



OFFICE OF UN RESIDENT AND HUMANITARIAN CO-ORDINATOR
FOR THE SUDAN

8 March 2004

Excellency

I have the honour to refer to our meeting in your office at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on 4 March at which I raised serious concerns over the protection of civilians exposed to the armed conflict in the Darfur Region. I was grateful for your own concerns over this matter and appreciated your request to me to write to you with details, which you said would be given prompt consideration by the Government.

Accordingly, may I draw your attention to the attached compilation of serious incidents during February that have come to the notice of the United Nations from reliable observers on the ground. These would appear to point towards strong prime-facie evidence for gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which the Government may wish to examine further with a view to bringing justice and redress for the victims.

As we discussed at our meeting, further and credible reports of armed attacks against civilians – including rape, torture, killings, looting and destruction of property – continue to reach my Office. We would, therefore also request the Government's urgent attention towards providing adequate protection for civilian populations in the Darfur Region. In particular, the increasing reports of the deliberate targeting of civilians by the Janjaweed and associated forces as part of their armed strategy, is causing profound worry amongst humanitarian workers seeking to provide assistance on the ground.

In thanking you, Excellency, for encouraging me to write to you, may I also express regret at being obliged to draw such tragic matters to your attention.

Assuring you, Excellency, of my highest consideration.

*I best personal regards
Yours sincerely*

Dr Mukesh Kapila
UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

HE Mr Mohamed Yousif Abdalla,
State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs

Cc: HE Mr Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs
HE Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of Foreign Affairs