

crisis action

Monthly Update: July 2011

Dear Partners,

This update includes information on our plans covering **Sudan, DRC, Afghanistan, Israel/Palestine** and discrete pieces of work on other conflicts.

Feedback on this email, its format and its content would be much appreciated. Please forward this email to colleagues who may be interested in particular activities.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2011

EMERGENCY RESPONSES:

MENA Crisis

Crisis Action has continued to support partners' engagement with Arab and international governments to advance civilian protection in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

ONGOING CAMPAIGNS:

Sudan

Crisis Action worked with partners on a series of actions in the lead up to South Sudan's declaration of independence on 9 July, particularly around the increased violence in the border areas, including:

- **Rapid response media work around the violence in Southern Kordofan** including pulling together partner briefings and on the ground interviewees. This generated coverage on CNN, Al-Jazeera, BBC, Financial Times and AFP, among others.
- **A joint report with a global coalition of 22 partners from across North and South Sudan, neighbouring countries, Europe and the US outlining key recommendations for the international community**, including strengthening targeted sanctions on those most responsible for the violence, titled *Beyond the Pledge: International Engagement after Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement*. The report was **launched in Nairobi with a press briefing attended by regional and international journalists** and regional partners, as well as with a virtual international media launch.



- **A Sudanese civil society delegation** to Cairo and Addis Ababa to meet with key LAS and AU officials and media.
- An **op-ed by Sir John Holmes, former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs**, syndicated in English (Financial Times), Arabic (Al Shorouk), French (Le Monde) and German (Die Zeit).
- **A high-level roundtable on Sudan** for partner organizations and key NY media, **with Hilde Johnson, newly appointed as the UN Secretary General's next Special Representative to South Sudan**, to provide partners and journalists with the first off-the record discussion with Johnson in her new role.
- **A joint letter from regional NGOs to Dr Jean Ping, Chairman of the African Union**, calling for the AU to take concrete steps to de-escalate the violence in Abyei.

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- **An expert briefing on Sudan for French partners**, and a partner briefing at a conference bringing together academic experts, journalists and French government officials.
- **A lobby meeting with the French MFA** and a joint lobby letter to the French Foreign Minister ahead of his visit to Sudan and Addis.
- **A meeting with German partners and the State Secretary in the MFA** following Foreign Minister Westerwelle's visit to Sudan.

DRC/LRA

Crisis Action brought together a global coalition of nearly 50 Congolese and international organizations in a **joint press release urging the UN to provide adequate civilian protection during upcoming elections in DRC**.

This was followed by an **extensive series of meetings for partners in European capitals and with Ambassadors in New York** (South Africa, UK, US, France, Portugal, Germany and a rare meeting with a Russian Ambassador), as well as the head of MONUSCO and senior UN officials. At the end of the month the Security Council passed a new mandate for MONUSCO reflecting collective advocacy on elections and LRA.

In Brussels, Crisis Action continued to **campaign against terminating the mandate of the EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes**, coordinating a joint NGO letter to EU Ambassadors outlining concerns about integrating the mandate into the EU's new External Action Service. In response to pressure from EU member states, the EEAS will appoint a Brussels-based Coordinator for the Great Lakes.

Ahead of the AU ministerial meeting on the LRA, Crisis Action facilitated a **series of joint advocacy meetings with more than six senior AU officials for partners in Addis**. The AU adopted wide-ranging recommendations on mechanisms to combat the LRA threat.

Israel/Palestine

Crisis Action brought together **27 former prominent statesmen to jointly call on the EU and the US to support the recent Palestinian reconciliation deal** and the new unity government, including Gareth Evans, Shlomo Ben Ami, Hanan Ashrawi, and Louis Michel. The letter was launched in

the [Financial Times](#) and covered in [Spiegel Online](#), [Le Monde](#), [EU Observer](#) and [Al Jazeera](#) among others.

In Berlin, Crisis Action Germany **facilitated various interviews in the German media** for Avraham Burg, former speaker of the Knesset and prominent Israeli intellectual on the question of Palestinian statehood.

Afghanistan

Crisis Action coordinated a **letter from 11 EU and US-based organisations to NATO Defence Ministers** ahead of a key NATO meeting in Brussels, conveying their concerns about ongoing civilian casualties and the transition of security to the Afghan National Security Forces in Afghanistan, as well as presenting recommendations to reduce the harm caused to Afghan civilians and to step up support to Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF).

In Berlin, Crisis Action organized a **meeting with Staffan de Mistura, head of the UN mission in Afghanistan**, for German partner organizations to present their concerns on the peace process, the transition process and the UNAMA mandate review process.

Crisis Action organized a **conference with the Afghanistan working group of VENRO- an umbrella organization for NGOs in Germany** – to discuss possible collaboration around the Afghanistan conference in Bonn at the end of this year.

NEW INITIATIVES: JUNE 2011

Syria

In Cairo, Crisis Action is working with partners to **coordinate a second phase of the emergency response on Syria**. This will include an experts' visit to the Arab League and briefings from Syrian activists on the deteriorating situation on the ground.

Sudan

Follow-up lobby meetings on the 'Beyond the Pledge' report will be held in European capitals with key political contacts.

Crisis Action will continue to work closely with partners behind the scenes and through the media to ensure the **new**

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UN mission has a strong Chapter VII mandate with the protection of civilians as its top priority.

Afghanistan

Crisis Action is **developing a number of international initiatives in the run-up to the 10th anniversary** of the international military intervention (in October) and around the major international conference on Afghanistan in Bonn (this December).

To lay the groundwork for future joint activities, Crisis Action is **consulting with UN agencies and strategic UNSC member states**.

NGOs interested in taking part in international planning on Afghanistan should contact ben.jackson@crisisaction.org.

DRC/ LRA

Crisis Action will assist partners in **influencing the July Security Council briefing on the LRA** and will continue to **provide access to the AU as it implements its LRA strategy**.

For more details please contact:
andrew.hudson@crisisaction.org.

ONGOING WORK – PRIORITY ISSUES

Sudan

Crisis Action coordinates **joint advocacy work and briefings** to sustain engagement by the international community on Sudan. For further information, please contact:
marianna.brungs@crisisaction.org.

For details on Sudan initiatives in specific countries, contact:

Berlin: kristian.brakel@crisisaction.org.
Brussels: martin.konecny@crisisaction.org.
Cairo: marwa.el-ansary@crisisaction.org.
London: marianna.brungs@crisisaction.org.
Nairobi: james.gondi@crisisaction.org.
New York: vanessa.jackson@crisisaction.org.
Paris: elodie.andrault@crisisaction.org.

Israel/Palestine

Crisis Action coordinates **advocacy, campaigns and information exchange on the situation in the occupied**

Palestinian territory. To learn more contact our global lead: martin.konecny@crisisaction.org or:

Berlin: kristian.brakel@crisisaction.org.
Cairo: nirvana.shawky@crisisaction.org.
Paris: aldine.furio@crisisaction.org.
London: ben.jackson@crisisaction.org.

DRC

Crisis Action coordinates both **international and national campaigning, lobbying and roundtables on DRC**.

For further information, please contact our global lead: andrew.hudson@crisisaction.org or:

Berlin: susanne.baumann@crisisaction.org.
Brussels: christina.hawley@crisisaction.org.
London: marianna.brungs@crisisaction.org.
Nairobi: james.gondi@crisisaction.org.
Paris: aldine.furio@crisisaction.org.

LRA

Crisis Action works with partners on a variety of fronts to **protect civilians from the LRA in Central Africa**. If you would like to join our efforts, email:
andrew.hudson@crisisaction.org.

Afghanistan

In conjunction with partners, **Crisis Action is advancing the Together Afghanistan campaign's reach and objectives**. To learn more, contact: ben.jackson@crisisaction.org or susanne.baumann@crisisaction.org.

MEDIA DIGESTS

In addition to our weekly briefing on EU news and developments, we offer our partner organisations daily media digests on:

- Sudan (covering NGOs, UN, Sudan Tribune and others)
- Sudan in Arabic media (summarised in English)
- DRC
- Gaza

Please let us know if you would like us to add you to 1 or more of our distribution lists.

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