

**New York, Feb 18, 2008.** Greetings... .... from the Beekman Tower Hotel in New York! Yes, a hotel in the City. As it has been widely covered by the general press, Chad erupted into one more episode of violent civil unrest in late January. This time, the rebels took over most the capital city for a couple of days. The fighting in there, we have been told, was quite fierce. (For some photos of the aftermath, go to <http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Chad-Unrest/ss/events/wl/020208chadunrest>.) Eventually, the French decided to intervene on the side of the government, the rebels pulled back, and the government forces reassumed control. But the situation is still quite shaky! (For the latest-to-date report from Chad by BBC, go to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7245966.stm>.)

For us, things could have been significantly worse. Our kids were way from Chad at their respective boarding schools, and Lucy and I, by coincidence, were out of the country. (Lucy has since returned to N'Djamena. As far as me, well, here I am, waiting to be authorized to join her back there.) As lucky as we were, we can not avoid feeling deeply sad for all the innocent victims of this destructive conflict in one of the poorest countries on our planet. Let's just hope that good sense eventually prevails in the minds of all - Chadians and foreigners, including some in a few western countries - who in one way or another keep on contributing for the continuation of this silly war.

Until the next one (hopefully a happier one!) BRgds, Jorge

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