

Committee: The Advisory Panel on the Question of Darfur
Country: Amnesty International (NGO)
School Name: ****
Delegate Name: ****

MITMUNC 2011 Position Paper

Topic One

For the issue of the situation in Darfur, I represent Amnesty International, a global Non-Governmental Organization that promotes human rights and peaceful conflict resolution. Amnesty International's central goal is to assure every individual on earth the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and has a large-scale campaign specifically targeting the atrocities being committed in Darfur. Amnesty International is separate from all political organizations and countries, religious groups, and economic interests. This means that the goal of protecting human rights is paramount and will override any and all interests of other nations in power, such as the United States. Amnesty International fits into no specified bloc positions and does not align with any single group involved in direct conflict. This restriction does not extend to similar organizations, however, such as Human Rights Watch. The premise is that there are no ulterior motives. The only goal is helping as many civilians as possible escape conflict, persecution, and any other actions perpetrated that may encroach on their rights.

Being an NGO, Amnesty International has no army or direct power over the situation apart from their very public influence over the opinions of civilians and leaders. The attack plan is and has been to first try to appeal directly to the elected leaders. Amnesty International has met with leaders of Sudan, Chad, the United States, and the E.U., asking for aid, peacekeeping, and political influence over the situation to end the crises happening in the region. Rejecting violence as a means of affecting change, Amnesty has organized rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and petitions to gain traction with the public and subsequently elected officials. Amnesty wants first for the peacekeeping forces from the U.N. and the African Union to be increased, along with increased aid from countries directly to the millions of Sudanese who have been hurt and/or displaced. This would be the first step for Amnesty in the Advisory Panel because it's about the people not the politics. Immediate aid would need to be applied so the people will not suffer or die during political talks. Second, Amnesty would look to support effective and non-violent peace talks between all warring parties. Amnesty tends to favor the rebels as they fight for equal representation in their country. They of course then condemn of the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed militia because of evidence of their committing atrocities, particularly as they relate to civilians. Amnesty, unlike a nation, cannot be counted on so much to barter with other nations or threaten with force, but they do have the power of information. Amnesty International even owns a satellite used to take aerial photographs of villages being accosted by the Janjaweed, which they use to increase support for action against the Government of Sudan. Amnesty doesn't have the same perspective on a solution as a country might because its only goal is peace and human rights protections. Amnesty International would not be able to support violence against any innocent civilians but would not object to international actions such as the removal of President Al Bashir. Because the ICC already convicted Sudan's president, Amnesty would support a country acting on his arrest warrant.

It isn't a simple answer of taking sides, but Amnesty International would support any group willing to work toward peace and justice for the people of Darfur. Amnesty wants to secure an end to conflict, access to humanitarian programs, and justice for those harmed.