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

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RCHC/SUD/Note 39

**NOTE TO MR. RIZA**

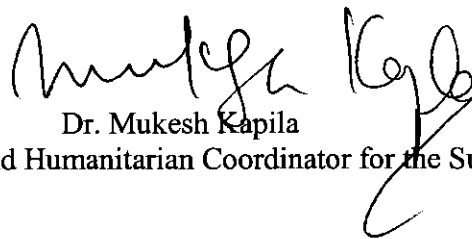
**Sudan: Ethnic Cleansing in Darfur**

1. I would be grateful if you could please draw this Note to the personal attention of the Secretary-General.
2. It is my sad duty to advise the Secretary-General of my considered view that the crisis in the Greater Darfur Region continues to deteriorate to the point that it may now be characterized as “ethnic cleansing”. This conclusion is based on information from UN staff and other credible humanitarian observers in the field as well as eye witness testimonies of local people drawn to our attention (some of the latter have been detained or otherwise seriously harassed by the authorities after talking to us).
3. Salient relevant observations are as follows:
  - There appears to be a systematic campaign of oppression including large scale armed violence and incidents of murder, rape, torture and abduction directed specifically against populations of black African tribal origin directed by the Arab militia known as the Jinjaweed.
  - This is accompanied by the systemic forced displacement of populations of black African tribal origin manifested through the organized burning and destruction of their villages and homes, and akin to a deliberate “scorched earth” policy.
  - The organization of the above programs appears to display features of a command-and-control structure demonstrating pre-meditation and planning from a higher level of a policy of extreme violence that is specifically targeted at African tribes. The term “zurka-free areas” (derogatively translated by locals as “nigger free”) has been applied by interlocutors in the Darfur Region as the explicitly stated objective of those responsible for the violence.
4. Other contextual information is as follows. Overall, we estimate that at least one million of the six million population in the Darfur Region are directly affected by the violence (including 110,000 refugees and some 600,000-700,000 IDPs), with wider consequences touching almost everyone in Greater Darfur and increasingly other parts of the Sudan. For example, violent relocation of Darfurian IDPs in Khartoum as well as forced conscription of civilians into the Armed Forces is reported from many places. The

Jinjaweed are reported to receive military assistance and direction from sympathetic elements within the structures of the Government of Sudan (GoS), with indications that GoS military campaigns (including air assets) have taken place in joint orchestration. Individuals in responsible positions of authority have been named to us as being implicated and are therefore open to charges of war crimes. The ICRC has been refused consent to operate freely in the region. UN-Sudan humanitarian programmes in Greater Darfur are only able to inch forward with very modest improvements because they continue to be obstructed by the GoS Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. This is done in various ways including lengthy delays in granting clearances for essential equipment and staff, severely limiting our capacity to function on the ground in accordance with our Minimum Operating Security Standards. This has a direct bearing on the international community's ability to provide humanitarian assistance in a consistent and meaningful manner. We have brought these concerns to the attention of the GoS on numerous occasions, to little avail.

5. There is considerable backing for the above observations from the international community including key concerned Member States, NGOs and civil society organizations. There is concern – which I have echoed publicly – that the situation in Darfur is reminiscent of the earlier period of the crisis in Rwanda, which ultimately progressed to genocide because of lack of timely recognition of the problem and action by the international community.

6. Recommendations for the Secretary-General include more urgent efforts to bring the conflicting parties together to agree on an internationally monitored ceasefire, a UN OHCHR mandate to include protection of civilians in the Sudan, advocacy for unobstructed humanitarian access for the UN and our implementing partners, and the offer of a humanitarian briefing to the Security Council. The UN may also like to develop a position as and when there are calls made by others in the international community for the perpetrators of the ethnic cleansing policy to be brought to justice – in line with similar recent accountability efforts in other situations.



Dr. Mukesh Kapila

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan

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Mr. Egeland  
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