**February 2017 Report- fact on the attacks in Darfur**

During this month were thirteen violent incidents against innocent civilians in Darfur. Five of these incidents were attacks resulting in death, injuries and displacement, two of these incidents were rapes, three were lootings or robberies by government supported forces, and four were widespread fires resulting in mass devastation. Sadly, these attacks were carried out against the civilian population. It’s the daily life of the Darfur genocide victims

**Details of the Attacks:**

Darfur, during the first week of February, saw a devastating fire in the El Salam camp in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur. Because of this fire, an elderly woman and a two-year-old child were both injured. This fire also destroyed around 30 homes in the camp. The camp also suffered a loss of crops and had left many families without shelter and food[[1]](#footnote-1).

The following day, two teachers in West Darfur were raped at gunpoint. Three young men stormed the hostel of El Addar School armed. They then processed to seize two of the teachers and raped them on a piece of open ground. The attack was reported to the El Geneina police and following this two of the suspects were arrested. The third suspect has fled[[2]](#footnote-2).

A 14-year-old girl was raped by two gunmen in Musku in Manawashi. The girl was attacked on her way from Um Driseih to her village in Musku, South Darfur. Two men grabbed her and took turns forcing themselves upon her. The girl was found a few hours later by locals. She was brought to the Manawashi health center. The girl was bleeding very heavily and was almost unconscious, and as a result, she was transferred to Nyala for treatment[[3]](#footnote-3).

Four people killed and three were injured in North Darfur. Those attacked were part of a rescue teams, sent to track down a group of men who had stolen 200 sheep. The team consisted of soldiers, police officers, and civilians. The teams were attacked by militiamen who then proceeded to shot two police officers, who died instantly. None of the attackers sustained injuries[[4]](#footnote-4).

There was another attack perpetrated by militiamen in North Darfur, in Kutum. Two men were abducted from the Kutum Market. According to sources, the militiamen demanded cell phones and money. When the victims refused, one was beaten with a rifle and then had his ear cut off. Ahmed Omar Ibrahim and Osman Haroun Khater were kidnapped by the gunmen. In addition to the abduction of the two men, 15 goats were stolen from Fata Borno[[5]](#footnote-5).

A woman by the name of Igbal Adam Fadul was shot dead in front of the Kabkabiya Women’s Prison in North Darfur. Witness’ say that a group of twenty women was being transferred to Kababiya in El Fasher. Families of these women were peacefully protesting the transfer outside the prison only to be shot at by government troops[[6]](#footnote-6).

Around 530 people fled from East Jebel Marra in early February. They arrived at the camp Shaddad of Shangil Tobaya in North Darfur. These families were forced to flee due to attacks by the militia and by herders on Balidy Serif Libi and Swanee. The new refugees did not receive any sort of aid upon arrival[[7]](#footnote-7).

In North Darfur’s Tawila, three headers were killed. The people of Tawila were handing over a memorandum to Sudan’s second vice-president, Hasabo Mohamed Abelrahman. This memorandum demanded that the people of Tawila be granted access to health, education, water, and security. The memorandum also details various acts of ongoing murder, kidnapping, and theft by militiamen. According to witnesses, seven armed men on camels attacked three herders, who were grazing their cows, at Tamara. The three men were killed instantly, and the militiamen escaped with 45 cows[[8]](#footnote-8).

Later that day, three militiamen abducted a driver and his family members and stole his vehicle. This attack happened on the road between Kunjara and Tabit in Tawila locality in North Darfur. According to relatives of the abducted, the militiamen intercepted the vehicle and stopped Mohamed Ahmed Abdallah at gunpoint[[9]](#footnote-9).

More than 100 houses and shelters in Darfur and eastern Chad were destroyed by a fire. 95 homes were destroyed in Assalaya in East Darfur. Many of the victims are concerned with the spread of the fire as the climate is very windy. Many of the victims have also faced devastating losses to their food supply[[10]](#footnote-10). In Gireida, in South Darfur, many homes in two of the IDP camps were destroyed. The cause of the fire is still unknown. Reports estimate that around 600 were displaced as a result of the fire[[11]](#footnote-11).

Many of the displaced families in South Darfur have nowhere to go as a fire has recently destroyed many homes and shelters. Both the Babanusa and Abyed camps in Gireida experienced mass fires, lasting for around a day. Approximately 22 homes were destroyed as well as substantial quantities of food and agricultural crops[[12]](#footnote-12).

Students in Sirba locality in West Darfur were beaten and robbed by militiamen. Reports state that militiamen riding camels attacked a group of students on their way from Tendelti to Soni, where they attend the Soni Institute for Holy Qur’an. The students were beaten with whips and rifle butts and were robbed of SDG 7,683 ($1,180) and three horses[[13]](#footnote-13).

The attacks listed above are by no means the only acts of violence occurring in Darfur, but it is important to note a common theme among many of them: the weaponization of displacement. This can be seen through the multiple fires occurring in the month of February and by the fear tactics perpetrated by the militia and aim to drive Darfuris out of their land. It has been noted in these reports that food supply due to the fire is decreasing. In addition to this many of the attacks perpetrated by the militia involve the taking of a domesticated animal, a source of food. The similarities of these acts suggest how the militia is trying to drive the people of Darfur out of Darfur.

It is also important to note the use of rape as weapon, which is not a new theme in Darfur, but its prevalence remains astounding. Rule 93 of the International Humanitarian Law states that “Rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited”[[14]](#footnote-14). The brutal rape of the minor at the beginning of the month as well as the rape of the two teachers in West Darfur are apparent violations of Rule 93.

Sudanese forces also violated Rule 135 of the International Humanitarian Law this month. Rule 135 states that “children affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection[[15]](#footnote-15). The attack in Sirba is evident of the disregard for Rule 135 and for the children of Darfur.

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