

# الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

MISSION PERMANENTE  
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES  
EN SUISSE



البعثة الدائمة  
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة  
والمنظمات الدولية بسويسرا

## FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

*On  
The Human Rights situation  
In Darfur*

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*Statement  
by H.E. Idriss JAZAIRY, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of Algeria  
In the name of the African Group*

*Geneva 12 December 2006*

Mr President,

1. There is a substantial difference between this Special session of the Council and the three preceding ones: The previous ones were initiated by groups of developing countries and opposed by their developed partners; this one was initiated by the latter and supported by the former. Africa, in particular, was a key co-sponsor while the human rights situation in the African region of Darfur, Sudan, was at issue.

May this spearheading of an approach putting people before politics in the Council, herald an authentic promotion and protection of human rights which will eschew, as in Darfur, the instrumentalization of people's sufferings to advance a political agenda having to do with power- and resource-sharing.

May also this spirit of dialogue set a new style for dealing with the business of the Council.

2. Human Rights were more in need of protection in Africa than in any other continent in the era of the transatlantic slave trade and during the colonial period. Today, they constitute a challenge no different from that of the recent past in Bosnia and pale in comparison with the Middle East, where the tragedy of Iraq unfolds before us carrying in its wake, hundreds of thousands of horrendous deaths which increase daily by the hundreds.

3. As is the case in all civil conflicts and wars, the conflict in Darfur is accompanied by far-reaching propaganda campaigns where information is manipulated and the human rights situation is politicised.

Thus, an analysis by a major NGO headquartered in an advanced country, disseminated at this session, presents the case in term of an ethnic conflict of apocalyptic proportion between an Arab oppressor Government with its militia targeting non Arab-tribes. There is not a single mention of the true nature of the conflict between herders and pastoralists or of rebel group action using civilian human shields and attacking humanitarian assistance convoys.

This is contradicted by the report of the Chairman of the African Union of 29 November 2006 to the Peace and Security Council (Doc PSC/AHG/3(LXVI)) which describes the most recent humanitarian situation as "characterized by contrasted developments, improving slightly in some parts of the region while deteriorating in others". The report also refers to the not-unusual seasonal multiplication of conflict at this time of year.

The report also details rebel attacks and government reprisals, the no-fly zones and no-go areas imposed by rebels as well as their harassment of AMIS and of humanitarian convoys.

4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> regular session of the Council expressed legitimate concern on the human rights situation in Darfur by its decision 2/115. We are assembled today to agree to make an objective diagnosis of the situation so that we can derive an appropriate road map for our Council in this regard. In this exercise, we must be driven by facts obtained first-hand on the ground and not simply by media-driven interpretations as a wrong-footed or heavy-handed response aimed simply at naming and shaming an African Government would be self-defeating. For sovereignty is not an abstract notion and can only be ignored at the peril, not only of national unity, but of regional peace, as recent experience has shown.

5. What should be the follow-up action by the Council?

- a) To obtain first-hand information on the human rights situation in Darfur some 6 months or so after the DPA and to see whether the AU can be more closely involved henceforth in channelling information on the human rights situation in Darfur to the ~~the~~ HRC.
- b) To draw up a road map to put an immediate end to violence, to be followed by ways and means to enhance the enjoyment of human rights by the people of Darfur and to promote accountability for authors of violations. This is an objective which, the AU Chairman emphasizes, is closely related to the respect of a cease-fire and to the rebels joining the DPA, advising against the renegotiation of the latter.
- While a problem of governance also arises in Darfur, our discussions with actors on the ground indicate that a lot has also to do with the amount of compensatory finance made available and for which donors have a key role to play.

6. Why have an assessment mission led by the President of the Council and including, at least *inter alia*, a representative group of Council members?

- HRC
- a) To demonstrate that ~~the~~ HRC is giving this issue top priority following the precedent of the Commission on Human Rights in Cuba and in Chechnya.
- b) To find out first-hand what the current facts really are in an incontrovertible manner;
- c) To submit an innovative road map to the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Council to ensure a substantial move forward on the human rights situation in Darfur.

If we limit the mission to the assessment of an expert mission, specially if we prejudge its outcome in its terms of reference, we will just get more of the same and maintain the *status quo*. For the African Group, this *not* an option.

I thank you.