

# Fuel Shortage Stalls Troops for Darfur

By REUTERS  
The New York Times  
September 4, 2005

ADDIS ABABA, [Ethiopia](#), Sept. 3 (Reuters) - A fuel shortage has temporarily stalled the deployment of African troops across [Sudan's](#) troubled region of Darfur, a senior official with the African Union said Saturday.

"There is no fuel for our planes. We are trying to buy fuel directly from [Chad](#)," said the official, Ki Doulay, who leads the union's Darfur task force.

He did not explain what caused the shortages but said he hoped deployment would be completed by Oct. 20.

A 3,000-strong African Union force is already in place, but continued violence against villagers and clashes among armed militias have persisted, prompting the union to more than double its presence in the region.

Also on Saturday, a senior official with an aid group said armed men had attacked and robbed an aid convoy traveling in western Darfur on Thursday and threatened to kill relief workers if they used the same route again. The convoy included seven vehicles and 22 foreign and Sudanese staff members.

Niels Scott, head of the Darfur unit for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said banditry in several areas across Darfur had become the most serious security concern.