

TERMINAL  
COMMITTEE

CANADA ~~has associated itself with~~ the statement made by Australia in  
behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. I refer to letter addressed to  
the Council by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN drawing our  
Canada - Interactive Dialogue - HRC 2<sup>nd</sup> Session attention to the violence and  
abuses to which the people of  
Ms. Sima Samar Darfur  
are subjected.

Wednesday, 27 September 2006 (pm)

Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan for her extensive report.

Canada shares your concern that the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement has not resulted in a decline of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Sudan. In fact, as you point out in your most recent report, Northern Darfur, has witnessed an increase in the number of such cases due to targeted violence against women perceived to be supporting opposing factions of the rebel movement, the suspension of "firewood patrols," and withdrawal of African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) forces from some areas. Internally displaced women are particularly vulnerable to attack and there have been many incidences in which women have been robbed, beaten, raped and even killed. Sudanese police have in the past typically failed to act with due diligence in their treatment of victims and in the investigation of cases, and the legal system continues to fail those victims who do bring their claims to court.

As you state in your report, while the Government of Sudan formally acknowledged the problem of sexual and gender-based violence in Darfur through the creation of three State Committees (one for each of the Darfur states) and the development of an Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Darfur, in practical terms, the situation for women in Darfur has not improved as these bodies remain largely ineffective.

In the same Plan of Action, the Government of Sudan also recommended the creation of police units specialising in crimes against women and children in the camps. Canada views this as a welcome initiative; however, it is important that these units be provided with training and gender sensitisation. 1) How can the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and international community better assist the Government of Sudan in this regard? 2) More broadly what actions should, in your view, be taken by the international community to better protect women in Sudan from sexual and gender-based violence?