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UN extends peacekeeping mission in Darfur

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UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council has voted to extend its peacekeeping mission in Darfur for a year.

The Darfur region has been gripped by bloodshed since 2003 when rebels took up arms against Sudan's government in the capital Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination and neglect, a charge the government denies.

The Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to approve the British-penned resolution. It maintains the same troop levels at 15,845 soldiers and 1,583 police.

The resolution also underscores the protection of civilians across the region and ensuring unhindered access to humanitarian supplies.

The U.N. estimates 300,000 people have died in the conflict.