

Sudan-Chad deal another Saudi diplomatic win

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In a move that affirms its belief that regional problems need regional solutions, Saudi Arabia scored yet another diplomatic victory by brokering a deal between Sudan and Chad to quell spillover fighting from the Darfur crisis. While the impact will become clearer in the months ahead, there is no denying that the recent accord -- encouraging the two African neighbors to stop rebels and opposition groups from staging cross-border raids and support the African Union's efforts to stabilize Darfur -- breaks new ground in a festering crisis.

The Sudanese government signed the African Union-sponsored Darfur Peace Agreement with a main faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement in the Nigerian capital in May last year, but violence continued unabated. The latest agreement is significant because African Union peacekeepers have said that the Darfur conflict cannot be resolved unless hostilities cease on the Sudan-Chad border.

After a string of proactive diplomatic efforts to address the region's compounding crises - Palestinian infighting, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran - Saudi Arabia used the Arab Summit in Riyadh in March to venture into resolving the conflict across the Red Sea. King Abdullah pushed for a dialogue among Sudanese President Omar Beshir, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Chairman of the African Commission Alpha Oumar Konare to evolve a mechanism to overcome the Darfur problem. [Read full article](#)

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