

Message from Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Darfur to the international humanitarian bodies:

We are the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of northern Darfur and we condemn the immoral, irresponsible and brutal practices of the Sudanese Government against the IDPs that have broken down the camps that serve as our only harbor. The Sudanese Government is resorting to these brutal practices to implement its strategy of peace from within Darfur.¹ As a result, the IDPs in the areas of Tabit and surrounding villages have been badly affected by these barbaric practices.

On 4 December 2010, the government carried out a thorough raid of the Shangil Tobaya and Shaddad IDP camps and arrested 130 youths and activists. Among those apprehended are 27 activists who are being detained by security forces—specifically, the military intelligence branch called the "Positive Security".² Seven of the detainees have been transferred to Shala prison:³

1. XXX
2. XXX
3. XXX
4. XXX
5. XXX
6. XXX
7. XXX

All of these individuals are currently being held in Shala Prison. The whereabouts of the rest are unknown. Additionally, 11 women were subjected to rape, four of whom were 18 years old or younger:⁴

1. XXX: 18 years old
2. XXX: 15 years old
3. XXX: 14 years old

¹ This new strategy was drafted without consulting other stakeholders, including the negotiating parties of the Doha peace talks. IDPs perceive this strategy as a move to destroy the camps and force the IDPs to flee.

² This is directly translated from the Arabic "الإيجابي الأمن" or "al-amn al-ijabi".

³ Names have been withheld by the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice in order to protect the identities of the victims/survivors.

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4. XXX: 11 years old

As a result of the government practices in these areas, all of the people in Shangil Tobaya and the surrounding villages and IDP camps fled and headed towards Nyala and Mershing in South Darfur. They also fled towards the Zamzam IDP camp and the city of El-Fasher in North Darfur. In total, about 2,000 displaced families arrived in these areas.

On Sunday, 23 January 2011, the Sudanese Government used its heavily armed forces to besiege the Zamzam IDP camp—about 100 armed Land Cruisers were employed in this operation and the siege lasted for several hours. After the attack, the forces were deployed inside the camp and a thorough inspection was carried out. During this process, the IDPs were robbed of all their property including vehicles, herds, furniture, mattresses and blankets. Even the mills and power machines inside the camps were destroyed. Around 43 cars were taken from the IDPs in the Zamzam camp and the village of Abzerega, as well as mobile phones and money. In addition to the destroyed and stolen property, a number of people—among them elders, youths and women—were subjected to torture through flogging and other various means. Two IDPs lost their lives as a result.

In the Zamzam camp, a number of youths and human rights activists were arrested and the number of detainees reached around 100, among whom 20 were from the village of Abzerega and 80 from the Zamzam camp. With regard to Tabit and the surrounding villages, the government and its affiliated militias resorted to bombing and torching the areas and inhabitants were displaced to unknown areas.

Finally, as a result of the experiences we went through, we would like to assure the entire international community that the policies and ultimate goals of the regime are to dismantle the camps and to forcefully pave the way for the implementation of the strategy of peace from the inside. The bombing continues as we write this message. All of these incidents took place before the eyes of the United Nations Mission in the Darfur (UNAMID) in Darfur. We are aware that UNAMID had given the government advanced permission to search the camp, therefore making it a major partner in the operation.

As IDPs living in such tragic circumstances in the camps, we would like to know the role of the United Nations with regard to these catastrophic events. Is the organization confined only to monitoring, supervising and filing reports? Does its role also involve protection of the people? We certainly know that during the humanitarian catastrophe in the Zamzam camp, there was a UN team inside the camp. The team, however, remained in its place without doing anything other than calling for their own rescue. If the UNAMID with all its forces is only calling for rescue, what will be the destiny of those victims? They are victims of violence unleashed against them by a brutal, barbarous regime. They were consistently targeted until they were forced to flee their homes for the IDP camps in order to save their lives. Unfortunately, even *inside* the camps they continue to be targeted by the regime.

Because of the aforementioned incidents, we as IDPs living in the Darfur camps call for the following:

1. We call on the United Nations to shift from the role of supervision to the role of protection—otherwise their presence in Darfur has no value or purpose.
2. We call on the UN Security Council to issue a definite resolution as soon as possible to place Darfur under international protection and to put an end to the violence and aerial bombing that is consistently perpetrated against innocent civilians in Darfur.
3. We appeal to humanitarian organizations to send relief convoys to rescue the IDPs who have recently fled their villages.
4. We call on the international community to bear its responsibility towards the innocent civilians in Darfur and to avoid getting distracted by the South Sudan referendum as the situation in Darfur has been and remains very critical.
5. We call on the media to adequately reflect the situation on the ground and give a continually clear picture of the suffering of the IDPs.
6. We request that the Sudanese Government be denied entrance to the IDP camps for whatever reason—checking of the camps for any reason should be carried out through the agreement and participation of the UN bodies.

Burned villages (with displaced residents):

Tabit – Omtreiter – Hashaba – Kutu – Kushni Shamal – Kushni Janub – Dali – Iaskani – Khartoum Jaded – Krofla – Namira – Hilat Hamad – Kadaric– Masalit – Masala – Tinger– Aboh Hemeida – Abzreiga - Tamed Dewish– Hajar Tonu - Um Drisay – Hilat Mandu – Sousoua – Hilat Otyahya - Shileishlat – Tiar – Gariat Nou – Magarin - Taradonat – Dolabi – Sendago – Kanjara Garb – Kanjara Sharg .

These villages have been named in order to shed light on the horrible practices of the Sudanese Government's destruction of IDP camps and displacing their inhabitants in order to implement its new strategy that centers on internal peace development.