

CHAD

# NEW WINDS OF WAR?



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Goz Beida (border between Darfur - Sudan), a Chadian evacuee with her undernourished child sits in the therapeutic nutritional centre managed by the Italian Coopi NGO.



Koukou (border between Darfur - Sudan), view of the region from above.

Chad is one of Africa's poorest and least developed countries. And yet, after an almost endless series of civil wars, its government, which had been led for over 30 years by the iron hand of Idriss Déby, a close ally of France and the United States, had managed to bring a semblance of stability. Thanks to the army's tight control, Chad has so far been almost immune to the infiltration of Islamic groups that are creating so many problems for the Sahel nations and beyond. This relative stability enabled the government to provide its population with a better standard of living, no easy task.

Chad suffers from childhood malnutrition, it's stricken by drought and desertification and has been invaded by hundreds of thousands of refugees from Central Africa and Sudan. It has oil revenue, but this is unevenly redistributed, and 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. As the Chadian film director Mahamat Saleh Haroun, an award winner at the Cannes and Venice film festivals, once said, "We often feel abandoned in Chad and we don't know why."

Now, with the death of Déby, the fear of a new civil war is re-emerging for the country and its tentative hopes of rebirth.



N'Djamena, preparing for the evening news at the TV Tchad television studios.



N'Djamena, some Chinese girls available for massages meet at Bar "168".



Koukou (border between Darfur - Sudan), two farmers shake hands as they meet in a sorghum field.



Maro (southern Chad), new mothers in a maternity hospital room at the Yaroungou refugee camp, managed by the Italian Coopi NGO.



Maro (southern Chad), protecting herself from the sunshine with an umbrella, a mother walks in the countryside that surrounds the Yaroungou refugee camp, managed by the Italian Coopi NGO.



Koukou (border between Darfur - Sudan), a young Sudanese evacuee undergoing an operation on her knee at the Italian Coopi NGO health centre.



N'Djamena, people crowding inside the entrance to the ministry of communications.



Koukou (Darfur - Sudan border), Chadians at a meeting of the local support group against malnutrition organised by Coopi, an Italian NGO.



Sarh (southern Chad), walking along the dirt road in the northern part of the city.



Goz Beida (Darfur - Sudan border), displaced Chadians in the yard of the therapeutic nutrition centre, run by Coopi, an Italian NGO.



Maro (southern Chad), the boy from central Africa who sells fish at the market in the Yaroungou refugee camp.



Maro (southern Chad), a woman and her children carry wood to the Yaroungou refugee camp.



N'Djamena, one of the mosques of the city.



Maro (southern Chad), refugee women from central Africa at the Yaroungou refugee camp market.



Between Djimane and Moundou (south of N'Djamena) a girl is fishing in a small lake after sunset.



N'Djamena, the skeleton of an elephant in the squalid arcade of the old museum.



Maro (southern Chad), children watch a film in an improvised cinema at the Yaroungou refugee camp.



Koukou (border between Darfur - Sudan), a group of men sit in the shadow of a tree.

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