



Q09632. Chad - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 26 March 2009

Any information on Bredjing (Breidjing) camp in Chad – were the Red Cross working there?

An article published in the online edition of *The Guardian* describes Breidjing refugee camp as follows:

“Six weeks ago, Breidjing housed 5,000 refugees; now there are 34,000 and 300 more arrive every day, fleeing the violence in Sudan's Darfur province. The camp is a chaotic, stinking, sprawling mass of makeshift shelters, providing virtually nothing for its desperate and dying inhabitants. The carcasses of animals lie decomposing in the searing African sun; children run barefoot through human excrement, the water is contaminated and food has run out. Disease is everywhere; measles, diarrhoea, respiratory infections. The aid agencies have been overwhelmed by the scale of this disaster and the speed with which it has developed. In the camp there are only three nurses, one representative from Oxfam, no one from any children's organisations and no one from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.”
(Guardian UK (29 July 2004) *What the children saw* Marshall, Penny)

An article from *Geographical* states:

“Overcrowded Breidjing is a particular worry to the Oxfam staff. “Breidjing is the worst camp in our view and where we are most worried about an outbreak of cholera, which could kill thousands. Twenty-two people died last week from diarrhoea and measles,” said an Oxfam spokeswoman. “Malaria is a major threat now as the rainy season provides stagnant water for mosquitoes to breed in. They can breed in a water-filled animal hoof-print. Like Darfur, the area of eastern Chad where the refugees are is a high-risk malaria area.”
(Geographical (1 November 2004) *Darfur's road to hell* Bird, Damian; Edwards, Chris)

In an *Oxfam International* report water engineer John Howard states:

“I'm working in the biggest and, at the moment, the worst refugee camp in Eastern Chad. Breidjing camp was started up just a few weeks ago in June. They were expecting around 12,000 refugees, but there are now 32,000 people and counting. Conditions here are appalling. Some of the refugee families don't even have tents. They've pulled together shelters out of twigs and plastic bags hardly adequate now that the rainy season is upon us.”
(Oxfam International (13 July 2004) *Oxfam in Sudan*)

An *IRIN News* report states:

“Bredjning, designed to accommodate 20,000 refugees at most, is today home to twice that number. It takes a good 15 minutes to drive from one end of the camp to the other. First you pass row after row of standard issue brown UNHCR tents - which house the registered refugees -- and then you come to the more makeshift homes of plastic sheeting and acacia branches where the so-called spontaneous refugees eke out the days. Philippe Douryang, who manages the camp for charity CARE, estimates there are 31,000 official refugees and 14,000 spontaneous refugees.” (IRIN News (17 September 2004) *Chad: Refugees languish in makeshift tents waiting for new camp*)

See also an *IRIN News* report which states:

“Three days later, riots erupted in the Bredjning Camp, 30 km from Farchana, when CARE International employees carrying out sanitation work were attacked by refugees who mistakenly thought they were spies sent by the government of Khartoum.” (IRIN News (23 July 2004) *Chad: Two Sudanese refugees killed in refugee camp*)

A *New York Times* article states:

“One camp south of here, Bredjning, is packed with 35,000 refugees, more than three times its capacity. Several weeks ago, frustrated by water shortages and overflowing latrines, refugees in Bredjning rioted, demanding better services.” (New York Times, The (20 August 2004) *Death and Sorrow Stalk Sudanese Across Border* Sengupta, Somini)

A document on the website of the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* refers to Bredjning camp as follows:

“The Chad Red Cross and the International Federation have been assisting refugees fleeing the conflict in the Sudanese region of Darfur since December 2003. They currently manage two camps, Tréguine and Bredjning, with a combined population of 43,000 people.” (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (undated) *Disaster management – Refugee crisis in Chad*)

See also an *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* document which states:

“A year ago Fania Mahamat Idriss, 27, arrived in Bredjning, a camp now managed by the Red Cross and home to 29,500 people who fled conflict in neighbouring Sudan.” (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (3 June 2005) *Refugees in Chad learn skills for post-camp life* North, Rosemarie)

In a section titled "Chad's refugee towns" an *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* document states:

"In eastern Chad, 43,000 refugees from the troubled Sudanese province of Darfur sheltered in two camps managed by the Chad Red Cross and the International Federation. Most of the refugees at Tréguine and Bredjing camps had fled from their semi-nomadic lives in the countryside. For them, the camps resembled small towns. The Red Cross was concerned with helping them adapt and even profit from their new surroundings."
(International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2005) *Annual Report*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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