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Darfur crisis sees U-turn on peacekeepers

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THE ARTICLE

Darfur crisis sees U-turn on peacekeepers

Sudan's government has finally changed its mind about whether or not to allow UN peacekeepers in Darfur. For the past two years, it has strongly opposed allowing UN troops in the country, allowing troops from the African Union only. However, the number of the African force is too low to be effective in Darfur – a region twice the size of France. Sudan has now agreed in principle to allow a joint African Union (AU) and UN peacekeeping force into the conflict-ridden region of Darfur. Sudanese representatives met with other African, Arab, European and UN leaders recently and said they needed to consult with their superiors in Khartoum before the government could give final approval to the revised peacekeeping plan. The new force of peacekeepers could be as large as 27,000 troops, including the existing 7,000-strong African Union soldiers.

Sudanese leaders are yet to lay out a timetable for the force to begin work, partly because Sudan had reservations. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the government's change of heart sounded promising and urged leaders to keep their promises. He said it was time to stop the carnage in Darfur, which has already seen 200,000 people killed. Annan said: "The next step is for the UN and AU to call a meeting of the non-signatories [of the Darfur Peace Agreement] ... and the government of Sudan. It should take place in the next couple of weeks to resolve outstanding issues by the end of the year." He added that an enlarged African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur would take place in three phases over an unspecified period of time. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has so far refused to allow their deployment, fearing they would be "occupiers."

START

1. DARFUR LATEST: Walk around the class and find out what people know about the latest situation in Darfur. Discuss where it is. If you don't know look on a map! You may need to use the internet to do this. Share your findings with new partners / the class.

2. READING: Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

3. VOCABULARY: Students circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

4. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting (circle) and which are most boring (underline).

Khartoum / government of Sudan / Darfur / UN leaders / African Union soldiers / deployment / President Omar al-Bashir / superiors / country / 200,000 people killed / Darfur Peace Agreement

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

5. DICTATION: The teacher will read to you slowly and clearly the first half of the first paragraph, repeating passages where necessary. Students will write down the speech. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again.

Self correct your work. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total no of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 are acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

6. REFUGEE CAMPS IN DARFUR

In pairs - Think of 10 things associated with **refugee camps in Darfur**. Discuss.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

The teacher will select some examples from the class

7. WAR IN AFRICA

Swap pairs! – Now think of 8 countries in Africa where there is or has been recently a war. Locate them on a map of Africa. You may need to use the Internet to do this.

For each of them answer the following

- A Who was fighting who?
- B Who supplied the arms?
- C What happened?
- D Was there a peace deal?

Discuss.

1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

The teacher will select some examples from the class

8. PRESS: ROLE PLAY: SPEAKING

'Exclusive' TV interview with President Omar al-Bashir.

Student A. Imagine you are a BBC / CNN television news reporter. You have an 'exclusive' interview with President Omar al-Bashir. Prepare five questions you want to ask him. Discuss his stubbornness of the UN not being allowed in before now and of his U-turn in allowing a joint delegation in of African and UN peacekeepers.

Student B. You are **President Omar al-Bashir**. Think of five things (write them down) you want to mention to the world in the forthcoming interview with student A about what why you are being so stubborn and why you don't want the UN in your country!

Role play: Student A asks Student B (president Omar al-Bashir) your questions. Listen to his response. React accordingly.

The teacher will select some students to role play their situations in front of the class.

9. SENTENCE STARTERS: With your partner(s), finish these sentence starters. Talk about the sentences you made.

- a. The latest in Darfur is _____
- b. The media _____
- c. UN Secretary General said _____
- d. The UN troops will _____
- e. The Darfur Peace Agreement _____
- f. The "occupiers" should _____
- g. Other factions include _____
- h. The fighting _____

10. PRESS: ROLE PLAY: SPEAKING 2

'Exclusive' TV interview with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Student A. Imagine you are a BBC / CNN television news reporter. You have an 'exclusive' interview with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Prepare four questions yourself of what want to ask him.

Add the following...

Ask him about the weakness of the UN in resolving the crisis. What is he going to do next about it? What does he think of the breakthrough in getting the latest resolve through of African and UN peacekeepers? Etc...

Student B. You are **UN Secretary General Kofi Annan**. Think of five things (write them down) you want to mention to the world in the forthcoming interview with student A about the Darfur crisis.

Role play: Student A asks Student B (President Omar al-Bashir) your questions. Listen to his response. React accordingly.

The teacher will select some students to role play their situations in front of the class.

11. ONE MINUTE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you can associate with **the Darfur crisis**. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

12. FIVE MINUTES: Choose three of these words. Write a sentence using each word. Try to associate them with **Darfur**. Discuss with your partner. Spend five minutes on this exercise.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Khartoum the capital of Sudan is in Darfur region | T / F |
| b. The new peacekeepers could be as large as 28,000 troops | T / F |
| c. 200,000 people have already been killed | T / F |
| d. Darfur is a region twice the size of Spain | T / F |
| e. The Darfur President fears the UN troops calling them "occupiers" | T / F |
| f. The UN Security Council isn't worried about people dying in Darfur | T / F |
| g. Some African Union troops haven't been paid in months | T / F |
| h. The UN deployed troops will come from Slovakia and Malaysia | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. joint | doubts |
| b. force | shared |
| c. superiors | detachment |
| d. armed | changed |
| e. reservations | area |
| f. timetable | stage |
| g. revised | last |
| h. final | bosses |
| i. region | to have weapons |
| j. step | schedule |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. The new force of peacekeepers | twice the size of France |
| b. Un Secretary-General Kofi Annan said | time to stop the carnage |
| c. A region | has so far refused to allow... |
| d. He said it was | has finally changed its mind |
| e. Sudanese leaders | in the next couple of weeks |
| f. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir | with their superiors in Khartoum |
| g. The next step is | could be as large as 27,000 troops |
| h. It should take place | the government's change of heart |
| i. They needed to consult | for the UN and AU |
| j. Sudan's government | are yet to lay out a timetable |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Darfur crisis sees U-turn on peacekeepers

Sudan's government has finally changed its _____ about whether or not to allow UN peacekeepers in Darfur. For the past two years, it has _____ opposed allowing UN troops in the country, allowing troops from the African Union only. However, the number of the African force is too low to be _____ in Darfur – a region twice the size of France. Sudan has now agreed in principle to allow a joint African Union (AU) and UN peacekeeping _____ into the conflict-ridden region of Darfur. Sudanese _____ met with other African, Arab, European and UN leaders recently and said they needed to consult with their _____ in Khartoum before the government could give final approval to the revised peacekeeping plan. The new force of _____ could be as large as 27,000 troops, including the _____ 7,000-strong African Union soldiers.

mind
force
superiors
strongly
peacekeepers
existing
effective
representatives

Sudanese leaders are yet to lay out a timetable for the force to begin work, partly because Sudan had reservations. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the government's change of _____ sounded promising and urged leaders to keep their _____. He said it was time to stop the _____ in Darfur, which has already seen 200,000 people killed. Annan said: "The next step is for the UN and AU to call a meeting of the non-signatories [of the Darfur Peace Agreement] ... and the government of Sudan. It should take place in the next couple of weeks to resolve _____ issues by the end of the year." He added that an _____ African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur would take place in three _____ over an _____ period of time. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has so far refused to allow their _____, fearing they would be "occupiers."

outstanding
deployment
phases
heart
unspecified
enlarged
promises
carnage

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Darfur crisis sees U-turn on peacekeepers

Sudan's government has finally changed its mind about whether or not _____ peacekeepers in Darfur. For the past two years, it has strongly opposed allowing UN troops in _____, allowing troops from the African Union only. However, the number of the African force _____ be effective in Darfur – a region twice the _____. Sudan has now agreed in principle to allow a joint African Union (AU) and UN peacekeeping _____ conflict-ridden region of Darfur. Sudanese representatives met with other African, _____ and UN leaders recently and said they needed to consult with their superiors in Khartoum before the government could give final approval to the revised peacekeeping plan. The new force of peacekeepers could _____ 27,000 troops, including the existing 7,000-strong African Union soldiers.

Sudanese leaders are _____ out a timetable for the force to begin work, partly because Sudan had _____. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the government's _____ sounded promising and urged leaders to keep their promises. He said it was time to stop the carnage in Darfur, which has already seen 200,000 people killed. Annan said: "The next step _____ and AU to call a meeting of the non-signatories [of the Darfur Peace Agreement] ... and the government of Sudan. It should _____ the next couple of weeks to resolve outstanding issues by the end of the year." He added that an enlarged African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur would take place _____ over an unspecified period of time. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has so _____ allow their deployment, fearing _____ "occupiers."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'occupiers' and 'peacekeepers'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text or subject in question.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Sudan's government | • 27,000 troops |
| • The force | • 200,000 people killed |
| • Occupiers | • Khartoum |
| • UN | • Darfur |
| • AU | • France |
| • Outstanding issues | • promises |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
2. What do you think of the latest position in Darfur?
3. Why do you think the United Nations is so weak on the issue of Darfur?
4. How do you think the refugees in Darfur feel about the ongoing conflict?
5. Do you think the UN should be more forceful?
6. What do you think the neighboring countries think about the dispute?
7. Why doesn't Africa do more to resolve the situation in Darfur itself?
8. Do you think the Darfur peace agreement will work?
9. Should the government of Sudan resign over its mishandling of the dispute?
10. What should President Omar al-Bashir do next?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Should European Union or NATO troops go in to help in Darfur?
- d. Should the press and TV continue to show such graphic pictures?
- e. Can you name the disputed parties involved?
- f. Why is the armed militia killing innocent women and children?
- g. Are the neighboring countries doing enough to help the refugees in Darfur who cross over into their country? ie Chad
- h. Should the UN knock its heads together to sort this dispute once and for all?
- i. When do you think the dispute will be settled
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet. Find out information about **Darfur**. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DESERT HORROR HOTS UP: NEWS ARTICLE: You are a reporter for the *International Herald Tribune* newspaper. Imagine you have just returned from seeing at first hand the African Union troops in Darfur. Whilst there you saw the horrors the war brings to the women and children who are in the refugee camps. You interviewed and took some pictures of some. Mention the different factions who are fighting each other. Write a feature on what you saw. – Use the internet to help you - Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which entry was best and why? (Minimum 100 words)

4. LETTER: Write a letter to the United Nations. Ask them why they are so incredibly weak with their responses to the Darfur crisis. Criticize them. Ask them what they do all day long? Ask them three questions on the crisis. Show your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Your classmates will write a reply.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. F e. T f. F g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. joint | shared |
| b. force | detachment |
| c. superiors | bosses |
| d. armed | to have weapons |
| e. reservations | doubts |
| f. timetable | schedule |
| g. revised | changed |
| h. final | last |
| i. region | area |
| j. step | stage |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. The new force of peacekeepers | could be as large as 27,000 troops |
| b. Un Secretary-General Kofi Annan said | the government's change of heart |
| c. A region | twice the size of France |
| d. He said it was | time to stop the carnage |
| e. Sudanese leaders | are yet to lay out a timetable |
| f. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir | has so far refused to allow... |
| g. The next step is | for the UN and AU |
| h. It should take place | in the next couple of weeks |
| i. They needed to consult | with their superiors in Khartoum |
| j. Sudan's government | has finally changed its mind |

GAP FILL:

Darfur crisis sees U-turn on peacekeepers

Sudan's government has finally changed its **mind** about whether or not to allow UN peacekeepers in Darfur. For the past two years, it has **strongly** opposed allowing UN troops in the country, allowing troops from the African Union only. However, the number of the African force is too low to be **effective** in Darfur – a region twice the size of France. Sudan has now agreed in principle to allow a joint African Union (AU) and UN peacekeeping **force** into the conflict-ridden region of Darfur. Sudanese **representatives** met with other African, Arab, European and UN leaders recently and said they needed to consult with their **superiors** in Khartoum before the government could give final approval to the revised peacekeeping plan. The new force of **peacekeepers** could be as large as 27,000 troops, including the **existing** 7,000-strong African Union soldiers.

Sudanese leaders are yet to lay out a timetable for the force to begin work, partly because Sudan had reservations. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the government's change of **heart** sounded promising and urged leaders to keep their **promises**. He said it was time to stop the **carnage** in Darfur, which has already seen 200,000 people killed.. Annan said: "The next step is for the UN and AU to call a meeting of the non-signatories [of the Darfur Peace Agreement] ... and the government of Sudan. It should take place in the next couple of weeks to resolve **outstanding** issues by the end of the year." He added that an **enlarged** African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur would take place in three **phases** over an **unspecified** period of time. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has so far refused to allow their **deployment**, fearing they would be "occupiers."