

SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT-NORTH (SPLM-N)



Date: 20 January 2021

To Whom it May Concern

West Darfur State: The Massacre of Internally Displaced Persons

On Saturday, 16 January 2021, armed militias attacked both Kirinding and Abu Zir camps of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the city of al-Jeneina, capital of West Darfur State. These armed groups were mobilised from the Saraf Omra area in North Darfur State, other areas from Central Darfur State and Chad and launched the attack, using vehicles mounted with machine-guns and resulting in 13 people dead and 22 injured. The IDPs escaped into al-Jeneina city, which was also attacked from north, east and south. These armed militias are clearly identified as Rapid Support Forces. According to the Committee of West Darfur Doctors, the number of victims stands at 129 dead and 198 injured, including children and newly-born babies who are now being treated in a number of medical institutions in al-Jenina. In a meeting called by the Governor of West Darfur to discuss the situation, the commander of the army in the area not only refused to attend the meeting, but he also declined to use his forces to prevent the massacre. Although the situation is now relatively calm in the city, the theatre of violence has extended and a number of corpses have been received from the Morni and Goker areas in events related to what had taken place in al-Jenina. According to the Red Cross volunteers who are working in the area, there are a number of corpses and wounded victims in places where it is difficult to reach, because of the complex security situation. The staff are struggling to provide medical assistance due to the huge number of the injured, the shortage of medical workers and lack of blood donation. It is worth noting that thousands of the IDPs, who have arrived in the city, lack shelter, water, food and medicine. They are in desperate need of humanitarian relief.

The eruption of these events can be traced to a dispute between two persons at the marketplace on Friday, 15 January east of Kirinding camp, which led to the death of one of them from stabbing wounds after being transported to al-Jeneina Hospital by a police car. The assailant surrendered to the police, and the relatives of the deceased received his body from the hospital mortuary after post-mortem. However, the relatives then started firing in the hospital and marketplace with live ammunition. They also began bombarding the camp with rounds of heavy artillery. This is the result of Government's connivance with the attackers and a deliberate act to delay intervention in the right time to protect the IDPs.

We, the SPLM-N representatives in the Diaspora, utterly condemn this cowardly attack against the IDPs and, equally, denounce the silence of the Transitional Government. Since the ousting of the indicted former president, Omer al-Bashir, in April 2019, human rights violations in Darfur have never stopped, particularly the crimes committed by security forces against unarmed civilians and the IDPs alike. The General Coordination of IDPs camps have warned the authorities several times about the deteriorating security situation in Darfur, which has exasperated after the withdrawal of UNAMID. The armed militias continue to be a persistent menace threading the lives of civilians and IDPs, besides the abuses of Government security forces. Undoubtedly, these gross violations of human rights confirm that there are some elements within the Government circles, which are trying to dismantle the camps by force in order to erase the evidence of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing which were committed by the defunct regime in Darfur.

We, the SPLM-N representatives, renew our call upon the UN Security Council to review the resolution which they took to end the mandate of hybrid mission in Darfur region, exert pressure on the Sudan Government to disarm all militia groups, respect international charters and covenants and achieve justice through handing over all indicted officials and individuals to the International Criminal Court, including the former president, Omer al-Bashir, ex-Defence Minister, Lt-Gen Abd al-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, ex-Governor of North Darfur State, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, and others. The plight of IDPs in Darfur is catastrophic; the Transitional Government needs to take its responsibility, act now and declare the situation in West Darfur State as an emergency situation in order to stop the bloodshed, provide international relief, relieve the IDPs and, above all, avail justice and bring the culprits to the rule of law.

Thank you very.

Signed by:

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