

give an indication):

- (a) 17 people had been killed in town and an additional 68 in the surroundings of Tawilla town
- (b) All houses as well as the market and the health centre had been completely looted and the market burnt
- (c) Over 100 women had been raped, six in front of their fathers who had later been killed
- (d) About 150 women and 200 children had been abducted
- (e) In all of the Tawilla Administrative Unit, 30 villages had been burnt, more than 200 people killed, and more than 200 women raped

5. People have reportedly fled in many directions, some hiding in the mountains, but most seem to have headed East towards El Fasher town. The mission yesterday identified the following IDP locations, in addition to the wadi next to Tawilla town itself: Um Brunga 3,000 IDPs and Konjara 3,500 IDPs. El Fasher town currently has about 6,000 IDPs from the recent attack on Tawilla. All in all, about 18,500 IDPs are thus accounted for, while additional thousands seem to be unaccounted for (Tawilla Administrative Unit used to have about 94,000 residents and large parts of its western and Southern part has been burnt - however, it is unclear exactly how many people were living in the now burnt villages).

6. The main priority identified by the IDPs was security, food and medicines. WFP has been distributing one-week rations to the IDPs in El Fasher town and UNICEF has provided drugs, blankets, plastic sheeting and other non-food items to IDPs in the locations visited as well to those in El Fasher town. Unfortunately, the Director of Health was reportedly earlier today denied permission to send a health team and essential UNICEF drugs to Tawilla town. WFP is planning registration and food distribution to the IDPs near Tawilla town as well as to IDPs in Um Brunga and Konjara in cooperation with SRC. Protection remains a major concern: no police or other security is has been provided to any of the IDP locations, except El Fasher town where it seems that police has been stationed following looting of humanitarian supplies in the IDP area in the evening of 2 March (it remains to be confirmed whether they will stay on a 24-hour basis as requested by OCHA, WFP and UNICEF). It should also be noted that OCHA documented the rape of a 13 and a 15 year old girl who left the IDP area in El Fasher to collect firewood and were attacked by one man in uniform and two people in plain clothes. This may be an indication that the IDPs are safe nowhere and that certain people continue to view non-Arabs as deserving only the worst that this world has to offer.

7. It should finally be noted that those we spoke to in Tawilla town stated that Government helicopters were providing ammunition to the Janjaweed during the attack, which if true would be a pattern reported following several other Janjaweed attacks in the Darfur area. They also claimed that the Janjaweed were using LandCruisers provided by the Government, and in any case it is no secret that the Government has armed and trained the Janjaweed for use in their war against the SLA (even local GoS officials will admit this in private). While pressure must be put on the SLA to stop fighting, it is also time to put very strong pressure on the Government that irrespective of their war with the SLA it is unacceptable to deliberately target civilians as part of the war effort as it is happening now. Targeting the civilians of Tawilla town does seem to have its own military logic, since the town indeed has been an SLA stronghold - the police station there has twice been attacked by SLA until it withdrew and the SLA reportedly stopped a bus near Tawilla for several hours only about two weeks ago - but this does not in any way excuse the crimes committed by Janjaweed/GoS against civilians there.

8. It is rumoured that Korma town and Korma Administrative Unit may be the next target of the GoS/Janjaweed. While impossible to verify, the area is very similar to Tawilla in the sense that it has reported SLA presence and apparently still is not fully controlled by the Government who continues to deny travel permits for humanitarian actors to the area. In addition, it was among the only two major IDP locations together with Tawilla that was not included in a list provided by the State Government to the UN in February requesting urgent humanitarian assistance for those locations.

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Best regards,
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