



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

INDEX: AFR 54/8680/2018
28 June 2018

SUDAN: DOWN-SIZED UN MISSION FOR AN OVER-SIZED HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

Background

The African Union – United Nations hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has been in operation since 31 July 2007. Its mandate includes protection of civilians; mediation between the government of Sudan and armed movements and support for mediation of inter-communal conflict including measures to address root causes of the conflict in Darfur.¹

UNAMID's mandate is now due for renewal on 30 June 2018. A special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the UN in 2017 has outlined a plan for the restructuring and downsizing of UNAMID in two six-month phases.²

Based on untrue claims that the war in Darfur has ended, Sudanese authorities have been calling for the exit of UNAMID. This pressure already led to a significant reduction of the mission capacity in 2017.³ However, on 11 June 2018, the African Union's Peace and Security Council issued a communique supporting the extension of the mandate of UNAMID for another 12 months also added "Ensuring a gradual drawdown that would allow the Mission's exit to be guided by the political and security situation on the ground so as not to create a security vacuum and expose civilian populations."⁴

Following the unilateral ceasefire that was declared by the government of Sudan and some of the armed groups in 2016, the scale of the armed conflict between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and opposition armed groups subsided in 2017. However, since March 2018, renewed fighting in Jebel Marra area between the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) and the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has led to the further displacement of hundreds of thousands who face dire humanitarian and human rights crises inside Jebel Marra.⁵ Only a small number of the displaced, about 5000 people,⁶ managed to reach the IDP camps in South Darfur. The UN

¹ Security Council Renews Mandate of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2363 (2017), 29 June 2017,

www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12893.doc.htm

² *Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of the African Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur*, 18 May 2017, www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/437

³ The military troop level at the end of the first phase will be reduced from 15,845 to 11,395, while the police component will be reduced from 3,403 to 2,748. At the end of the second phase, the military troop level would be reduced to eight infantry battalions (from the previous 16), with a total force strength of 8,735, while the police strength would stand at 2,360.

⁴ Communique by the peace and security council of the African Union on UNAMID, 11 June 2018, https://unamid.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/psc.778.com_renewal.unamid.mandate.11.06.2018.pdf

⁵ UNAMID deplores humanitarian impact of ongoing military confrontation in Jebel Marra, 21 June 2018, <https://unamid.unmissions.org/unamid-deplores-humanitarian-impact-ongoing-military-confrontation-jebel-marra>

⁶ Interview with IDP community leader in Otash camp.

conducted needs assessment for 1,200 IDPs from East Jebel Marra in March 2018.⁷

On 21 May, the Sudanese State Minister of Defence told the Parliament private session that there was an outbreak of fighting in Jebel Marra in Darfur with Sudan Liberation Movement - Abdel Wahid (SLM-AW). A member of parliament later stated that the minister told them that 67 people have been killed or wounded as a result of the fighting, including 51 civilians.⁸

Clashes between the government forces and the armed group are still taking place at the time of this report writing in June 2018, during which civilians have been attacked and killed. Several armed and mostly pro-government militia groups continue to operate with total impunity. Even after 15 years, an estimated 2 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are still reluctant to return to their areas of origin for lack of security and protection. Since January 2018, there were at least five deadly attacks on IDP camps in Darfur where several people were killed and injured.⁹

According to information received by Amnesty International, between July 2017 and May 2018, incidents of unlawful killings, abduction, sexual violence¹⁰, looting and arbitrary detention persisted in Darfur. For example, Amnesty recorded 244 incidents of unlawful killings in different parts of Darfur, allegedly committed by pro-government militias from August 2017 to April 2018.¹¹ Approximately 75 percent of the incidents that led to a loss of life took place in North Darfur and Jebel Marra Area. The pro-government militias especially the Rapid Support Force have allegedly committed most of these crimes, such as deliberate killing of civilians, looting of villages and livestock, rapes and torching of homes.¹²

In 2017, the UN Panel of Experts reported that 789 people were killed and 925 injured in attacks, especially by RSF.¹³ Most of these attacks were against civilians. Data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) for 2017 shows that 62% of all violent incidents in Sudan were recorded in Darfur. 518 violent incidents occurred in Darfur, in which at least 1,025 people were killed.¹⁴ This indicates less violence compared to 2016 where 807 violent incidents occurred in Darfur, in which at least 2,000 people were killed.¹⁵

According to the UN OCHA, there are 1.6 million displaced persons in Darfur in 60 camps. A lack of basic services and infrastructure in addition to insecurity in some areas continues to prevent the return of displaced people to their areas of origin.¹⁶

Furthermore, UNAMID down-sizing results in closure of several team sites. Amnesty International received information that at least four of the former UNAMID team sites in North Darfur are currently occupied by the RSF or Sudan's Police Forces. RSF in particular has been implicated in serious crimes in the past.¹⁷ In addition to reports by human rights organisations including Amnesty

⁷ OCHA Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin issue 6 19 March 1 April 2018,

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_Sudan_Humanitarian_Bulletin_Issue_06_%2819_March_-_1_April_2018%29.pdf

⁸ Sudan Tribune, Sudan defence ministry admits clashes in C. Darfur, 21 May 2018, www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65453

⁹ Amnesty International, Press Release, Sudan: Pro-government militia open deadly fire on IDP camp in Central Darfur, 22 May 2018, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/05/sudan-pro-government-militia-open-deadly-fire-on-idp-camp-in-central-darfur/

¹⁰ During the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten to Sudan in February 2018 she observed, "I was dismayed to learn that, to date, the Special Prosecutor's Office has not investigated a single case of conflict-related sexual violence.", <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/special-representative-secretary-general-sexual-violence-conflict-ms-pramila-patten>

¹¹ Amnesty International Letter to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on the renewal of the mandate of the African union/United Nations mission in Darfur (UNAMID), 17 May 2018.

¹² Reports by human rights monitors in Darfur between July 2017 and April 2018,

¹³ The final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), 28 December 2017, www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/1125. Para 22 and 85.

¹⁴ The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), Sudan data from 1 January to 31 December 2017, www.acleddata.com/data/. The ACLED documents and maps a range of acts of violence committed by governments, militias, armed groups as well as in inter-communal clashes and riots.

¹⁵ The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), Sudan data, <http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Sudan.xlsx>. The ACLED documents and maps a range of acts of violence committed by governments, militias, armed groups as well as in inter-communal clashes and riots.

¹⁶ UN OCHA, Sudan: Darfur Humanitarian Overview, 1 February 2018, <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-darfur-humanitarian-overview-1-february-2018>

¹⁷ Amnesty International, Sudan: Scorched earth, poisoned air Sudanese government forces ravage Jebel Marra, Darfur, 29 September 2016, ([AFR54/4877/2016](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR54/4877/2016/))

International, the 2017 final report of the UN Panel of Experts on the Sudan also confirms that the RSF committed most of the abuses against civilians in Darfur, including rape, the looting of villages and livestock, and torching of homes.¹⁸ Given this context, the transfer of or occupation of UNAMID team sites by the RSF as opposed to civilian authorities raises serious concerns. In September 2017, UNAMID issued a statement expressing concern on “allegations of improper handover of team sites in North Darfur” and claimed that “closed team sites have been handed over to the government of Sudan or appropriate private parties as per lease agreements signed by the Mission.”¹⁹ Amnesty International received response from UNAMID’s spokesperson stating similar position.²⁰ Amnesty International believes that any further hand over of UNAMID Team Sites should be done in consultation with local communities, leading to supporting the restoration of civilian authority and contributing to addressing the human rights needs of the people, as opposed to immediate take over by RSF and other security forces known to have committed gross violations.

Killings, looting and Displacement in East Jebel Marra

Between March and May 2018, Sudanese government forces carried out land attacks in East-South Jebel Marra area. The attacks took place in the areas where SLA/AW maintained a significant presence. The SLA/AW has been reluctant to sign any peace deal with the government of Sudan since the war in Darfur started in 2003. The last large-scale government military operation against SLA/AW was in 2016.²¹ In 2016, Amnesty International’s report (*“Scorched Earth, Poisoned Air” Government Forces Ravage Jebel Marra, Darfur*) documented a catalogue of possible crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations committed by Sudanese government forces, including wilful killings of civilians and the destruction of civilian property and the possible use of chemical weapons in Jebel Marra.²² In 2018, the Sudanese armed forces repeated the same pattern of violations that was documented in 2016, including looting, burning of villages and killing of civilians. These acts amount to war crimes.²³ An estimated 12,000 to 20,000 people were displaced since March 2018 as a result of attacks by government forces into SLA controlled area and they are currently living in difficult conditions without access to humanitarian assistance.²⁴

¹⁸ The final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), 28 December 2017, www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/1125 para.22

¹⁹ UNAMID Expresses Concern over Allegations of Improper Team Site Handovers, 11 September 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/unamid-expresses-concern-over-allegations-improper-team-site-handovers>

²⁰ Email received from Ashraf Eissa, UNAMID Spokesperson on 13 February 2018 stated, “In line with usual UN practice in post-conflict regions, the Mission has recommended that the government of Sudan transform team sites returned to them into facilities that contribute to the overall development of local communities and take into consideration the wishes of the local population, as much as possible.”

²¹ The final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), 28 December 2017, www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/1125 para.C

²² Amnesty International, *Sudan: Scorched earth, poisoned air Sudanese government forces ravage Jebel Marra, Darfur*, 29 September 2016, ([AFR 44877/2016](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR44877/2016))

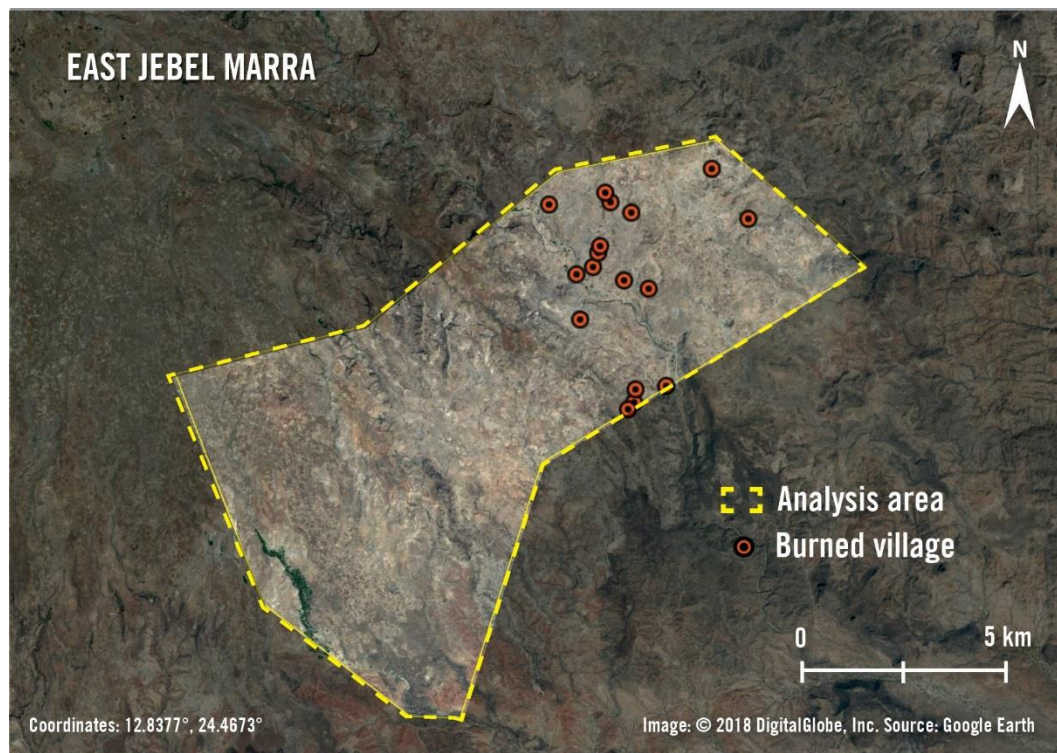
²³ Sudan is party to Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts since 2006. The rules of IHL aim to minimize human suffering and ensure protection of civilians and those who are not directly participating in hostilities. The principle of distinction, a cardinal rule of IHL, requires that parties at all times distinguish between combatants and military objectives on the one hand, and civilians and civilian objects on the other hand, and ensure they direct attacks only at the former. Intentionally directing attacks against civilians who are not directly participating in hostilities and civilian objects is prohibited under international humanitarian law and is a war crime. Harm to the civilian population is permitted only if it is militarily necessary and the expected gain of attack is proportionate to harm caused, The Rome Statute of the ICC prohibit serious violations of Common article III as well as other international attack on civilians. See ICC statute, www.icc-cpi.int/nr/rdonlyres/ea9aeff7-5752-4f84-be94-0a655eb30e16/0/rome_statute_english.pdf .

²⁴ Human Right monitor based in Darfur interviewed on 19 June 2018 and SLA/AW commander interviewed on 30 May and 11 June.



IDPs in East Jebel Marra May 2018. @Private

Using satellite imagery, Amnesty International was able to confirm that at least 18 villages were destroyed or damaged in East Jebel area in the last three months during the military operation. The satellite imagery covering 100 square kilometers of land in East Jebel Marra area shows the scale of destruction. The image below is dotted with small villages and smaller clusters of structures appear to have areas burned. This analysis largely corroborates testimonies by eyewitnesses asserting that at least 13 villages were attacked and burned by SAF since March 2018.²⁵



18 villages and clusters of structures – highlighted with orange dots - appear to have areas burned. @2018 DigitalGlobe, Inc.

²⁵ Two eyewitnesses from East Jebel Marra interviewed on 8 May 2018.

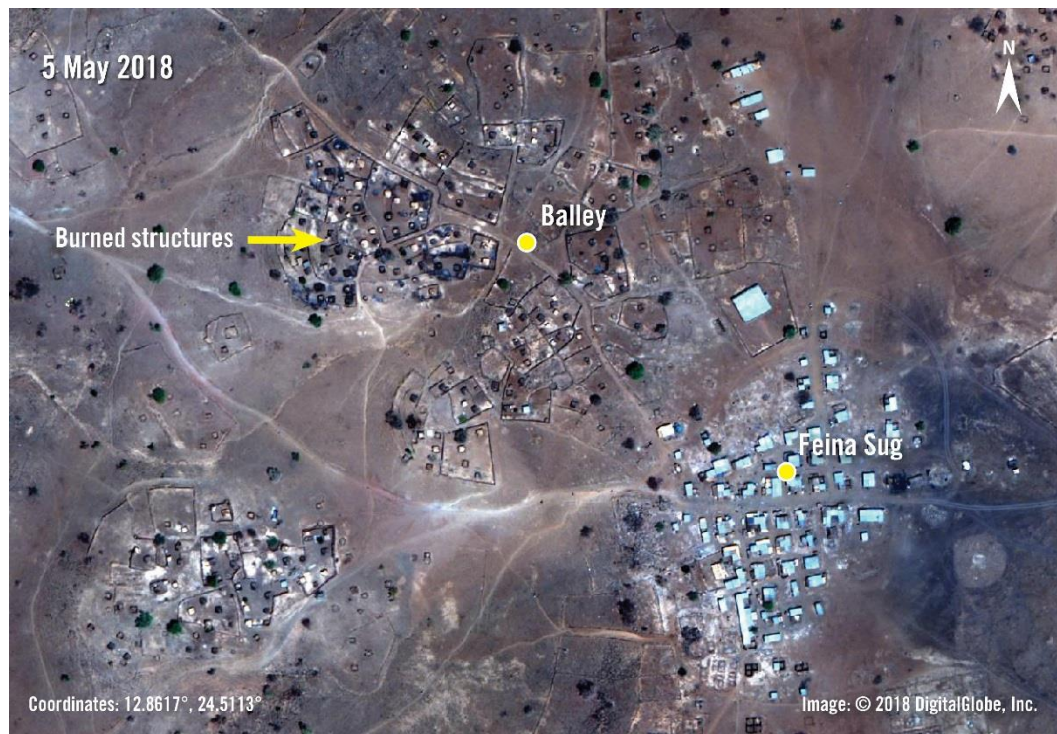
In May and June 2018, Amnesty International interviewed six eyewitnesses who were present in the villages of Korgo Dumaa, Balley, Feina and Saboon Alfogoor during the attack. All six witnesses stated that government forces attacked their villages, burned and looted their houses and killed civilians. They also stated the rebels were not present inside the village when the attack started.

Radijah, 32-year-old, from Balley, told Amnesty International, “the government forces and Janjaweed attacked us around 5 am... I cannot remember the exact date, but the attacks happened about 5 am and it was Wednesday at the beginning of March. The attackers were wearing camouflage military uniforms some in green and others were in blue camouflage... they were riding on camels and horses, and pick-up trucks and some were walking. They entered the village, they started to loot our homes and animals and burned the houses. They physically attacked the people and beat them. When they raided my village they took my goats, and looted my house, and I ran away from my village with my seven children, but we scattered and I lost contact with them for four days.”²⁶

The satellite imagery obtained by Amnesty International shows that some structure and houses in Balley were recently burned.



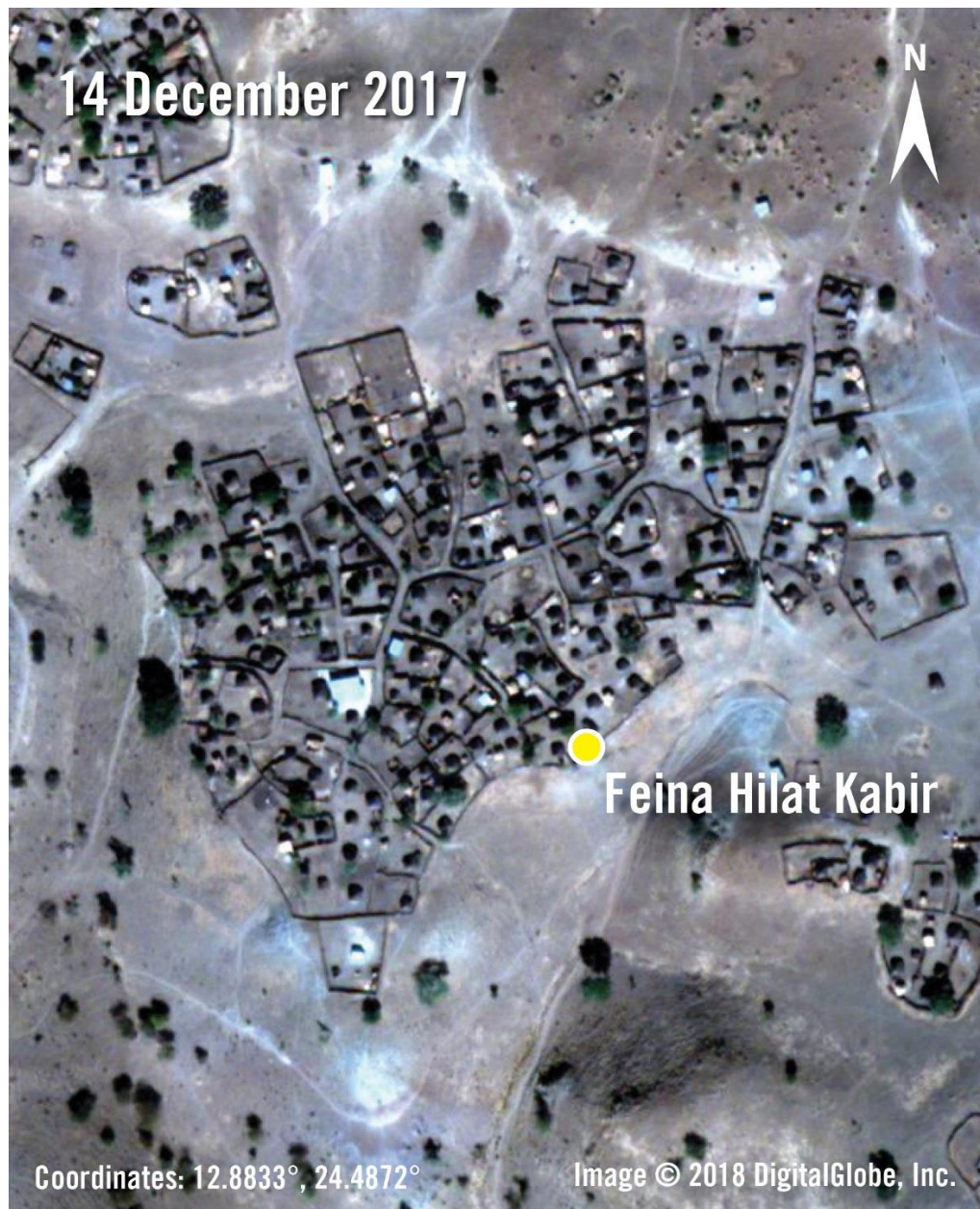
²⁶ Interview with Radiha from Jebel Marra via WhatsApp on 28 May 2018.

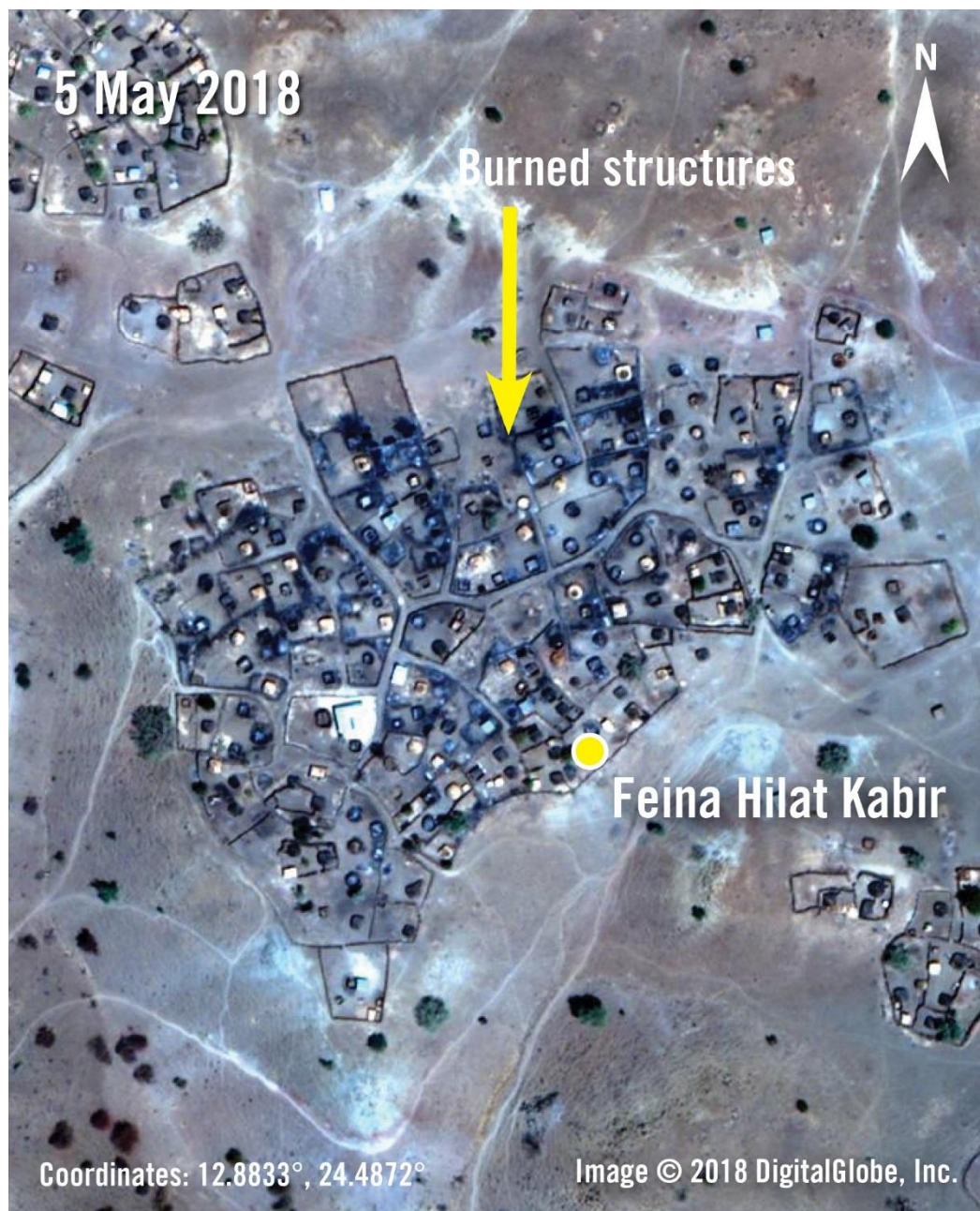


From 14 December 2017, shows Feina Sug market and Balley. On 5 May 2018, structures in Balley appear recently burned. .@2018 DigitalGlobe,Inc.

Salim, 53-year-old, told Amnesty International that, “I was displaced because of the attack on Feina. We were attacked around 5 am in early March. Those who attacked us were driving vehicles, tanks, and rising horses and camels. They were wearing Sudan army camouflage fatigue, Khaki colour... Nine people were killed as a result of this attack in Feina. I know the names of three of them since I participated in their burial. One of them was a religious teacher named **Suliman Ahmed Mohamed**, in his eighties, he was burned inside his hut. The second was a student named **Ismael Mohamed Ismael**, 12 or 13-year-old, the third was **Khatrah Amin Rahma**, she is my aunt and she was 83 or 84 years old. This incident took place in Feina. The other six were killed in other villages around the areas.”²⁷

²⁷ Interview with Salim an eyewitness from Feina on 28 May 2018.





Imagery from 14 December 2017, shows Feina Hilat Kabir in East Jebel Marra. On 5 May 2018, imagery shows many of the structures in the village have been destroyed by fire. ©2018 DigitalGlobe, Inc.

Halima, 55-year-old, from Korgo Dumaa village, near the village of Feina, testified how her village was attacked in early March 2018 by pro-government militia. She told Amnesty International, “we were attacked around 6 am by pro-government militia ... once the attack happened I ran away. I was not injured but my house was looted and burned, I ran away barefoot and sought shelter in nearby hills and stayed for three days there... the attackers were wearing military uniform and riding in military vehicles. The attackers were from Janjaweed. The attack lasted from 6 am till to 12 pm.”²⁸

Internally displaced persons under siege in Darfur

Amnesty International received information of a number of attacks on IDP camps in Darfur since

²⁸ Interview with Halima an eyewitness from Korgo Dumaa on 8 May 2018.

August 2017.²⁹ For example, Kalma IDP camp one the largest camp in South Darfur, situated about 15 km east of Nyala the capital of South Darfur state, was attacked in September 2017, five killed and 33 injured, during a protest against the visit of President Omar Al Bashir to South Darfur. In January 2018, RSF soldiers entered Nertiti camp in Central Darfur and arrested and detained six IDP leaders.³⁰ In the same month, Hasahisa IDP camp in Zalingi was attacked by RSF and one person was killed and five were injured.³¹ On 21 May, five members of the RSF on board a pick-up truck mounted with machine-guns attacked an Khamisa Dagaig IDP camp in Central Darfur's city of Zalingei using live ammunition. A 22-year-old woman was shot in the head and later died at the hospital. Ten IDPs including children, were injured in their head, neck, arms and legs.³² On 22 May, armed tribal militia attacked Ardayba and Jedda IDP camps in the city of Garsila, in central Darfur State. The same camps were attacked again the following morning and five people were killed and many more wounded.³³

UNAMID issued statement and expressed its deep concern about attacks on IDP camps in Central Darfur.³⁴

Attack on Internally Displaced People in Kalma protesting President Bashir visit

In September 2017, the Sudanese security forces used excessive and lethal force against IDPs in Kalma, a camp located in South Darfur State, who were peacefully protesting against the visit of President Omar al-Bashir. Five protestors were killed and 34 injured.³⁵ Amnesty International has not obtained any information on measures taken by Sudanese authorities to investigate and hold the perpetrators to account for these killings and abuses.

President Omar al-Bashir visit to Darfur started on 19 September 2017. The official reason of the tour was to launch new health and education projects in Darfur. The news of the President's visit has sparked protests since 19 September in and around Kalma IDP camp for the displaced near the South Darfur capital of Nyala ahead of the planned visit. Representatives of the IDPs rejected President Bashir's announced visit Kamla camp.³⁶ Kamla camp's residents, mainly from the Fur ethnic group, are perceived as supporting the SLA/AW armed group.

An eyewitness told Amnesty International that: "hundreds of SAF and RSF soldiers were deployed last night [on 22 September] near the camp. Around 8:00 AM, SAF and RSF soldiers tried to enter the camp to secure the camp for the visit of the President. The IDPs protesters blocked their way. SAF and RSF used live ammunition to disperse the gathering that resulted in many people killed and injured."³⁷ He also explained that the IDPs were peacefully protesting the visit of the President. The use of live ammunition lasted for 30 minutes. Another source told Amnesty International that four people were killed, 34 wounded and three were arrested.³⁸ President Omer al-Bashir changed his planned visit and addressed another gathering located 2 kilometres away from Kalma camp. UNAMID issued a statement calling for restraint from both sides.³⁹

Amnesty International remains gravely concerned that no investigation has taken place by the

²⁹ Message received by Amnesty International from IDPs community leader on 17 June. Monthly Human Rights Monitors received by Amnesty international between August 2017 to May 2018

³⁰ Sudan Tribune, *Sudanese security accused of arresting six IDPs in Central Darfur*, 7 January 2018, <http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article64447>

³¹ CNBC Africa, *Five internally displaced persons killed as Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces use live ammunition to disperse a protest in Central Darfur*, 25 January 2018, www.cnbc.com/africa/apo/2018/01/25/five-internally-displaced-persons-killed-as-sudanese-armed-forces-and-rapid-support-forces-use-live-ammunition-to-disperse-a-protest-in-central-darfur/

³² Amnesty International, Press Release, Sudan: Pro-government militia open deadly fire on IDP camp in Central Darfur, 22 May 2018, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/05/sudan-pro-government-militia-open-deadly-fire-on-idp-camp-in-central-darfur/

³³ Statement by Darfur Bar Association 24 May 2018.

³⁴ UNAMID deeply concerned about recent attacks on IDP camps in Central Darfur, 24 May 2018, <https://unamid.unmissions.org/unamid-deeply-concerned-about-recent-attacks-idp-camps-central-darfur>

³⁵ Amnesty International Annual Report 2017/18, 22 February 2018, Index number: [POL 10/6700/2018](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/POL/10/6700/2018)

³⁶ Statement made by IDPs community received by Amnesty on 19 September 2017.

³⁷ Eyewitness from Kalma Camp interviewed on 23 September 2017

³⁸ Eyewitness from Kalma Camp interviewed on 23 September 2017

³⁹ UNAMID calls for restraint in clashes between government forces and internally displaced at Kalma camp, South Darfur, 22 September 2018, <https://unamid.unmissions.org/unamid-calls-restraint-clashes-between-government-forces-and-internally-displaced-kalma-camp-south>

government. Also, the eyewitnesses confirmed that they had reported the incidents of death and injuries to UNAMID investigators. The findings of UNAMID investigation into the killings in Kalma camp in September 2017 have never been made public.⁴⁰

Failed voluntary returns of IDPs and refugees

Most UN reports on Darfur, the African Union's Peace and Security Council⁴¹, and the two peace agreements, the Darfur the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD)⁴² signed in 2011 and the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in 2006,⁴³ emphasized the need of voluntary return, in safety and dignity, of internally displaced persons. But the voluntary returns of IDPs and refugees in Darfur continued to be hampered by recurring incidents of violence and unresolved issues of land occupation in many areas in Darfur.

On a briefing to the United Nations Security Council, Jeremiah N. Mamabolo, the Joint Special Representative of UNAMID, stated on 14 March 2018, that: "Despite the relative stability, concerns persist, nonetheless that due to insecurity and land occupation issues, many IDPs are not able to return to their areas of origin."⁴⁴

Many IDPs and refugees faced pushback and violence as they attempted to settle back in their lands of origin. For example, in North Darfur, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Chad started in March, and 20,000 refugees are anticipated to return to their places of origin in Darfur in 2018.⁴⁵ In April, the UNHCR announced the departure of the first batch of returnees to Sudan from eastern Chad to North Darfur.⁴⁶ However, approximately 250 displaced families were forced to settle in an IDP camp in Kabkabiya in North Darfur, as new settlers in their land of origin refused them access to their land.⁴⁷

Similarly, in March, about 400 people, mainly from Zaghawa ethnic group, from El Neem IDP camp in East Darfur, attempted to return to their village of origin, Alareid, about 37 km north of El Daein. Upon arrival, they found their village occupied by new settlers who attacked them, resulting in serious injury of two. The IDPs were forced to return back to El Daein camp where they have been displaced since 2007.⁴⁸

In addition to hampering the safe return of IDPs and refugees in Darfur, analysis explain that this thorny issue of land occupation by new settlers could jeopardize future peace in Darfur.⁴⁹ Some IDPs expressed their concerns about land issue directly to United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix during his visit to Darfur in April 2018. An IDP woman told the USG DPKO, "we cannot return to our villages because the armed group have taken over our land"⁵⁰

The protection of IDPs including ensuring their voluntary and safe return in dignity after

⁴⁰ Two eyewitness interviewed by Amnesty International, via phone on 9 May 2018.

⁴¹ The African Union's Peace and Security Council, *Press Statement* [on UNAMID], 27 October 2017, <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/psc.727.press-statement.unamid.27.10.2017.pdf> and AUPSC,

COMMUNIQUE, 12 June 2017, https://unamid.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/psc.691.comm_unamid.renewal.mandate.pdf

⁴² The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) https://unamid.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/ddpd_english.pdf, p 51.

⁴³ Darfur Peace Agreement, 5 May 2006, www.un.org/zh/focus/southernsudan/pdf/dpa.pdf, p 35.

⁴⁴ Briefing on UNAMID to the United Nations Security Council By Jeremiah N. Mamabolo UNAMID Joint Special Representative 14 March 2018, https://unamid.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/briefing_to_the_un_security_council_by_unamid_jsr.pdf

⁴⁵ OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin Sudan Issue 09 | 30 April – 13 May 2018, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_Sudan_Humanitarian_Bulletin_Issue_09_%2830_April_-_13_May_2018%29.pdf

⁴⁶ There are 300,000 refugees from Darfur are currently living in 12 UNHCR and government run camps in eastern Chad UNHCR, *First Darfur refugee returns from Chad*, 20 April, 2018, www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2018/4/5ad9a4604/first-darfur-refugee-returns-from-chad.html

⁴⁷ Radio Dabanga, *Dozens of displaced families forced back to camps in North Darfur*, 30 May 2018, www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/dozens-of-displaced-families-forced-back-to-camps-in-north-darfur

⁴⁸ Interview with IDP community leader in El Daein 28 March 2018.

⁴⁹ Interview with Adeeb Yousif Abdel Alla, PhD on Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University, in United State, by telephone on 18 May 2018.

⁵⁰ UN News, *meeting with the displaced, two UN and African Union officials conclude a visit to Sudan* <https://news.un.org/ar/audio/2018/04/1005961>

consultation, is the primary responsibility of the state. The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement has recognised these principles in 1998 as an important international framework for IDP protection.⁵¹ Sudan is also party to the, the Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in 2006.⁵² These international and regional instruments emphasise the importance of voluntary and safe return in dignity, as well as the need for participation in the planning and management of their return and to assist the displaced to recover their property and possessions.⁵³

Recommendations

Amnesty International calls upon the government of Sudan to uphold its commitments and obligations under international law and immediately open an impartial, transparent and effective investigation into the violations committed both by its armed forces and the pro-government armed militia groups in Darfur.

Amnesty International calls upon the UN Security Council to renew the UNAMID with a strong mandate for the protection of civilians including with a capacity to monitor and publicly report on human rights situation in Darfur

To the Government of Sudan:

- Take immediate measures to give adequate protection to civilians in Darfur against deliberate and indiscriminate attacks;
- Ensure that humanitarian organizations have unrestricted and secure access for humanitarian assistance to the whole Darfur region and to all victims of the conflict, including internally displaced persons;
- Ensure that internally displaced persons who wish to may return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence.

To the African Union's Peace and Security Council:

- Continue to press the Government of Sudan to undertake the necessary measures to protect civilian population especially IDPs in Darfur and respect its regional obligations on this regard;
- Press the Sudanese Government to allow unrestricted, independent humanitarian access to all areas of Darfur, especially humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the recent conflict in Jebel Marra;
- Call upon the UNSC, including the three non-permanent African members, to support the renewal of UNAMID's mandate and enhance its operational capacity in protection of civilians and IDPs in Darfur.

⁵¹ The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, www.unhcr.org/protection/idps/43ce1cff2/guiding-principles-internal-displacement.html

⁵² Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, www.refworld.org/pdfid/52384fe44.pdf The ICGLR protocol on IDPs incorporated the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into international law. The pact and protocols entered into force in 2008 as a commitment of the ICGLR's 11 member states, www.internal-displacement.org/internal-displacement/history-of-internal-displacement

⁵³ The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, www.unhcr.org/protection/idps/43ce1cff2/guiding-principles-internal-displacement.html

To the UN Security Council:

- Call on all parties to the conflict in Darfur to cease attacks against civilians and ensure respect of human rights and international humanitarian law;
- Enhance the operational capability of UNAMID to protect the civilian population in Darfur, especially to all areas in Jebel Marra affected by the resurgence of violence;
- Ensure UNAMID conducts effective investigations and publicly reports on all allegations of crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations committed by any party to the conflict in Darfur;
- Ensure that any further hand over of UNAMID Team Sites should be done in consultation with local communities, leading to supporting the restoration of civilian authority and contributing to addressing the human rights needs of the people, as opposed to immediate take over by RSF and other security forces known to have committed gross violations.