



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman**

For Immediate Release
2010/642

May 18, 2010

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Sudan: Recent Offensive Actions in Darfur

The United States condemns the recent offensive actions in Darfur, particularly the Government of Sudan's use of aerial bombings and local militias against Darfur rebel positions in the Jebel Moon area of West Darfur. Such operations endanger civilians and lead to mass displacement. Subsequent incidents of looting and attacks on infrastructure by the Justice and Equality Movement further endanger civilian populations and must immediately cease.

We urge both the Government of Sudan and the Darfur rebel movements to refrain from any further actions that would undermine the Darfur peace process or endanger civilians, and we urge all parties to return to active negotiations in the AU/UN-mediated peace process in Doha, Qatar, to reach a political settlement to the conflict in Darfur. We also call on the Government of Sudan to grant access to the affected areas to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and to humanitarian organizations.

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