaration by the HR/VP on behalf of the EU
- On the lack of a conducive environment for the upcoming elections in Sudan

“In its conclusions of October 2014, **the EU called for a comprehensive solution to Sudan’s conflicts** and that this should lead to an inclusive political process that would provide peace and prosperity for Sudan.”

- Wording: the EU *reiterates* this view.

24 March 2015

- Statement by the spokesperson of Federica Mogherini
- On the signature of the Agreement on Declaration of Principles on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project

EU DEL 09 March 2015 (International Women’s day)

- EU Ambassador calls for greater accountability and praises the role of Sudanese women

“The ongoing fighting in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile continues to cause suffering for the civilian population, in particular women and children.”

“At the same time, women in Sudan have an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and development. ...”

EU DEL 12 February 2015 (International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers)

AU-EU joint statement

Analysis: general statement on children in conflict. No particular reference to Sudan.

EU DEL 11 February 2015

Title: European Union worried about the situation in Blue Nile and South Kordofan

Commissioner Stylianides: “I am extremely worried by the worsening situation in the conflict-affected areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan (...)”

“On 20 January, a hospital was bombed in Frandala, in the Nuba mountains in South Kordofan, while on 26 January a clearly marked humanitarian helicopter was forced to land in a rebel-held area in South Kordofan State.”

EU DEL 09 February 2015

Title: EU briefed by opposition parties on the state of National Dialogue

The leaders of (...) reiterated their interest to participate in a meaningful national dialogue based on the agreed 7+7 roadmap of August and Addis Agreement of 2014.

EU DEL 07 February 2015

Title: EU calls for immediate release of all political detainees

- EU delegation and political councillors from EU MS are briefed on legal and political aspects of the procedures against political prisoners and political parties, as well as the recent closures of civil society organisations in Sudan.

30 December 2014

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2014/141230_02_en.htm

- Statement by the Spokesperson
- On the latest developments in Sudan
- About: expelling senior UN officials, risking international assistance, the relations with the international community
- Wording: No explicit reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

20 October 2014

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/145192.pdf

- Council Conclusions
- On Sudan

“1. The European Union remains deeply concerned at the ongoing conflicts in Sudan, notably in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and the accompanying violations of humanitarian and human rights law, as well as a serious humanitarian emergency all of which continue to cause enormous human suffering and internal displacements and pose a risk to regional stability. There can be no military solution to conflicts in Sudan. The EU therefore supports the African Union Peace and Security Council’s repeated call for a holistic approach to Sudan’s multiple challenges and the need to tackle comprehensively the political, economic and social causes of persisting conflict.”

“2. The initiated National Dialogue process is currently the best opportunity to make progress towards this goal and to **pave the way towards internal peace**, reconciliation and democratic governance. (...) It calls on all groups to **renounce violence as a means for political change** and to seize this opportunity for a political solution to Sudan’s challenges through dialogue and negotiation without delay.”

“3. The EU considers that for the National Dialogue to succeed and to achieve legitimate results, it should be:

- Inclusive : (...)
- Comprehensive: to **address Sudan’s internal conflicts**, issues such as socio-economic marginalisation, unequal distribution of resources, political exclusion and lack of access to public services need to be tackled. **The dialogue should provide mechanisms for the way forward for peace and development in all regions in conflict.** It should provide for a platform on which to discuss issues of national importance, including identity and social equality, agree new and inclusive governance arrangements, a definitive constitution and a roadmap for holding national elections.
- Held in a conducive environment: (...)
- Accompanied by confidence-building measures: These should include, first and foremost an **immediate, sustained and verifiable cessation of hostilities** and **free and unhindered humanitarian access to all civilians in the conflict areas.** This is of relevance both to the Government of Sudan and to the armed movements.
- (...)

“5. (...)The EU supports current efforts to create a comprehensive platform for the facilitation of the National Dialogue that will **integrate the different peace and dialogue processes for Sudan’s regional conflicts.**”

“7. In the face of the worsening humanitarian situation the EU is very concerned by access restrictions still imposed for international humanitarian agencies and organisations. It reiterates its call on the Government of Sudan, as well as on armed movements to guarantee safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas by humanitarian agencies, in particular in conflict affected areas in line with international humanitarian principles. **Civilians, humanitarian staff and assets must be protected.**”

- Analysis:
 - o ! There is a call for protection of civilians, albeit in the context of humanitarian aid.
 - o There is a lot of reference to the ongoing conflicts, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile mentioned once specifically, but not to the bombardments.
 - o There is a balanced approach to the Government of Sudan and armed groups.

15 May 2014

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140515_01_en.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson
- On the death sentence passed for apostasy in Sudan
- About: sentencing Meriam Yahya Ibrahim to flogging and capital punishment on charges of adultery and apostasy.
- Wording: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

27 February 2014

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140227_01_en.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
- on the visit of Sudanese President Al-Bashir to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- About: non implementation of the arrest warrant against Al-Bashir, DRC non abiding its obligations as a party to the Rome statute, UNSCR 1593 (2005),
- Wording: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

6 September 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138664.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton
- On the Summit between the presidents of Sudan and South Sudan in Khartoum
- About relations between Sudan and South Sudan, implementation of Addis Abeba agreements of 27 September 2012, Abyei and border related issues.
- Wording: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

22 July 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138254.pdf

- Council conclusions
- On Sudan and South Sudan

“3. The EU remains deeply concerned by the long-running conflict in Darfur and the ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions of Sudan. Military action is not a solution to these conflicts which continue to cause enormous human suffering and new displacements. The EU urges all parties to grant immediate humanitarian access to all affected population groups, to come to the negotiating table to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and work towards a lasting political solution. The EU recalls the responsibility of the Government of Sudan to protect all its civilians and the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian and human rights law. The EU calls on the Government of Sudan to end the culture of impunity and to ensure that all perpetrators of violence are held accountable. The EU encourages the United Nations-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to use all available resources to discharge its **protection of civilians mandate**. The EU strongly condemns the recent attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers.”

“4. The EU supports the promotion by the AU of a holistic approach to the quest for peace in Sudan. The EU believes that a long-term solution to all Sudan's internal conflicts would be assisted by a genuinely inclusive national dialogue, including representatives of civil society, the Government, opposition parties and the armed movements to pave the way for national reconciliation and democratic reforms. This should take place in a conducive environment with respect for peace and basic freedoms.”

- Analysis:
 - o ! There is an explicit reminder of the responsibility of the GoS to protect all its civilians.
 - o There is explicit reference to the ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, but not to the bombardments.
 - o The EU is calling out on the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian and human rights law, but clearly emphasises responsibility with the GoS in terms of PoC.

16 July 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138092.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On the visit of Sudanese President Al-Bashir to Nigeria.
- About: non implementation of the arrest warrant against Al-Bashir, urges Nigeria to respect its obligations under international law, Nigeria a party to the Rome statute, UNSCR 1593 (2005),
- Wording: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

10 June 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137435.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton

- On the Government of Sudan's announcement to stop oil exports from South Sudan
- About relations between Sudan and South Sudan, implementation of Addis Abeba agreements of 27 September 2012

"Both sides must take immediate action to prevent any support to armed rebel movements in the other country and fully demilitarise the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone in accordance with the commitments they have already given."

"The international community has already played its part by expanding UNISFA to provide additional force protection for border monitoring, including verifying any allegations of cross border support to rebels.

Not taking appropriate action would have **disastrous consequences for the people of both countries**. This outcome must be avoided at all costs."

- Analysis: The language on conflict doesn't refer to Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile

1 May 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/136969.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On the conflict in Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states

"The High Representative welcomes the start of direct talks in Addis Ababa last week between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-North under the auspices of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel. This was the first time since June 2011 that the Parties have met in direct talks **to try to end the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states**. The talks represented an important step forward and it is encouraging that both parties agreed to meet again in May.

The High Representative therefore **condemns** the most recent **attacks on civilians** including that by the Sudan Revolutionary Front on Um Rawaba town in Northern Kordofan as well as **the ongoing fighting between Government and SPLM/North forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile**.

She **urges both parties to commit to resume negotiations in good faith in order to agree on an immediate ceasefire, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and on a comprehensive solution to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile** with a view to an inclusive national dialogue."

- Analysis:
 - o ! No reference to PoC, but condemning attacks on civilians
 - o There is explicit reference to the ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, but to the fighting, not to the bombardments.
 - o Balanced approach to GoS and SPLM/North

26 April 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/136950.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On the visit of Sudanese Minister of National Defence, Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein, to Chad
- About: non implementation of the arrest warrant against him, Chad violating its obligations as a party to the Rome statute, UNSCR 1593 (2005),
- Analysis: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

21 February 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/135644.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On the visit of Sudanese President Al-Bashir to Chad
- About: non implementation of the arrest warrant against Al-Bashir, welcoming normalisation of relations between Chad and Sudan, regrets that Chad (for the 3rd time) doesn't respect its obligations under international law, Chad a party to the Rome statute, UNSCR 1593 (2005),
- Analysis: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

8 January 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/134590.pdf

- Statement of the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On the recent closure of civil society organisations in Sudan
- About: closure of 4 CSOs
- Action: The HR calls on GoS to reverse its decision (..) and promote an environment where independent civil society organisations can operate freely
- Analysis: No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

4 January 2013

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/134568.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative
- On the Summit between the Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa

"Reports of renewed fighting in the volatile border area demonstrate the urgent need to put border security mechanisms in place, including a Safe Demilitarised Border Zone and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mission, in line with what has already been agreed."

- Analysis: The language on conflict doesn't refer to Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile

18 October 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/132945.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of the High Representative
- On the attack against a UNAMID convoy in North Darfur, Sudan
- About: attack on UNAMID convoy causing death of and injuries to UN peacekeepers, deteriorating security situation in Darfur

“A group of EU Ambassadors is currently visiting North Darfur to get a better understanding of the security situation.”

- Action: The HR calls on GoS to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice
- Analysis:
 - o No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC
 - o EU ambassadors went to Darfur to better understand the security situation. What can be done with Ambassadors or any other high level officials in bringing them to Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile?

4 October 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/132735.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative
- On the deadly attack on UNAMID peacekeepers in Darfur, Sudan
- About: EU condemns attack on UNAMID peacekeepers, calls on GoS to bring perpetrators to justice

“The High Representative is also deeply alarmed at reports of a violent incident in Hashaba in North Darfur, which appears to have cost the lives of large numbers of civilians, **including through aerial bombardment.**”

- Analysis:
 - o ! Reference to aerial bombardments – albeit in the context of Darfur.
 - o No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

27 September 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/132621.pdf

- Statement by the HR Catherine Ashton
- On the agreements concluded between Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa:

“I remain gravely concerned about the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states and the resulting humanitarian situation. The fighting has caused human suffering on a massive scale. It is imperative that international humanitarian agencies are allowed to deliver immediate assistance to civilians caught up in the fighting. I also urge the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/North to enter immediately and unconditionally into direct talks to agree on a cessation of hostilities, to recommit to delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those affected, and to find a lasting political solution to the conflict, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2046.”

- Analysis:
 - o Reference to Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile; particularly to the humanitarian situation, calling for access of international humanitarian agencies.
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Clear calls from EU: to enter immediately and unconditionally into direct talks to agree on a cessation of hostilities, to recommit to delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those affected, and to find a lasting political solution to the conflict, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2046.

21 September 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/132521.pdf

- Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
- Ahead of the summit between the Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan:

“(…) call on both Governments to conclude a comprehensive agreement on all outstanding issues in accordance with the AU Roadmap and UNSCR 2046.”

“It is now for the two Governments to build on progress achieved (…) and agree on the few remaining issues, including a Safe Demilitarised Border Zone.”

“It’s equally urgent to **end the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan** and to **address the humanitarian crisis caused by the fighting**. I call on the GoS and the SPLM/North to **enter immediately into direct talks** to **agree on a complete cessation of hostilities** and to **reach a political settlement** on the basis of the 28 June 2011 Framework Agreement as stipulated in UNSCR 2046. I also urge the GoS to facilitate the immediate implementation of the 5 August agreement for **delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected civilian populations.**”

- Analysis:
 - o No reference to PoC.
 - o Reference to the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, linked with the humanitarian crisis.
 - o Clear calls from EU: enter into direct talks, agree on complete cessation of hostilities, reach political settlement.

4 Augustus 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/132116.pdf

- Statement by the High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan

“I’m further encouraged by reports that the Government of Sudan has agreed to modalities for **delivering humanitarian assistance to all civilian populations affected by the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states**. I urge the immediate implementation of this agreement so that humanitarian assistance can reach those in need without delay. **This also needs to be accompanied by a cessation of hostilities and political negotiations between the GoS and the SPLM/North.**”

- Analysis:
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Reference to the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, linked with the humanitarian crisis.
 - o Clear calls from EU: humanitarian assistance needs to be accompanied by cessation of hostilities, political negotiations between GoS and SPLM/North.

23 July 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131967.pdf

- Council conclusions
- On the Roadmap for Sudan and South Sudan

“4. The EU is deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in **Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile**. The **EU urges the GoS to implement the provisions on Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in the roadmap/UNSCR** and, in particular, permit immediate unhindered humanitarian access for international humanitarian agencies to the affected civilian populations in these areas.”

“5. The **EU calls on the GoS and SPLM/North to resume talks without further delay in order to reach a negotiated political settlement to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile** on the basis of the 28 June 2011 Framework Agreement and with a view to an inclusive national dialogue that meets the needs and aspirations of all Sudanese citizens within an open and democratic framework.”

- Analysis:
 - o Reference to Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, but to the humanitarian situation, not an explicit reference to the conflict causing the humanitarian situation.
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Clear calls from EU: resume talks, reach political settlement based on Framework Agreement.
 - o Tone of these Council Conclusions is rather encouraging and positive.

30 June 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131439.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of the High Representative Catherine Ashton
- On the crackdown on demonstrations in Sudan
- About: violent crackdown on demonstrations, EU urges GoS to respect the rights of its citizens to freedom expression, media and assembly
- Analysis:
 - o No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

7 May 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/130068.pdf

- Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton,
- Welcoming the adoption of Security Council resolution on the roadmap for Sudan and South Sudan
- About: EU welcomes adoption UNSC endorsing a Roadmap for Sudan and South Sudan to end hostilities and resolve their outstanding post-secession issues.
- Analysis:
 - o No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC, while in the statement welcoming the adoption of the Roadmap by the AU PSC there is clear reference to SK/BN (see below statement of 26 April 2012)

26 April 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/129800.pdf

- Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton
- Welcoming the adoption of a roadmap on Sudan and South Sudan by the African Union Peace and Security Council

“The roadmap sets out a series of specific steps that Sudan and South Sudan must take, with clear timelines. **These steps include an immediate cessation of all hostilities, including aerial bombardments;** (...), cessation of support to rebel groups operating in the territory of the other state; (...)”

“The EU is ready to lend its full support to the Roadmap and calls on Sudan and South Sudan to implement it without further delay, starting with immediate cessation of hostilities.”

“The High Representative also **reiterates the urgent need for an inclusive political solution to the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.**”

- Analysis:
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Reference to SK/BN conflict and the need for a political solution.
 - o !There is a reference to aerial bombardments, but not necessarily linked to SK/BN

23 April 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/129712.pdf

- Council conclusions
- On Sudan and South Sudan

“4. The EU **condemns continued aerial bombardments and reported ground incursions into South Sudan by the Sudan Armed Forces.**”

“6. The GoS and the SPLM/North must engage in an inclusive political process to resolve the conflict in **Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.**”

- Analysis:
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Reference to SK/BN conflict and the need for GoS and SPLM/N to engage in an inclusive political process.
 - o !There is an explicit reference to aerial bombardments by the SAF, but this concerns South Sudan, not SK/BN.

11 April 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/129514.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton,

- On armed border clashes between Sudan and South Sudan

“(….)The move by the South Sudanese armed forces to occupy Heglig is completely **unacceptable**. **So is the continued aerial bombardment of South Sudanese territory by the Sudan Armed Forces**. Both parties must also stop supporting armed groups in the territory of the other State.”

“The escalating violence in the border region underlines the urgency of putting in place a political process to address the conflicts in **Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile**.”

- Analysis:
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Reference to SK/BN conflict and the need for a political process.
 - o !There is an explicit reference (“unacceptable”) to aerial bombardments by the SAF, but this concerns South Sudan, not SK/BN.

3 April 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/129412.pdf

- Statement by EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton,
- Concerning recent statements by Sudanese officials regarding a “take no prisoners” policy

“I am alarmed at video footage showing Ahmed Haroun, the Governor of Southern Kordofan, urging Sudanese soldiers to **take no prisoners during fighting in Southern Kordofan** and a Government of Sudan spokesman defending these statements.”

“A deliberate policy of taking no prisoners during armed conflict constitutes a war crime. (...) **The GoS must ensure that the Sudan Armed Forces and other security forces abide by international humanitarian law at all times.**”

- Analysis:
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o Reference to a very specific element (take no prisoners)/incident of the conflict in SK
 - o No reference to bombardments, but the EU calls on GoS to abide by international humanitarian law at all times.

28 March 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/129279.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton,
- On the clashes in the border region between Sudan and South Sudan

“Recent cross-border attacks and continued **aerial bombing** represent a dangerous escalation of an already tense situation.”

- Analysis
 - o No reference to PoC
 - o !There is reference to aerial bombardments, but this concerns South Sudan, not SK/BN.

- No reference to SK/BN

8 March 2012

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/128811.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative
- On the talks between Sudan and South Sudan

“She is seriously concerned about the escalation of violence and continued cross-border military activity including military operations, support for proxy militias and **aerial bombing.**”

“The EU deplores the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and calls for a cessation of hostilities and a resumption of political dialogue. An end to the conflict is essential to achieve peace both within Sudan and between Sudan and South Sudan.”

“The High Representative urges the Government of Sudan to accept the proposal by the UN, AU and LAS on allowing humanitarian access for international humanitarian agencies to all civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.”

- Analysis:
 - No reference to PoC
 - !There is reference to aerial bombardments, but this doesn't necessarily concern SK/BN.
 - Reference to SK and BN and call for cessation of hostilities and resumption of political dialogue.
 - Interesting that here the link is explicitly made between SK/BN and reaching peace between Sudan and South Sudan.

3 March 2012


http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/128721.pdf

- Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative
- On the on the ICC decision concerning the arrest warrants for Sudanese Defence Minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein
- About: High Rep takes note of arrest warrant issued against Hussein in connection with alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur.
- Analysis:
 - No reference to the conflict in Southern Kordofan/Blue Nile nor PoC

ANNEX II





List of statements published by the EU delegation in 2015

EU Delegation







17/06/15 - [European Union Ambassador: Ramadan is a month for forgiveness and continued search for internal peace in Sudan](#)  [285 KB]

30/04/15 - [European Union celebrates Year of Development](#)  [181 KB]



30/04/15 - [Europe Week In Sudan](#)  [3 MB] 

- 21/04/15 - [European Union promotes open society and democracy in Sudan](#)  [285 KB]
- 21/04/15 - [The EU Ambassador says EU position on elections and dialogue will not significantly impact relations with Sudan](#)  [361 KB]
- 20/04/15 - [Young Sudanese Political Leaders Visit EU in Brussels](#)  [270 KB]
- 25/03/15 - [Khartoum Declaration is an important political initiative for the region](#)  [248 KB]



The signature of the agreement regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project (GERDP) by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan yesterday in Khartoum marks an important political initiative for the management of the Nile Waters.

- 09/03/15 - [European Union Ambassador calls for greater accountability and praises the role of Sudanese women](#)  [224 KB]
- 12/02/15 - [Human Rights Award](#)
- 12/02/15 - [Joint Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and U3 Special Representative Leila Zerrougui on the occasion of the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers](#)  [80 KB]
- 11/02/15 - [European Union worried about the situation in Blue Nile and South Kordofan](#)  [247 KB]
- 11/02/15 - [AU-EU joint statement on the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers](#)  [80 KB]
- 10/02/15 - [EU briefed by opposition parties on the state of National Dialogue](#)  [154 KB]
- 09/02/15 - [European Union calls for immediate release of all political detainees](#)  [172 KB]

The Delegation of the European Union (EU) and Political Counsellors from the EU Members States met on Wednesday, 4 February with representatives of the National Umma Party and the defence team of Mr. Amin Mekki Medani and Farouk Abu Eissa. They were briefed about the legal and political aspects of the procedures against political prisoners and political parties, as well as on the recent closures of civil society organisations in Sudan.

- 03/02/15 - [Supporting the Civilian Victims of War and Poverty in Mayo Camp](#)  [350 KB]
- 03/02/15 - [European Union Ambassador meets Al Turabi](#)  [246 KB]

Dr. Hassan Abdullah Al Turabi received Ambassador Tomas Ulicny, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Sudan in a meeting attended by senior party members from the Popular Congress Party.

- 27/01/15 - [European Union follows the Sudanese National Dialogue, Peace Talks with concern](#)  [273 KB]
 - 27/01/15 - [European Union assured that the Darfur Peace will be respected](#)  [307 KB]
-