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

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Excellency

**Darfur: Attacks on Korma with Severe Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law**

At the request of humanitarian workers and the affected population on the ground it is my sad duty to pass onto you details regarding two attacks against civilians that took place in Korma over the past eight days.

I am informed that Janjaweed and Government Soldiers carried out the first attack on Korma at approximately 06.30 on Tuesday 16 March with 7-10 vehicles involved. The pattern of attack is said to have the following characteristics:

- Twenty-two rapes occurred, seven on women described as 'young'. As in other incidents, the population stated that a number (unspecified) of these rapes were carried out in front of the families of the victims;
- The local population said that the rape victims were subsequently abducted but 16 had returned in the week following the attack;
- To date forty-eight people have been reported killed, including several members of the Public Defense Force. Some reports indicate that members of the Public Defense force who surrendered their weapons to the Janjaweed were executed;
- Unspecified numbers of men and boys were abducted and forced to herd looted livestock. There are consistent reports that some of the men were beaten and heavily during the process.

It has been consistently reported to us that on the second day of the attack, at least one Government military helicopter arrived to re-supply the attackers. The helicopter was said to have brought ammunition and evacuated Janjaweed casualties.

A second attack took place on Sunday 21 March, during which a further portion of the market was burned and eight more people were reportedly killed. The perpetrators in this instance are described either as 'Goran' Tribe, Janajaweed or both. Members of this group did take part in the first attack as part of the Janjaweed but are said to have carried out the second attack independently.

These reports appear to point towards strong evidence for gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Rape conducted during military operations is considered a war crime. Given the severity of these reports we would appeal to the

Government of The Sudan to investigate these attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice.

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

Assuring you, Excellency, of my highest consideration.

*Jan & Carly*  
*Mukesh Kapila*

Dr Mukesh Kapila ←  
UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

H.E. Nagib El Kheir Abdel Wahab  
State Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Khartoum

CC: H.E. Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Mr Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs  
H.E. Mr Mohammed Yousif Abdalla, State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs