

NUMBERS OF THE DEAD AND DISPLACED PERSONS

No. 1

The number of the persons who lost their lives in the Darfur conflict is estimated at 9000 from all parties to the conflict. This reveals the distance between reality and the allegations repeated in this regard by international parties, media and non-governmental organizations and many other countries.

The number of displaced persons in Darfur is estimated at 677 000, living in 15 camps in Darfur (at Nyala, El Fasher, Jenina, Zalingi and Kaas).

Those affected by the war and who have been receiving humanitarian assistance in their places of residence are estimated to be 1490 000 in the three states. So the number of displaced and affected persons presently stand, at 2,167 000.

A considerable number of the displaced persons have returned voluntarily to their villages in the three states, as part of the programme of voluntary return before and after the Peace Agreement. The number is estimated at 100 000 persons.

DISARMING OF THE JANJAWEEED AND MILITIAS

No. 2

The Government of Sudan took a number of measures to disarm the Janjaweed who are outlaw groups that seek to serve by the force of arms individual and self-interests, exploiting the situation in Darfur. They are composed of members of Arab and African tribes. This is the definition which the government representative to the third round of the Abuja negotiations presented to the Secretariat of the African Union. Other steps were taken also to disarm the militias.

- 1) According to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), signed in Abuja on 5th May 2006, the Government shall devise a plan for the disarming of the Janjaweed and militias, to be submitted to the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS). The plan was submitted on 7th July, 2006. The Chairman of the Commission on Cease-fire of AMIS prepared his remarks on the plan and the Government will be advised of them for final drafting and then executing the plan.
- 2) In June, 2006, the local authorities of the Kas locality, Southern Darfur, established contact with Janjaweed elements in the area of Kargo. A number of 137 declared repentance from their ways after they had been offered amnesty in regard to the public right for the crimes committed by them. They also handed in their arms. Arrangements were made to rehabilitate these persons and secure for them livelihoods by putting in their possession production equipment or employing them in jobs. It is worth mentioning that those persons belonged to different tribes.
- 3) The Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration made contacts with the council of Arab tribal chiefs in Darfur and it was agreed that their tribes be disarmed, according to international norms. The international community bore witness to that as the ambassadors accredited to Khartoum attended the meeting in August, 2006 in which the agreement took place.



It is to be noted that the disarmament of warring groups, as attested to by the African Union, is the most cumbersome phase after peace and during the period of implementation of the agreement. This requires of course full cooperation between the Government and the international community.



*Exerpts of some
Statements made by regional
and international officials
on Darfur
(Nº. 3)*

- 1- Ambassador Sam Ibock, Chairman of the AU Team for the implementation of DPA (Darfur Peace Agreement), (statements made in Khartoum on 12.10.2006): "Most areas in Darfur are safe. I visited vast areas in Darfur and got sure that the region is safe except some areas in Northern Darfur where non-signatory rebels are active".
- 2- Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Deputy Secretary-General of the U.N.: "Washington and London are exaggerating the situation in Darfur" (The Independent, 29/9/2006).
- 3- Mr. Jan Pronk, former U.N. Secretary-General Representative to the Sudan: "The security situation in Darfur is now better than the year 2003 and 2004. The death casualties are among the rebels themselves with a limited number of civilians". (Al-Jazeera, 2/10/2006).
- 4- Andrew Natsios, President Bush Special Envoy to Sudan said that, vast number of the American media coverage on Darfur and generally on Sudan throughout the last decade is put to doubt. That is because fabrication and propaganda permeate most of the news on Sudan, if not all of them.

CHILD RECRUITMENT

No. 6

The laws governing the armed forces, the police force, the popular defense and police and the national service stipulate that persons of less than 18 years of age shall not be recruited. This goes in line with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Statute of the Joint Forces that have been established by the comprehensive Peace Agreement of January, 2005 also stipulates that recruitment age shall not be less than 18 years.

There are programmes implemented by the Government to reintegrate the children who the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement used to recruit in southern Sudan before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The programme provides for health and education.

There are no cases of children of less than 18 years of age being recruited in any of the regular armed forces.

Sudan was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Child and the two optional protocols concerning children, involvement in armed conflicts and trafficking of children and abusing them in prostitution.

The Sudan signed the African Convention on the child.

SECURITY SITUATION

No. 7

The security situation in Darfur became more stable after the Abuja Agreement and not a single violation was committed of the cease-fire in the three states, even by the groups that refrain as yet from signing the Agreement.

Arrangement for the cease-fire:

- Some incidents took place in north Darfur. These were retaliations against attacks by the Redemption Front which is not party to the concluded agreements and which is not bound by the cease-fire.
- The incidents of western Darfur (Jabal Moon) were the result of confrontation between the movements (Justice and Equality, SLM- the Jibreel faction) and the local population in the area.
- The incidents of south Darfur (Qereida, Mehajreyah) were part of the struggle between the movements for the control of positions, besides tribal agenda.
- One main reason of the Improvement in the security situation is the major role played by the Joint Committees which were composed by the government and the movements after the Abuja Agreement. These committees achieved notable successes, including opening of roads and routes that remained closed for a long time.
- There is also the Tripoli Agreement, which brought to peace a faction with a notable presence on the ground which is the Sudan Liberation Movement - Faction of Abulgasim Imam.