

Ana Gomes, *on behalf of the S&D Group*. – Mr President, having observed the elections in Khartoum in 2010 on behalf of this Parliament and visited Juba prior to the independence referendum, I regret to say that I am not surprised at the escalation of conflict in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile State triggering an invasion by the Sudan armed forces.

Those in the international community – namely in the US, the African Union and the European Union – who turn a blind eye to the crimes for which President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has been indicted by the ICC, and contribute to his impunity by failing to work to render him to The Hague, must accept some responsibility for these developments, including the horrific loss of life and the outrageous denial of access for all those in need to humanitarian agencies.

Most of what the European Parliament resolution recommends makes sense, but I doubt whether we can expect any meaningful progress towards the resolution of what is, as my colleague Véronique De Keyser has said, a political conflict between the North and the South. If we continue to put faith in mediation by pathetic personalities such as Mr Thabo Mbeki, I fear we will not make any progress.