



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

24 March 2004

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 18 March 2004 regarding the issue of the Darfur internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had moved to Mayo camp in Khartoum. With respect to my stated suggestion that any action taken to move the IDPs be done in a voluntary manner, I am informed by colleagues who have spoken to some of the IDPs that they were forced by police to board lorries and move on 18 March 2004. We have so far only seen approximately 200 of the estimated 1,000 IDPs who were in the Mayo school camp on 17 March. They have been moved to a walled compound on the road to Dongola approximately 30 kilometres north of Omdurman. Some mothers in this group claimed that they had lost their children during the police action of 17 March and wanted to be transported back to Mayo to look for them. Being in an isolated location far away from a community in which the IDPs would have more opportunity to cope with their situation, these IDPs will become entirely dependent on aid – a development that we both agree should be avoided as much as possible and something the IDPs abhor.

Again, I appeal to you, Excellency, to investigate this situation and to take all measures necessary to protect the IDPs and to ensure that they are in a safe location where they will have access to existing services, some livelihood and assistance. We strongly recommend against setting up permanent camp structures in areas where IDPs are isolated and do not want to remain.

In connexion with the IDPs that we have not located, we would appreciate any information that you could give us so that a needs assessment can be carried out in collaboration with HAC. I also urge that all efforts are made to find the children that some of the mothers say have been missing since 18 March in Mayo.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mukesh Kapila".

Dr. Mukesh Kapila  
UN Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator

H.E. Mr Mohamed Yousif Abdalla  
State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs  
KHARTOUM

cc. H.E. Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs  
H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Mr. Nageib El Kheir, State Minister of Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Dr. Sulaf El Din Salih, Commissioner of Humanitarian Affairs.