

منظمة حقوق الانسان والتنمية
Human Rights and Development Organization
(HUDO)



South Kordofan / Nuba Mountains IDPs Situation
Part One
IDPs Camps

The recent counterinsurgency fought by the Government of Sudan in the Nuba Mountains since June 2011, is not only exceptionally violent, but also aimed at depopulating the area of civilians. This war has exploited and brutalized nearly million civilian, and further immobilized an already decaying infrastructure. It has destroyed the livelihood base resulting in immense human suffering and caused systematic forced migration of populations across the region: internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) estimated at over half a million. These large number of people have been suddenly deprived of food, and access to all services is cut off, yet needs persist, even escalated. sadly, a considerable number of these IDPs are deprived of even the right to establish a camp, and their condition is getting worse and worse.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Southern Kordofan, the authorities have sought to prevent the emergence of IDPs camps; and intentionally removed any established camps as in Talodi (for IDPs from Talodi countryside);and Abu-Jibaiha (for IDPs from Talodi, Kalogi, El-Leri) and El-Obeid (for IDPs from Kadugli); and Al-Abbasiya/Tagali (for IDPs from Tagali countryside). Thus the IDPs had to rent houses, stay with relatives (sometimes more than six families in a small house) or disperse into the neighborhoods of those cities. In some areas, the authorities have further prohibited any kind of aid or assistance to the IDPs by the host communities. An example to that is what has happened to a seventy years old farmer (Abdullah Adam Manno) from Albideriah village near Kadhobbat. Mr. Abdullah was summoned by the military intelligence in Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and threatened with arrest and deportation because he had started collecting sorghum from the host community in his village to assist the IDPs. The arbitrary procedures by authorities in displacement areas forced many IDPs to return to their home areas despite the insecurity and bombarding. They prefer to die with dignity rather than humiliation.

Despite all these challenges, many people were established a number of small camps around North East and North West Al-Abbasiya/Tagali locality. These IDPs are from Al-Abbasiya/Tagali countryside who are predominantly

from Tagali tribe (which subdivided into more than ten clans including: Todeir, Tagoweï, Kajakjah, Wadalkah, Tokum, and Torjuk)

The established IDPs Camps are described as follows:

Al-mashaggah Camp

It is plain land which is free of hills (a hill is to the North and relatively far). This place is usually occupied by nomads during the rainy season but lacks basic services.

Location: about 35 km North-West of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and 5 km East of Mabsut.

Number of IDPs: about 650 families, mostly women, children and elders.

Home Villages: El-Moreib As-Souq, Banat El-Moreib, Tajlo, Alhutah, Tassai, Tajelbo and part of Souq Aljabal. All are from Tagali Tribes.

Basic services:

Water: No water source, thus the water is brought from Mabsut water source (5 km to the West), which is overloaded and experience frequent breakdowns. When the pumps in Mabsut breakdown, the IDPs search water from Taibah village (4 km south-west) where there are hand pumps.

Education: No School.

Health Services: No health facilities.

Other services: The IDPs have not received any kind of relief (shelter, food, health, etc.).

NB: Cases of diarrhea and deaths were reported among children.

The reasons behind choosing this area by the IDPs

- Its proximity to SPLM-controlled areas, to escape the grip of central government specially that most of them to the camps due to the arbitrary treatment by the authorities including women rape.
- Its proximity to their home areas.
- The availability of pasture for those who maintained some cattle.
- The area is Uninhabited by any other groups as the IDPs have lost confidence in others.

Um Marreh Village Camp

The village is the home of spiritual leader Al-Khalifa Ahmed Abul-Qasim, where his mosque is located, It is surrounded by mountains from North, East and to some extent West.

Location: about 40 km Northwest of the Al-Abbasiya/Tagali, 55 km southwest Umm Rawaba. The IDPs are gathered in and around the village.

IDPs Number: around 500 families, mostly women and children.

Home Areas: El-Moreib As-Souq, Banat El-Moreib, Tajlo, Alhutah, and Tajelbo

Basic services

Water: There is a water station attached to the mosque (water is sold to IDPs at a rate of 2 pounds per barrel(\$0.3).

Education: No education facility other than the mosque which is for religious education and Quran teaching.

Health: No health facilities as in the past the village population used to seek health services in El Moreib.

Other services: There are no other services rather than spiritual support by the Sheikh. Apart from limited food assistance by the Sheikh to some, no aid of any kind has been received.

The reasons behind choosing this area by the IDPs

- The existence of a water source.
- Preferred by those who had previous relation with the Sheikh (as followers) or those who have children studying Quran there.
- Sheikh was distributing the stocked food he had to the IDPs at the initial days of displacement.
- IDPs were promised of food assistance by the government (through the Sudanese Red Crescent) after an initial counting and assessment. However is then discovered that the counting was for security reasons).

Mabsut Village Camp

It is an inhabited village which is bordered by a hill from the South. The IDPs sought refuge in the village and formed small settlement inside and around it.

Location: about 35 km north-west of the Al-Abbasiya/Tagali, very close to Al-Mashaggah camp

IDPs Number: about 480 families (3650 individuals).

Home Areas: mostly from Sowbout (20 km south-west Al-Abbasiya/Tagali), El-Moreib As-Souq, and Tajlo. They are mainly from Kajakjah tribe.

Basic services:

Water: The water source experience frequent breakdowns due overload (water is sold at 2 pounds per barrel).

Education: The only elementary school absorbed small number of the displaced children.

Health: No health facilities as in the past the village population used to seek health services in El-Moreib.

Other services: There are no other services. Apart of some food assistance so IDPs by their host relative, the IDPs have not received any assistance.

The reasons behind choosing this area by the IDPs

- The existence of a water source (artesian well).
- The existence of the school (Some hoped to have their children enrolled in the school).
- Some have relatives in the village.

Gurdud Nyama Camp

The village is bordered by North Kordofan State and known with its weekly market (every Friday), which is attended by residents of neighboring areas as well as those coming from other towns like El-Rahad, Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and Umm Rawaba.

Location: Borders North Kordofan State. About 50 km Southwest Umm-Rawaba, Southeast El Rahad city and 40 km Northwest Al-Abbasiya/Tagali.

IDPs Number: The authorities' attempts to disperse the camp resulted in displacement of vast majority of the IDPs to other towns like Um-Rawaba, El-Rahad and El Obeid in Northern Kordofan; and Hasahesa and Al Managil in Jazeera State. The IDPs remained in the village are only about 70 families, most of them located in Hillat Artokah neighborhood, formed a small settlement.

Home Villages: El Moreib Al-souq and Banat

Important Note: Upon some fear by the host population on transfer of the land ownership to the new settlers by time; the local traditional authorities (Sheikh) imposed a land rental fee of twenty pounds per family for a period not more than two years, hoping will end with repatriation of the IDPs to their home areas.

Basic services

Water: No access to clean water, the village has no any artesian well or hand pump; the only source of water is the reservoir (Hafeer) which is turbid and contaminated because it is being accessed by human as well as animals. The reservoir is currently much more contaminated, shallow and about to be depleted.

Education: There is one basic (primary) school, where some of the displaced children got the chance to be enrolled.

Health: Poor health care facility.

Other Services: The IDPs were provided with some assistance by the host community such as food as advised by religious and community leaders to assist IDPs with their crops (Zakat). IDPs also received limited aid from some benevolent individuals in terms of non-food items (clothing, and the plastic sheets and mosquito nets). There are no other health services or food aid. There are report of diarrhea cases among children.

The reasons behind choosing this area by the IDPs

- The existence of the school (hoping to have their children enrolled in it).
- Better employment opportunities due the existing of a day market which is attended by people from neighboring villages as well as from El Rahad, Umm Rawaba and Al-Abbasiya/Tagali.
- Relatively safe due to its distance from the conflict areas as well as its proximity to North Kordofan State. It also represents as good relay station for those planning to travel farther.

IDPs in Wakara

Wakara is a large village surrounded by hill 4km to the West, and is extended to Northwest and Southwest.

Location: About 25 km east of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali

IDPs Number: IDPs were dispersed by authorities, thus the IDPs of Nubian origin moved to SPLM controlled areas as well as to Al Mashaggah camp while the Arab groups were relocated to Balolah Alezairiq village. About 60 families of the Arab remained and settled in Hillat Fur Neighborhood.

Home Villages: Jebel Ahmar, Gerwaya and Qambrayah (10 km south of the Al-Abbasiya/Tagali).

Basic Services

Water: There are two artesian wells.

Education: There are two Basic (primary) schools (boys and girls) and a secondary school. IDPs children were admitted in these schools.

Health: There is a PHC center.

Other services: Small assistance in terms of food (sorghum) and non food items (clothing) was provided by the host community.

The reasons behind choosing this area by the IDPs

- Relatively safe because it is predominated inhibited by Arab groups, therefore it is not targeted by the attacks from the Guard Border Militias or Popular Defense Militias.
- Its proximity and accessibility to Kosti in the White Nile State.
- Availability of almost all the basic services.

IDPs in Tabassa Village

Location: About 55 km to the Northwest of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali.

IDPs Number: About 45 families from Kajakjah tribe scattered in all Tabassa neighborhoods. The host community provided them with some assistances.

Home Village: Tassai Village

Basic services

Education: There is an Basic (Primary) school which absorbed the displaced children.

Health: There is PHC center

Other services: Did not receive any aid.

Home areas (Where the IDPs were displaced from):

1. El Moreib: Located (25 km) Northwest Al-Abbasiya/Tagali, composed of different villages which are El Moreib As-Souq, Banat, Tajlo, Alneelah, and Alhutih. Densely populated and considered as major center for the Tagali tribes (mostly Todeir and Wadalkah). Most of El Moreib residents were displaced to the big towns (Khartoum, El Obeid, Umm Rawaba, El Rahad, Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and Hasahesa) while the remaining scattered in the nearby camps (Al Mashaggah, Um Marreh, Gurdud Nyama and Mabsut).

2. Tassai: Located at the foothills of Tassai Mount 10 km to the West of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali. Its resident displaced to Al Abbasiya/Tagali and to Al

Mashaggah and Tabassa camps.

3. Khor Fidaila: The village is located 15 km to the South of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali. Its residents fled to Al Mashaggah and Mabsut.

4. Jebel Ahmar: The village is located 7 km to the south of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali. Its resident fled to Wakara and later on to the big towns but some to Balolah Alezairiq camp.

5. Karmogia: The village is about 5 km away from the center of the Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and considered as one of the town suburbs. Its residents fled to Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and Wakara.

6. Gerwaya and Kodorbat: Located at the foothills of Mount Al Abbasiya. Considered as one of Al-Abbasiya/Tagali suburbs as it is only 4 km from the Al-Abbasiya/Tagali center. Its residents were displaced to Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and Wakara.

Dates and causes of displacement

Displacement from the above mentioned areas took place between 21 January and August, 2012. The main causes for the displacement were:

- The organized operations of looting and attacks of unarmed population (civilians), by the groups of Border Guard and Popular Defense Militias (who were inspired by government) since early January, 2012. (Detailed information were included in earlier report titled: Nuba Mountains / Eastern Region).
- On 28 January, 2012, SPLM forces attacked Al Migreh area and abducted Chinese laborers. This attack led to displacement from the neighboring villages like Karmogia. It also resulted in more government pressure on the Nubian group and eventually a clear instruction was passed by the government in May 2012 to evacuate the remaining inhabitants and to leave the area.
- On 9th July, 2012, Border Guard and Popular Defense Militias attacked Souq-Aljabal Area. The attack result in displacement of the residents to Rashad and Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and later on some fled to other big towns in other states while others fled to the nearby camps.
- In July 2012 the government forces backed up by militias including the Janjaweed from Darfur attacked Tassai village, which resulted in further displacement.
- On 20 August 2012 the government forces backed up with its militia including the Janjaweed from Darfur attacked the densely populated El-Moreib areas. This attack resulted in massive displacement from these areas which necessitated the establishment of displacement camps. Later more IDPs joined these camps after being harassed and denied the right to establish IDP camps.

Important Notes on the camps

- The camps are dominated by women, children and the elders; and almost lack the presence of male youth who had migrated to big cities and areas of agricultural schemes due to two reasons:
 - To run away from the authorities violations and harassments .
- To look for work in order to help and secure their families needs.

- A sense of fear pervades the camps and residents remain skeptical of strangers. When asked to explain that, the IDPs gave the following reasons for their fear:
 - They suspect presence of authorities' spies in the camps and they feel that they are under constant surveillance.
 - They were instructed to deny their displacement but rather to mention that they are settling in new villages or nomadic settlements.
 - They were threatened with expulsion and that they will be treated as rebels should they disobey those orders.
- A big number of IDPs kept displacing from place to other, e.g. those who had settled in Al-Abbasiya/Tagali and Wakara had left it to other areas such as Al Mashaggah, Mabsut and Um Marreh Camps. That was due to the harassment by the government authorities, as well as disallowance to form displacement camps and the inability to rent house in the town. Hence kept in continually moving.
- Mobile phones are used with caution due to fear of being monitored.
- Environment health is badly deteriorated (there is no clean water, toilets, etc.).
- All houses (huts) are made of the availed local materials while plastic sheets are used by very few.

Appeal

We hereby appeal to all, the International Community, Human Rights Organizations, international solidarity organization, Other International Decision Making Centers and to all those who stand by human rights and legality to exert utmost efforts to end this predicament through:

1. Immediate unconditional access should be given to humanitarian agencies to deliver humanitarian aid to these affected people and to lift all restrictions on humanitarian access.
2. Exert a maximum pressure and act urgently to force the Sudanese Government to stop repression and human rights violation against IDPs.
3. Protect IDPs from further attacks.
4. Immediate release of all IDPs' detainees and all other arbitrary detainees and abductees.
5. Exerting more pressure on the NCP regime to halt the aerial bombings.
6. The perpetrators who committed crimes against humanity should be brought to court to face justice.

HUDO

25th of February 2013