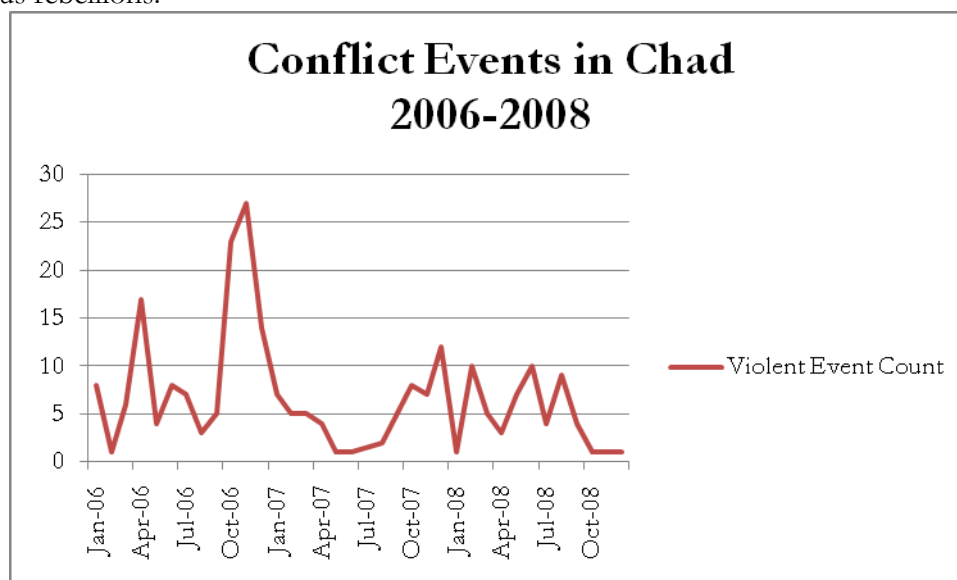


ACLED report for Chad 2006-2008

February 2009

I: Introduction and general overview of violence in Chad 2006-2008

Chad is experiencing a series of rebellions in the east and south of the state, along the borders of both Sudan and Central African Republic. Although instability in both countries is contributing to the rise and persistence of rebel threats to the Déby regime, Chad has a number of internal governance issues that have separately motivated the various rebellions.



The present Government includes former rebel leaders, but it remains at war with the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) and several smaller groups. UFDD is Chad's main rebel group, and although it has agreed internally to a political transition plan, which aims at organizing elections in 18 and attempts to create an independent justice system within Chad, there is currently no time line for when the will be discussed with the N'Djamena government.

Chad is plagued with various rebel alliances; these tend to exist for a relatively short period of time. In late January, Chad's smaller eastern rebel groups have joined together to form a unified insurgency which is preparing fresh military action against the government of President Idriss Déby. Chad rebel leader Timan Erdimi was elected as the chief of a new union of insurgent groups UFR. Chad is also vulnerable to the Lord's Resistance Army, but is not a primary target currently.

Very recently, this new rebel coalition (United Rebel Front-UFR) has begun engaging with government on the eastern border. These are mainly former FUC fighters. FUC was one of Chad's many alliances between small, ethnically based, rebel communities. FUC fighters are from Tama group, who mainly direct conflict on the Zaghawa ethnic community. In late 2008, there arose new ethnic insecurity across Tama and Zaghawa, and humanitarian organizations are specifically targeted in Ade, Dogdere, Goz Beida, Iriba, Guereda and Abeche (FEWS-net).

The hostilities resumed while the Chadian southern rebels announced the creation of a new rebel movement called the Progressive Forces for Independence and Renaissance (FPIR). Apart from the FPIR, which intends to launch its struggle from Cameroon, three other political and military movements are operating in southern Chad - the MPRD of Colonel Djibrine Dasset which is entrenched in the Niellim Mountains

(south-eastern Chad) and the Telssi-National Renaissance of Colonel Michel Mbailemel at the Chad/Central African Republic borders.

As the regime is seen as increasingly shaky, more rebel organizations have sprung up. In 2008, the main organizations included UFDD (Gorane ethnic group), RFC (Zaghawa), the MPRD (ethnically mixed, restarted in 2007) and UFDD-Fondamentale (splinter, active December 2007). These groups allied to form a National Alliance.

Chadian authorities ordered JEM leaders to leave N'djamena and go to movement camps located on Sudanese borders. Chad experiences raids from both opportunistic gunmen residents and Sudanese Janjaweed. Recruitment by Darfur rebel groups (specifically JEM) in camps in eastern Chad threaten the hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced Chadians. The UN has recommended a larger arms embargo on Chad to help stem the violence.

The UN Security Council voted unanimously to deploy 5,200 UN troops to take over from the European Union mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR) in mid-March. The mandate of the UN mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) has been extended into March 2010.

Below we review the main zones of activity in the past three years, offering contextual information as necessary. All spellings of groups, names, etc. are suspect.

A note on following maps: two types of map are displayed here. One is a count of the number of events, the second breaks up that number into the 'type' of event at that location. White events (type 1) are battles between rebel and governments, and rebels against rebels; purple events (type 2) involves a battle in which rebels gain control of the territory; blue (type 3) records when governments regain territory from rebels in battle; green (type 4) records non-violent rebel activity, including recruitment, meetings, presence etc; finally red (type 7) is violence against civilians by either rebel or government forces.

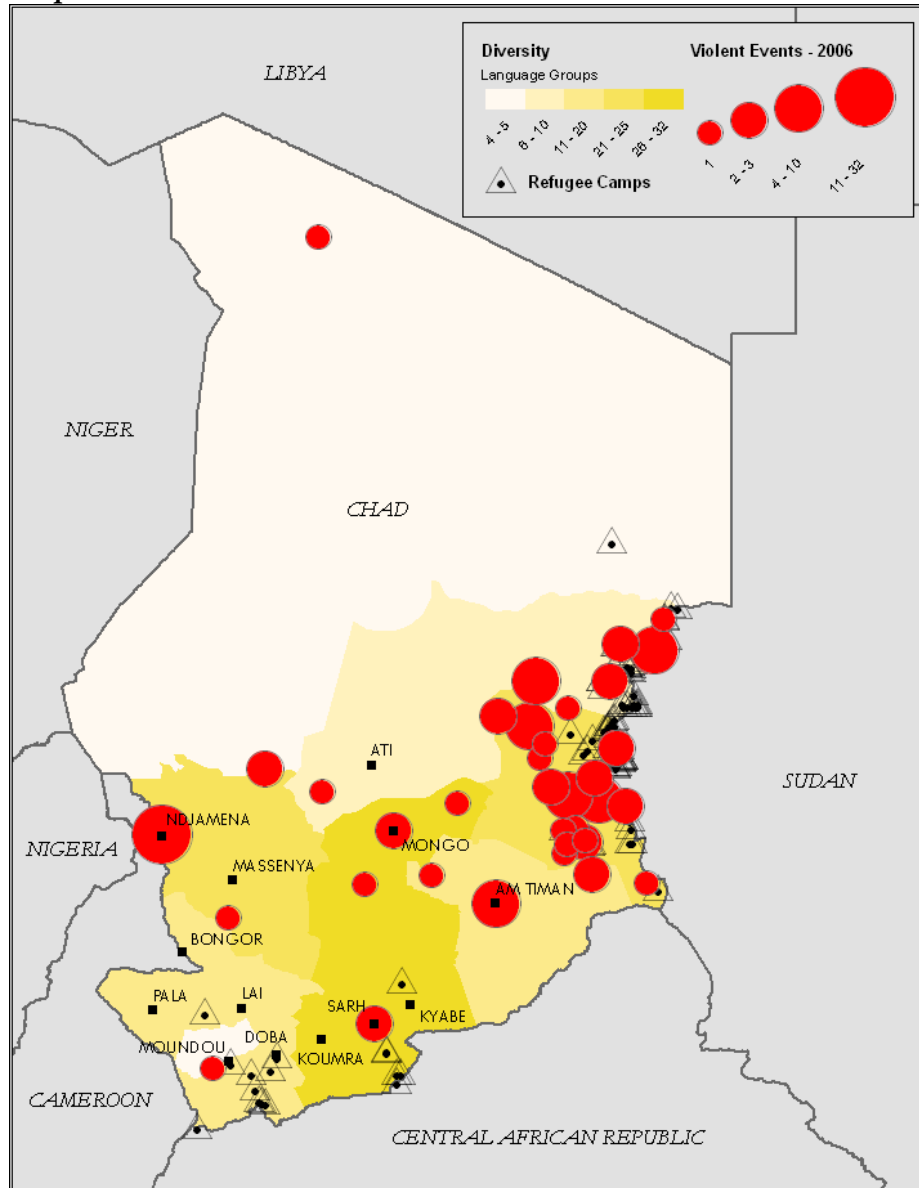
II. Conflict Patterns and Types across Space in 2006

The FUC, in their major attacks on N'djamena in April 2006 were prevented from taking control of the capital only by French troops. The government narrowly avoiding being overthrown, and as a response to FUC's presumed Sudanese support, the Chadian government began supporting some Darfur rebels directly. Darfur's JEM is believed to have fought alongside Chadian troops at this time.

Déby was re-elected head of state in May 2006. A peace agreement was brokered between the Sudanese and Chadian governments that calmed tensions in the summer of 2006, as government halted funding and support. Violent fighting resumed in September 2006 between different rebel groups. Fighting was particularly fierce in the Dar Tama mountains. Neither group held this area.

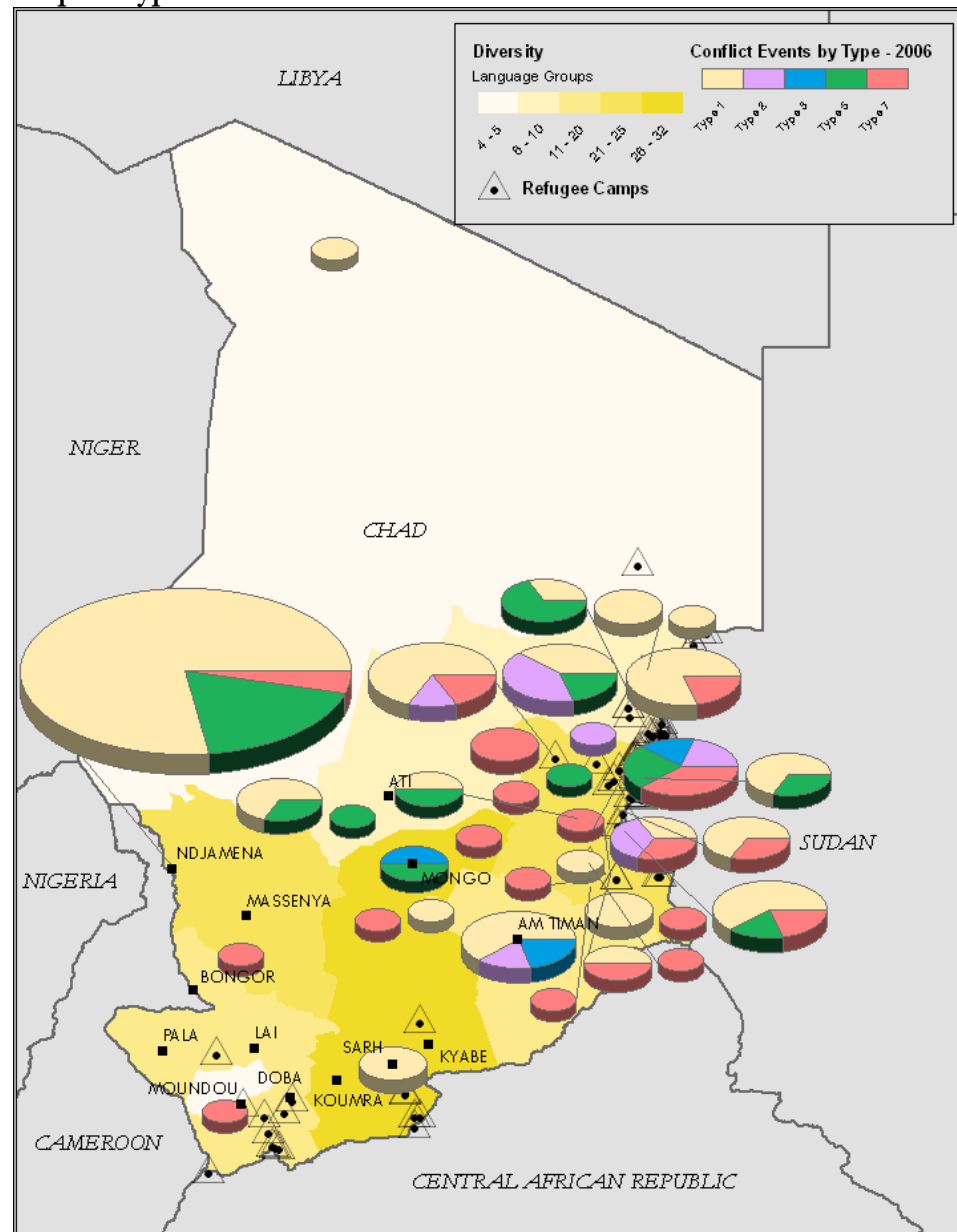
Violence in Chad during 2006 is characterized as heavily Eastern, and taking place on the border with Sudan. Multiple refugee camps have been established there for those fleeing violence inside Chad and from Sudan. Smaller clusters in the South reflect a growing pressure there.

Map 1: Patterns of Violence 2006



Incidents of civilian violence (pink) are widespread in Chad, and dominate smaller clusters of conflict in the east and south. Rebels are gaining territory in the east (as documented by purple colour), while battles are common on the eastern border.

Map 2: Types of violence in 2008



III. Conflict Patterns and Types across Space in 2007

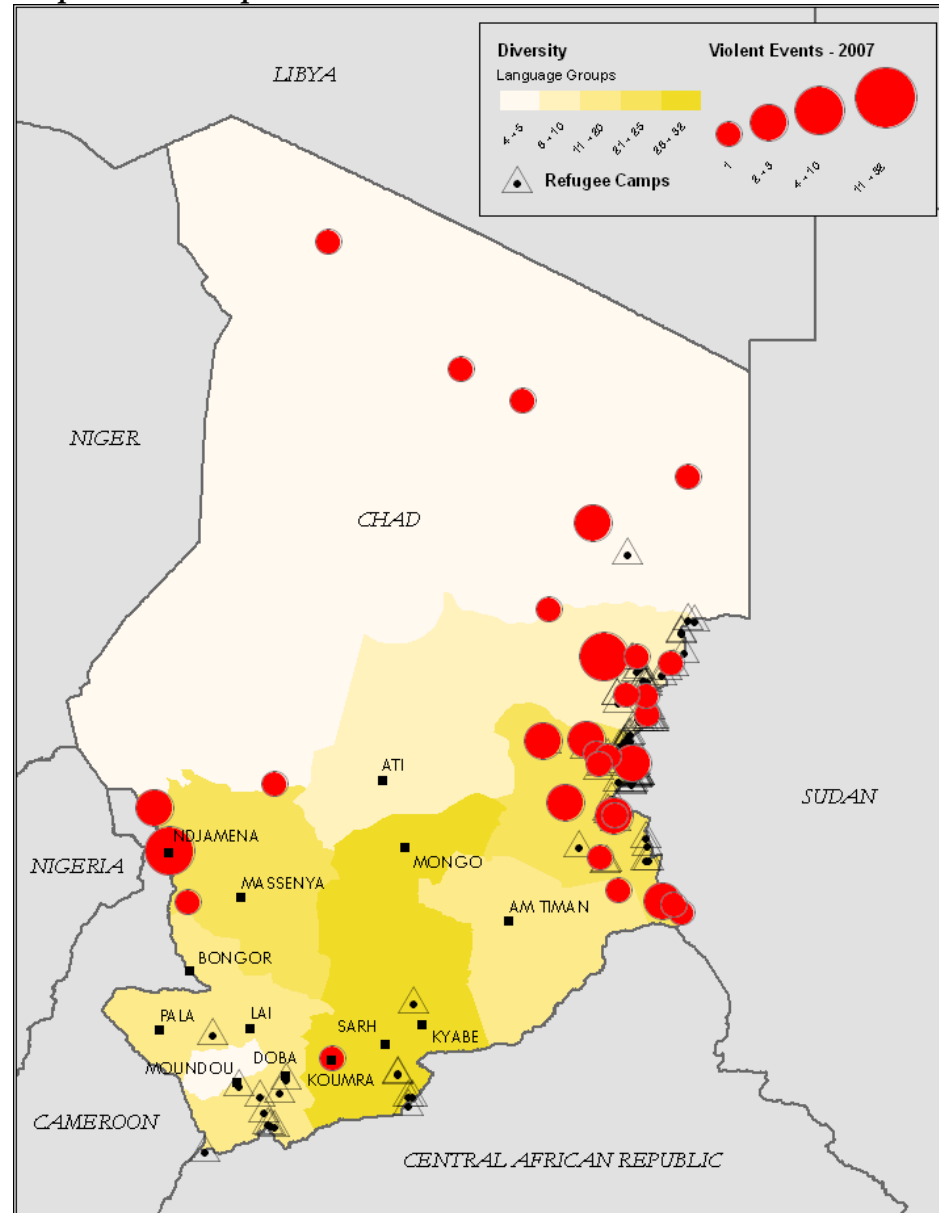
Chad government is attacking rebels on two fronts during 2007: in the east, battles with the RFC (Rally for the forces for change) and to south of these eastern battle, the UFDD has retained strength. Smaller rebel groups were poised to reenter combat early that year. Rebel groups in Chad have decided to reorganize themselves. The National Alliance, a coalition of several rebel movements, has accepted the new membership of the MDJT (Movement for Justice and democracy in Chad). The Tibesti rebel group from the north is therefore joining groups from the east, with the obvious aim of reinforcing the military capacity of the armed opposition in order to overthrow the regime.

There were several instances throughout 2007 in which UFDD forces have been attempted to be absorbed into regular military, but all of which have virtually failed. UFDD is the main rebel contender of the last three years. Soldiers from FUC who had formerly been integrated into the army were reported defecting en masse from at least two garrisons, at Arde and Guereda. Negotiations with a fourth rebel groups (CNT) and those forces were waiting at their bases in Sudan (90% of Chad forces are reportedly

fighting in the east).

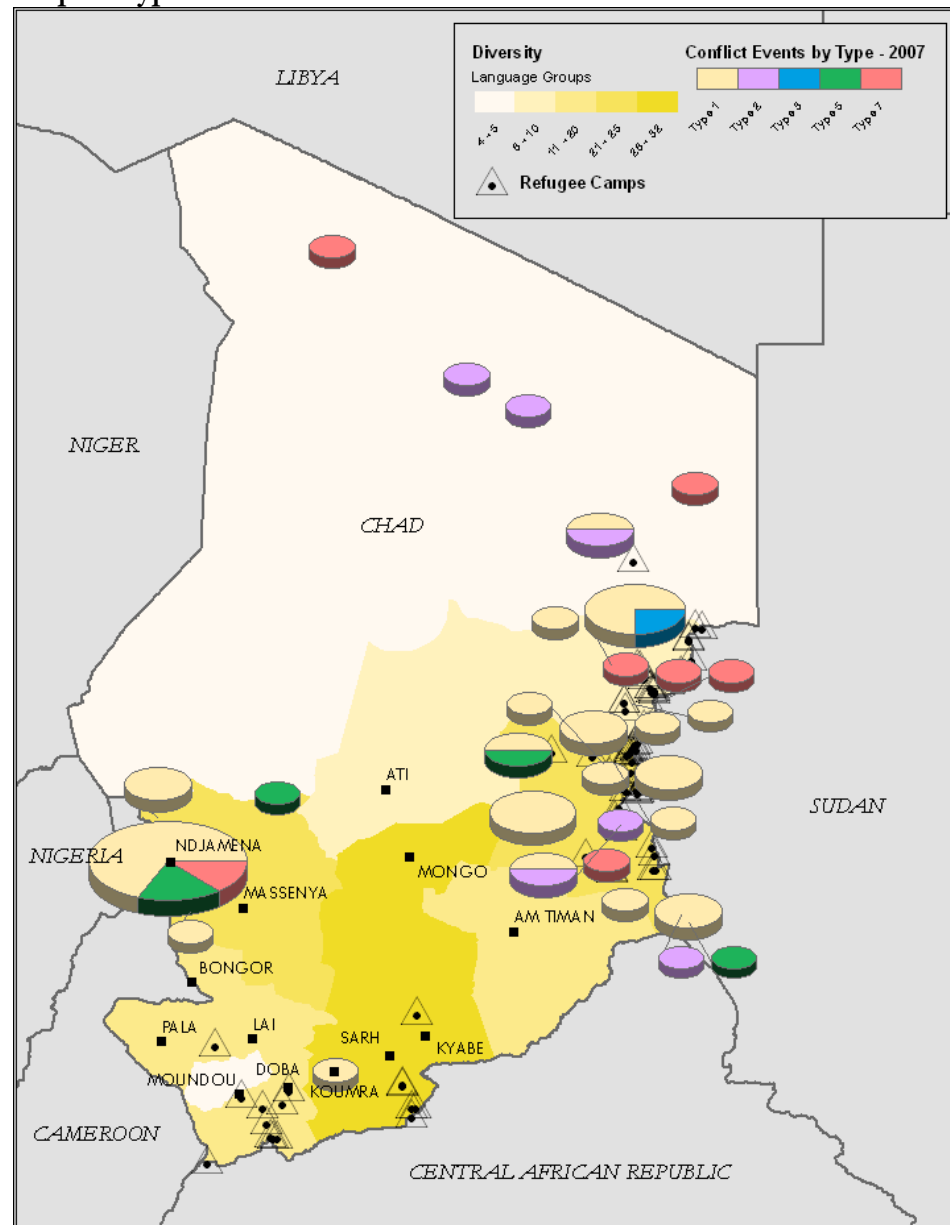
Sudan has accused Chadian aircraft of bombing its western Darfur region in what it called “repeated aggressions” by its western neighbor, but Chad insists its operations against rebels never crossed the border. In eastern Chad militia attacks on villages continue and thousands of desperate Chadians have sought refuge in Darfur and violence has spread to neighboring Central African Republic.

Map 3: Violence patterns in 2007



Patterns of conflict type during 2007 display fewer instances of violence against civilians in the south, but a greater level of territorial control by the rebels in the east (and continued violence against civilians).

Map 4: Types of violence in 2007

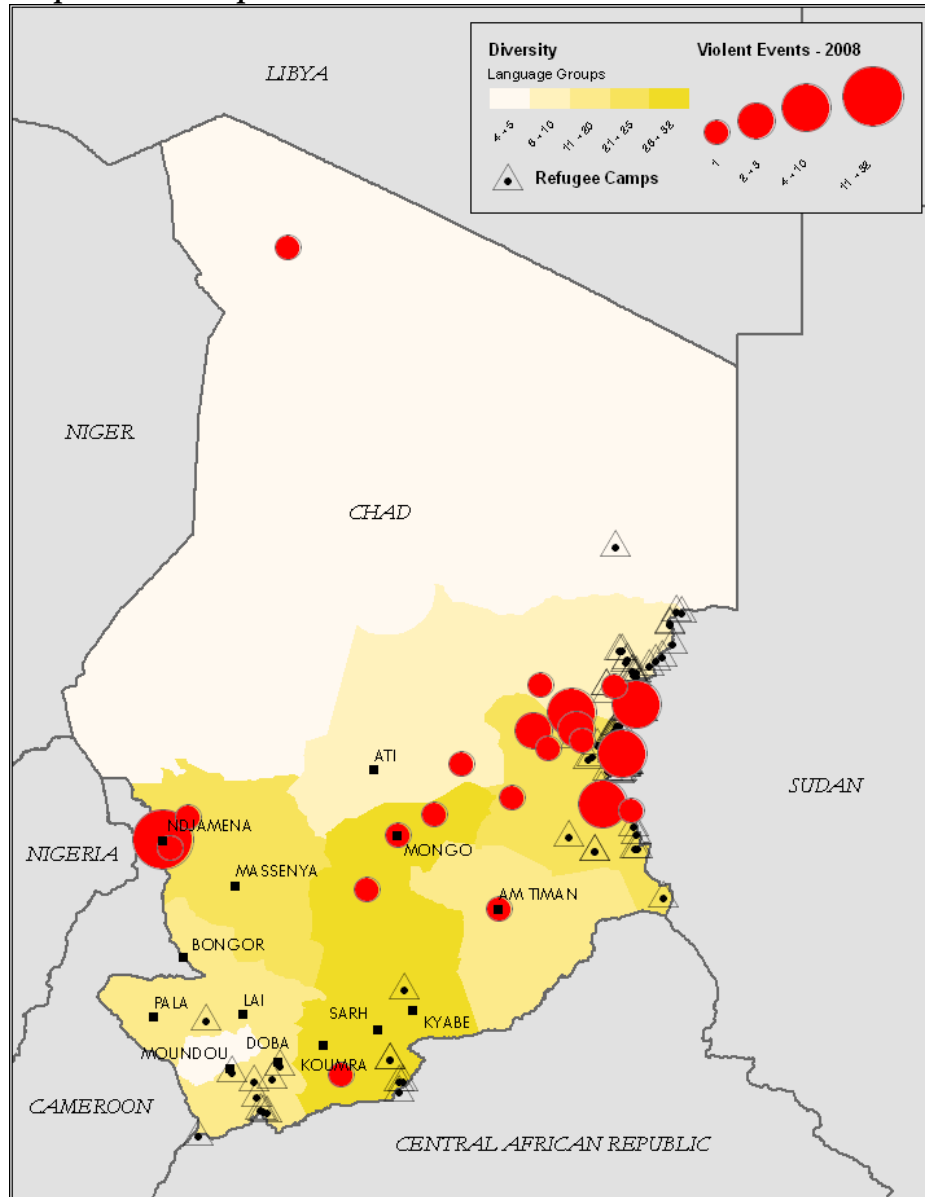


IV. Conflict Patterns and Types across Space in 2008

In 2008, violence in Chad was mainly concentrated in the east. Fighting between the UFDD and the government constituted the majority of armed attacks, while a high proportion of 'armed militias' attacked camps, civilians, and attacked NGO staff. There is some evidence to suggest that 'armed militias' are smaller rebel groups which work in tandem, but splinter frequently. Many of these groups have rear bases in Sudan, which have been attacked by Chad in cross border raids. Although it is frequently postulated that these smaller militias (see below) are often materially benefitting from Sudan, it is difficult to quantify the extent of Sudanese assistance. Nonetheless, Sudanese rebel groups engage with these groups.

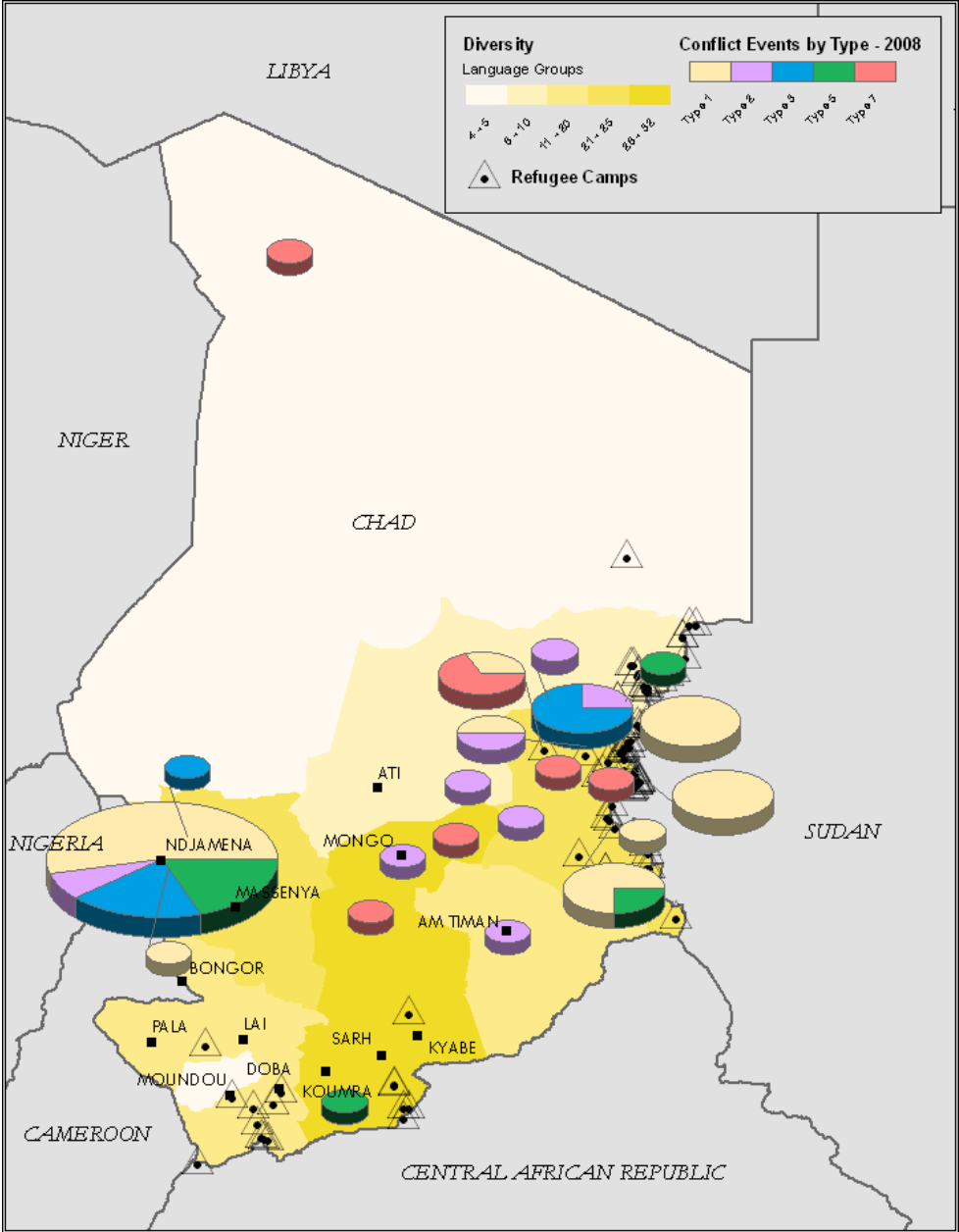
Southern activity is believed to be resuming soon.

Map 5: Violence patterns in 2008



The types of violent activity in 2008 show an increase in rebel control in eastern zones, with a patchwork effect of civilian violence. In the capital, discussions about alliances and joint government lead to a decrease in attacks generally, as had the uncoordinated effects of the rebel alliances.

Map 6: Types of violence in 2008



V. Actors

There are two main rebel zones in Chad: the east and the south. Rebels frequently ally and fracture. A growing number of rebel groups reflect an instability presumed at the centre. Differences between the rebel factions often stem from ethnic or tribal rivalries -- Nouri is a member of the Gorane tribe from northern Chad clan like former president Hissine Habre, while Erdimi is an ethnic Zaghawa, as is the incumbent Déby.

Table of Noted Rebel Movements in 2006-2008

Rebel**	Dates of Activity	Features	Location	Support
UFR -see below	Jan 2009-	New coalition of main active rebel groups	Eastern	Sudan
UFDD -see below	October 2006-Present	Has been involved in almost all activity since its creation. Gorane ethnic community.		Sudan
RFC -see below	2007-	Zaghawa based movement. Includes President's close relatives	East	Sudan
FPIR- Progressive Forces for Independence and Renaissance	January 2009-	Created in Cameroon	Southern	Sudan
FUC- Front Uni Pour le Changement		a coalition of eight groups supported by Khartoum; it reportedly has 3000 armed men of Tama and Arab background	East	Sudan
SCUD- Socle pour l'unité et le changement democratique		Made up of Zagwara deserters, the ruling ethnic group. Leaders are president's nephews and are supported by Khartoum.	East	Sudan
RPJ- Rassemblement populaire pour la justice		Zagwara based	East	Sudan

MPRD- Mouvement pour la paix, la reconstruction et la developement.		Led by southern group previously close to Déby.	South (in CAR)	Sudan
FDPC- Forces pour la democratie du peuple centrafrican		Chadian rebel close to ex-CAR president Patasse.	South	Sudan
TELSI-RN- Telsi renaissance Nationale		A small southern group based on border. Linked to previous rebels (FROLINAT)	South	Sudan
MDJT- Mouvement pour la democratie et la justice au Tchad		Based in Tibesti; dormant, but trying to link to FUC in 2006	North and West	Sudan
MDD- Mouvement pour la democratie et le developement		group has re- emerged having been active since 1992; made up by ex-president Habre.	North and West	Sudan
Janjaweed				Sudan
JEM		Sudanese Rebel Group based out of Darfur. Has become closer to N'Djamena and Déby.	North and West	Chad
SLA			North and West	

Actor Notes

European Union Force Chad/CAR, (EUFOR): EUFOR Chad/CAR was authorized under the United Nations Security Council tasked with training police and improving judicial infrastructure within Chad and Central African Republic. The European Union Force's mandate includes "to take all necessary measures, within its capabilities and its area of operation in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic" to protect civilians, facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid, and ensure the safety of UN personnel. Collation forces have been engaged in armed conflict activity within Chad, resulting with both limited injury and casualty for EUFOR. EUFOR Coalition forces have limited engagements with rebels, as they mainly protect the large numbers of internally displaced and Sudanese refugees located in and around Chad and Central African Republic (

Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) or

*Union des forces pour le progrès et la démocratie (UFPD) or
National Alliance*

A Chadian insurgency group lead by General Mahamat Nouri (kinsmen to former Chadian President Hissène Habré and former ally of current President Déby), formed in October 2006. It was created from the Democratic Revolutionary Council (CDR) led by Acheikh ibn Oumar and a splinter faction of the United Front for Democratic Change (UFDC) under Abdelwahid Aboud Mackaye, (creating a Toubou-Arab coalition). Later the Armed Resistance against Anti-Democratic Forces (RAFAD) led by Hassan Dahab, the Popular Rally for Justice (RPJ) led by Abakar Tollimi, and the National Democratic Rally (RND) led by Adouma Hassaballah joined UFDD. On 22 October 2006, the newly formed Union attacked the eastern Chad town of Goz Beida. UFDD had captured the city, along with several other cities like Am Timan.

UFDD has been engaged in virtually every armed conflict in Chad since it was created and has attempted to minimize civilian involvement, injury or casualty, claiming that their primary goal is to remove President Idriss Déby from power.

Rally of Forces for Change (RFC)

The Rally of Democratic Forces

Rassemblement des Forces Democratiques or RaFD

Chadian rebel group led by Timan Erdimi. Currently allied to the United Front for Democratic Change rebel group and both are dedicated to overthrowing Erdimi's nephew, the current Chadian President Idriss Déby and his administration. As of May 1, 2006, RAFD has a significant presence in the cities of Guereda, Tissi and Adre. RAFD changed its name to Rally of Forces for Change (Rassemblement des forces pour le changement or RFC). RFC has been militarily active in 2008, most recently in the June 2008 rebel campaign on N'Djamena.

United Front for Democratic Change (UFDC)

Front uni pour le changement (FUC)

Coalition of rebel groups with the primary goal of removing current President Idriss Déby from power. UFDC was formed from eight, now virtually defunct, rebel groups in December of 2005. Involvement in the "Second Battle of Andre" by UFDC forces resulted in President Déby declaring war upon Sudan, claiming that Sudan was harboring rebel forces. UFDC was absorbed into the largest Chadian rebel force, Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) during October 2006. Mohammed Nour Abdelkerim, leader of UFDC forces, signed a peace agreement with Déby in December 2006 with the intent of UFDC rebels being integrated within the Chadian military. However, integration failed for the most part and Nour sought refuge in Libya while UFDC forces were absorbed completely by UFDD.

The United Resistance Forces (UFR)

Chad's eight main rebel groups (Including UFCD, UFDD, and RFC) have joined together to form a unified insurgency which is preparing fresh military action against the government of President Idriss Déby. The leaders of the eight rebel groups signed a deal in Sudan to form the alliance called the Union of Resistance Forces, said one of its leaders, Ali Gueddei. While bitter in-fighting has often been the rebellion's Achilles' heel, another leader, Hissene Ahamat El Hadj of the Union of Forces for Change and Democracy (UFCD), said that this time the rebels had found "common ground to unite against the regime." "The United Resistance Forces (UFR) will allow us to better fight against the regime," said Timan Edimi, leader of the Rally for the Forces of Change (RFC), which in the past has often been at odds with Nouri's faction.

Main ethno-political tribes

The Zaghawa live in Chad and the Darfur region of Sudan. While they are not very powerful in Sudan, they politically dominate Chad. The current president, Idriss Déby and several former prime ministers of Chad are Zaghawa, as well as many other members of the government. Thus the Chadian Zaghawa are among the wealthiest and politically influential people of Chad, even though they only make up approximately three percent of the population. The Zaghawa of Sudan are among the ethnic groups in Darfur who have been referred to as "African" even as other tribes that have fought with them have been called "Arab." Due to the fighting in Darfur, where they are targeted by local Arab militias, 100,000 have become refugees across the border in Chad. The Zaghawa accuse the Sudanese government of supporting members of the rival Tama tribe.

The Toubou (also called Tebu or Tubu or Tebou) are located mainly in northern Chad, but also in Libya, Niger and Sudan. The majority of Toubou live in the north of Chad around the Tibesti mountains (roughly 350,000). Most Toubou are herders and nomads, though many are now semi-nomadic. Their society is heavily muslim and clan-based. They are divided in two closely-associated people, the Teda and the Daza. Many of Chad's former leaders have been Toubou, including Presidents Goukouni Oueddei and Hissène Habré.

The Tama are an ethnic group in Chad and Sudan, numbering more than 50,000. Most Tama people in Sudan are settled in Kabkabyia, in Northern Darfur. The Tama are considered to be "African" but have roots from Saudi Arabia. They were not directly targeted by the Janjaweed attacks in Darfur, but some were killed in the context of collateral damage. Moreover, there are some unverified allegations of them being close to the government and the Janjaweed. Many Zaghawa continue to perceive the Tama as rebel supporters, while the Tama tend to see the Zaghawa as a cabal. Zaghawa dominate Déby's administration in N'djamena as well as in local administrations including in the Tama region. The conflict in eastern Chad has been widely viewed as a problem between Arab and non-Arab ethnic groups, but the Tama and Zaghawa are both non-Arab. Tension between the two groups dates to the early 1990s, when as a result of drought the Zaghawa moved onto Tama land in the Guereda region, effectively forcing the Tama out. The Tama then fled to Darfur and took up arms against the Zaghawa and the Chadian government.