

**DARFUR REGION: INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS
REPORTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS
1 – 15 MARCH 2004**

From 1 to 15 March 2004, the UN has received reports of incidents in which a total number of **85** civilians were **killed** and **101** people were **injured**. Of these, **84** killings and **89** injuries were attributed to bombings of villages by GoS planes and Janjaweed militias and associated military forces, while **1** killing and **12** injuries were attributed to unidentified armed groups.

In addition, the UN has received reports of increased number of enforced or involuntary disappearance cases which have been described as a new pattern of violations of human rights by military, security and militia forces. Reportedly, 27 girls from Kutum, Bindisi and Morny areas were kidnapped by security and military forces and were brought to Khartoum by plane in February 2004. With the exception of one girl, all girls were brought to private households of kidnapers. The whereabouts of the girls is unknown at this stage.

Reported incidents during 1-15 March include the following:

- Between 29 February and 1 March, Janjaweed militia attacked and killed two IDPs in Um Khair village, 54 Km west of Garsilla, south Darfur.
- On 1 March, Janjaweed militia groups attacked Dagarais village, 34 Km west of Nylala, south Darfur and killed 22 civilians and injured 30 villagers.
- On 3 March, Janjaweed militia attacked four villages near Deleij, 64 Km south-west of Zalingei, south Darfur, and reportedly killed two civilians. All villages were reportedly burnt, and an unknown number of cattle were stolen by Janjaweed attackers.
- On 3 March, six passengers of a commercial truck were injured in a landmine incident that occurred in Kobo, 35 Km south of Bindisi, south Darfur.
- On 5 March, Janjaweed militias attacked the administrative unit of Mastri, 55 Km south-west of Geneina, north Darfur, and killed reportedly two civilians and injured one villager.
- On 5 March, an unknown armed group ambushed a mobile vaccination team on its route from Nyala to Sania Deliba, 20 Km south from Nyala, south Darfur, and injured two persons. All belongings of the mobile team were reportedly looted.
- On 6 March, an unknown armed group ambushed a commercial truck in Ubga Ragil (Nyala – Sanam – El Naga – Eddain route -, 25 Km south of Nyala, south Darfur, and injured 1 person.

- On 7 March, about 400 Janjaweed militias attacked a village in Abu Ajura, Dagaes, 45 Km south-west of Nyala, south Darfur, and killed reportedly 20 civilians and injured 30 villagers.
 - On 7 March, an unknown armed group ambushed a passenger bus on Nyala – Ed Da`ain road, south Darfur, and killed one and injured two passengers. All belongings of passengers were looted by that armed group.
 - On 7 March, Janjaweed militias attacked Malam, 17 Km north of Mershing (88 Km north-west of Nyala), south Darfur, and looted cattle and belongings of villagers. Reportedly, one person was killed during the attack.
 - On 7 March, Janjaweed militias attacked Tulo and Arsonga, 4 Km west of Gemeiza and Kortinga, 73 Km north of Nyala, south Darfur, and killed two civilians and injured 3 other persons.
 - On 8 March, military planes bombed villages near Kidinir, east of Meran mountains during which 13 women, 8 children and 4 men were killed.
 - On 12 March, Janjaweed militias attacked an IDP camp in Adamata, near El Genina, west Darfur, and killed reportedly two IDPs.
 - On 12 March, military planes bombed Sherya, 70 Km east of Nyala, south Darfur, during which 6 women were reportedly killed and 25 persons were injured. Reportedly after the bombing, Janjaweed militias attacked the village and burnt over 100 huts and stole 670 cattle.
 - On 15 March, an unknown armed group ambushed a commercial convoy carrying food aid supplies on the road between El Fashir and Kutum, north Darfur during which one driver was slightly injured. Reportedly, food commodities and jerry cans were taken by the armed group.
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UNITED NATIONS

Press Release

EIGHT UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTED WIDESPREAD ABUSES IN DARFUR, SUDAN

26 March 2004

The following statement was issued today by eight fact-finding experts of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights:

We are gravely concerned at the scale of reported human rights abuses and at the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, notwithstanding the progress made in connection with another conflict in the country between the Government and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army.

It is reported that the population in the Darfur region—mostly from the Fur ethnic communities of the Masalit, Dajo, Tunjur, Tama and Zaghawas—has been the victim of systematic human rights violations, committed mainly by Government-allied militias such as the Janjaweed, Murahleen and the Popular Defence Forces. The Government is allegedly encouraging the actions of the militias in order to pursue a strategy of forced displacement of the non-Arab population of the region. Since February 2003, over 100,000 people have reportedly fled across the border to Chad, and as many as 750,000 have been internally displaced within Sudan, a country which already has the world's largest number of internally displaced persons.

According to recent reports, the situation has seriously deteriorated with scores of civilians being killed. Information received speaks of attacks against refugees and displaced persons, the rape of women and girls, abduction of children, the burning of dozens of villages, looting, and destruction of livestock by the militias. The top United Nations official in the country has described the situation as "possibly the world's hottest war", characterized by a campaign of ethnic cleansing "comparable in character, if not scale, to the Rwanda genocide".

UN
Coordinator
DR KADILA

We urge all parties in the conflict to respect civilian populations in accordance with international humanitarian and international human rights law. We affirm the absolute necessity of identifying the perpetrators and ensuring that they are held accountable in conformity with international standards.

The experts are: the Special Rapporteur on torture, Theo van Boven; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Yakin Ertürk; the Special Rapporteur on racism, Doudou Diène; the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Paul Hunt; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Asma Jahangir; the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, Juan Miguel Petit; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Jean Ziegler; and the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Francis Deng. They have transmitted communications to the Government of Sudan concerning allegations of human rights abuses in the region related to their respective mandates.