

Understanding Sudan

A Teaching and Learning Resource



Fact Sheet Eleven: Key actor's opinions on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the oil industry and human rights in Sudan

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the oil industry and human rights represents some of the most highly debated and controversial topics in Sudan. The collection of quotes below is but one measure of the diversity of opinions among different actors and interested parties on these issues.

The organic and external mechanisms provided for its implementation clearly show that it would be extremely difficult for any party to the CPA to dishonor or abrogate it and, if it happens, it would be tantamount to constitutional disorder with far [reaching] repercussions on the unity and peace in the Sudan and regional stability. And for the entire economy.

Source: Luka Biong Deng, Minister for Presidential Affairs, Government of South Sudan, Statement before the United States Congress Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, 24th January, 2007

The signing of Sudan's CPA between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A in 2005, ended war in the South, but three years after signing, the CPA is in great danger. All points of contention relate to oil, including the North-South border demarcation, withdrawal of troops from the oil fields, oil revenue sharing and transparency, and the industry's dramatic social and environmental record which are undermining popular support for the peace agreement. The large economic growth over the last few years has made a small Northern elite very rich, but most Sudanese people have seen nothing of it.

Source: Sudan: Whose Oil? European Coalition on Oil in Sudan. 2008.

The oil and gas regulatory regime in Sudan is defined almost entirely by contracts with the Government which grant rights to explore, develop and produce hydrocarbon reserves authorized pursuant to the Petroleum Resource Act. Most contractual rights with respect to public resources, contracts and expenditures are awarded on the basis of negotiation with individuals within the Government. Continuation of positive relations may be dependent on the continuation of the Government's favor toward the individual which negotiates any particular contract. Regulations with respect to exploration and production operations do not exist, but may be developed and enacted. There can be no assurance that any such regulatory enactments will not have a materially adverse effect on the Project or the revenues generated therefrom.

Source: Arakis Energy Corporation: *Management Information Circular*, 3 September 1998: p. 62

We don't have an ideological vision of Sudan. We are an oil company.

Source: CEO, Arakis. 1995.

Chinese aid and investment will, in the long run, help in the resolution of the Darfur problem

Source: Li Ruogu, chairman of the state-owned Export-Import Bank of China

The investigation has determined that at least two of the government's helicopter gunships have been based at the oil facilities in Heglig. Defecting soldiers from the Government of Sudan army base in Heglig and civilian victims of gunship attacks testified to the investigators that gunships had flown regular sorties from Heglig to attack civilian settlements.

Source: Gagnon, G and Ryle, John. *Report of an Investigation into Oil Development, Conflict and Displacement in Western Upper Nile*. Rift Valley Institute. 2001.

I know in the U.S.A. or Canada these feelings are there. We in India don't have such feelings on this issue. We feel the investments there are safe and, since it's a producing field, we are keen to have it....My greatest interest is to have equity oil as soon as possible.

Source: Oil Minister of India, 2002.

The Chinese are very nice; they don't have anything to do with any politics or problems. Things move smoothly, successfully. They are very hard workers looking for business, not politics.

Source: Awad Ahmed Al Jaz, Sudanese Minister for Energy and Mines. 2004

When I was living in Duar in 2000, an all-weather road was being built from Rubkona to the oil operations in Rier. I knew that in building this road, the Government had forced people to move away and had bombed and attacked villages to get the people to move. In 2000 the all-weather road from Rubkona to Rier was constructed through my land where my luak and tukuls were destroyed by Government troops.

Source: Chief Peter Ring Patai, Talisman court case, March 2005. Quoted in Sudan: Whose Oil? European Coalition on Oil in Sudan. 2008.

No action has yet been taken on compensation of victims of oil contracts provided for in the wealth-sharing agreement.

Source: CPA Monitor, May 2007.

Oil companies have used various security personnel to safeguard their operations and investments. There are allegations that private military and security companies have provided training for local security staff hired by oil companies.

Source: Amnesty International. 2000.