

community on record in calling for peace in the war-ravaged country. A unified message, coming from the highest body of the international community, is worth something. It could legitimise the cause and generate momentum for further action. Abandoning the fight at the Security Council now would constitute a surrender and make the Sudanese campaign successful. Others, like Garry Kenny, cautioned that a mere press release followed by no practical steps could encourage impunity rather than contribute to a solution.

A suggestion was made that other Security Council resolutions be used to address the conflict in Sudan. Specifically, Canada could lean on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict resolution. Despite the fact that there could scarcely be a better example than Sudan to which this resolution applies, a reluctance prevails at the Security Council to address protection of civilians in practical terms. Tension exists between applying universal norms expounded by Minister Axworthy and the preoccupation of most Security Council members with national interests and sovereignty. Therefore, just having a statement expressing solidarity on the Sudan peace initiative would be a huge achievement. It could urge IGAD to become a more effective body.

Garry Kenny stated that press releases and resolutions mean nothing in practical terms. The Canadian government should not concentrate all its energies at the Security Council. Circumventing the UN proved effective before. To put flesh back on the human security agenda, Canada has to complement its efforts at the Security Council by a set of complementary and assertive measures that imply risk. *One of the options is to launch an investigation of the use of chemical weapons in Sudan within the framework of OPCW.* Canada should put in a formal request for such an investigation to the OPCW. It is well positioned to do so since the Canadian government and NGOs invested so much into the peace process already. Canada could work toward building an international consensus to get humanitarian access to blocked areas. It can also call the Sudanese government's bluff and act on the mandate to protect civilians in armed conflict.

Kenny continued to say that the Canadian government could add another more optimistic Chapter to the disappointing saga of Talisman and impotence of the UN Security Council. Namely, it could publicise its extra UN activities as well as ongoing efforts to develop a normative framework for companies operating abroad in conflict zones. The government could take on a pro-active approach. Some work has to be done on developing a well informed and balanced public opinion. Especially in managing the critique expected to follow on the heels of the potential press statement. There is a misinformed optimism in a Security Council resolution and its impact.

Kathy Vandergrift said that Canada could move the issue forward by publicly voicing concerns regarding grave human rights abuses in Sudan, including the abduction of children and the use of chemical weapons. She expressed frustration with the silence of the Canadian government on these clear-cut issues.