



**United States Department of State  
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
Office of Inspector General**

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## **Inspection of Embassy Khartoum, Sudan**



*Exterior of Khartoum chancery*

Embassy Khartoum effectively manages a difficult U.S.-Sudanese relationship complicated by an array of factors including the U.S. government's sanctions regime, accusations of genocide against Sudan, and inclusion of Sudan on the list of state sponsors of terrorism. Despite obstacles thrown up by both the U.S. and Sudanese governments, U.S. engagement with Sudan is extensive and important, and there is cooperation on counterterrorism, support for both the African Union and UN missions, and delivery of humanitarian assistance in the South and Darfur.

The political and bureaucratic jousting between the United States and Sudan hampers the embassy's operational effectiveness in such ways as delaying visa issuance, imposing travel restrictions, and impeding customs clearance.

The lack of a "traditional" Sudan desk within the Bureau of African Affairs affects the embassy's capacity to manage some aspects of the bilateral relationship. The bureau's Sudan Programs Group and the embassy must work to strengthen coordination.

The consulate general in Juba (opened in late 2005) underscores the U.S. government's commitment to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for southern Sudan, and to strengthen that region's government. The consulate general, however, lacks adequate staff, facilities, and general services support to be fully effective. The Department must overcome these shortfalls in Juba.

The ad hoc arrangements that have allowed the U.S. government to establish an effective interagency presence in Darfur in support of several U.S. government priorities work well and provide a good example of the U.S. government's rapid response capabilities. Embassy Khartoum will now have to regularize staffing, security, and administrative support to maintain the U.S. government's strong engagement in Darfur.

Embassy Khartoum and the Department should plan for the future of consular services in Khartoum, pending the building of the new embassy compound and the transfer of consular positions from Cairo to Khartoum. Embassy Khartoum is re-creating a full-service public diplomacy operation and is executing an aggressive program to reach audiences throughout the country. The challenge will be to establish parameters for working within the existing regime of sanctions on Sudan and winning additional resources to meet the demands of the public diplomacy initiative.

## Background: Sudan



The reopening of Embassy Khartoum in 2003 reflected the U.S. government's hope that relations between Sudan and the United States were trending toward positive interaction after years of strained relations and the inclusion of Sudan on the list of state sponsors of terrorism and the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions. By 2003, the U.S. government was fully engaged in the international process that led in 2005 to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the North-South war that had wracked the country for all but 11 years since its independence in 1956. The years since then, however, have seen a continued mix of progress and setbacks in bilateral ties. Diplomatic relations have been maintained, but at the level of *chargé d'affaires*.

### Office of Inspector General

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