

Karel de Gucht,
Commissioner for Development,
European Commission

30 September 2009
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Dear Mr de Gucht,

Amnesty International report :
“No place for us here: Violence against refugee women in eastern Chad”

Two days ahead of the donors' conference for the UN Mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT), co-organised by the European Commission, and hosted in Brussels, Amnesty International is publishing a report which details the extent to which violence against refugee women in eastern Chad remains an acute issue for that mission to deal with. The report, *“No place for us here”* details the horrifying extent to which Darfuri refugee women and girls face rape and other violence on a daily basis both inside and outside refugee camps in eastern Chad, despite the presence of UN security forces there.

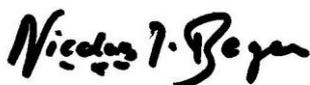
The DIS (*Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*), a Chadian police force supported by the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), has been given specific responsibility for providing security in and around refugee camps and is now fully deployed, with more than 800 officers in the 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad. However, they face major challenges in their role: members of the DIS have been direct targets of violence and, on the other hand, some DIS officers have even committed human rights violations themselves. Most refugee women and girls do not feel that the DIS has done much to address the insecurity they are facing.

In the donors' conference on 2 October 2009, Amnesty International urges you to ensure that money is not the only issue on the table. While the publicized goal of raising some 17 million US dollars for the DIS is an important objective, Amnesty International's report also calls for further action to address the ongoing violence against women. In particular, the report calls on the international community to:

- adopt a comprehensive strategy to deal with the continuing vulnerability of women and girls both inside and outside refugee camps;
- act immediately to address continuing generalized insecurity and human rights violations in eastern Chad. The United Nations Security Council must ensure that MINURCAT is able to deploy to its maximum levels without further delays, and with all necessary materials and equipment;
- ensure that officers serving with the DIS are fully equipped, trained and appropriately housed. They must be recruited on the basis of merit and other criteria that ensure that individuals responsible for human rights violations and other misconduct are not hired; and
- work with the government of Chad to strengthen the criminal justice system in eastern Chad, in order that it can address human rights violations that take place, including by providing greater numbers of trained magistrates, prosecutors, police and other officials based throughout the region.

I hope that the findings of the report provide a useful input to discussions at the donors conference, and look forward to a positive outcome from the event.

Yours sincerely



Nicolas Beger
Director, Amnesty International EU Office