

Human Rights and Development Organization

(HUDO)



South Kordufan / Nuba Mountains

Monthly Report (April 2014)

Introduction:

The intensiveness air bombardment by Government Forces on various areas in the Nuba Mountains created more displacement and suffering of people who have been denied assistances by the Government. In the other hand, the President's call for the National Dialogue, starting by his Amnesty announcement to free all detainees all over the country, happened in a discriminative manner which excluded detainees from Nuba Mountains who qualifies to be released .

The Authorities actions in the conflict areas against the civilians reflects the government intention to take the military option despite the safety of civilians or even care for them.

Security Situation:

Conflict in Nuba Mountains worsened due to bombardment by government troops in various areas west of Rashad town (13-18 April 2014) as well as Abri in Dellami County (28 April 2014), where the Government deployed its Army backed by Popular Defense Force militias and the Quick Support Force (Janjaweed) with ground and air bombing, this resulted on displacing big groups of people from these areas whom most of them children, women and elders. Whom later never got any kind of assistance, that was due to the continuous attacks in which the government intended to destroy water resources.

Meanwhile, in the SPLA- N controlled areas, the government air forces intensified its bombardment on many areas especially Kauda area. However, the people living in the refugee camps in Upper Nile and Unity State has been affected by the conflict in South Sudan, some of them were fled back to war zones in Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile where they are now suffering the air bombardmentii.

Political Development:

Upon the deadline given to both parties by the African Peace & Security Council and mediators' pressure a negotiation round between the Government and the SPLM-N was held as scheduled, indicators show there is a slight breakthrough in the talks meanwhile, the next round is due on May 15, 2014.

The President's National Dialogue never progressed at its preparatory meeting with the political parties whom agreed on it is occurrence while others rejected it until there is a conducive situation which ceasing of war to deliver assistance to affected people is one of conditions. The agreement in that meeting was to form a committee of

fourteen members equally from the government and the opposition, that committee has not yet been formed while there are result-less attempts to convince those boycotting the dialogue.

The authorities suspended the activity of Merlin Organizationⁱⁱⁱ in West Darfur, while the case of the other two^{iv} suspended earlier still hanging.

Humanitarian Situation:

While military operations are becoming aggressive, the villages west of Rashad town (Um-Darawa, Tendimin, Al-Beyeera, Al-Mangala, Serein, Elsaraf, Woroula, Douma, Al-Mansour, Al-Moglum and Keleiro) has been bombarded after attacks by huge government forces backed by popular defense force and Janjaweed resulting on a wave of displacement towards Rashad town where more than 7,000 have occupied schools and mosques. Other families fled to Abugebaiha, Abbasiya, Um-Rawaba and Al-Obeid, with others hide in mountains near their villages most of them are elders and pregnant women who failed to walk to Rashad (about 15 km).

Military campaign also reached Abri in Dellami County where people fled to Dellami, Habilla and Kurtalla, IDPs from these areas have suffered lack assistance and humanitarian NGOs were banned from reaching them.

Detentions:

When addressing the first meeting of Sudanese political parties in response to the call for the national dialogue, the President declared the release of all detainees who don't face criminal cases, this process excluded majority of detainees from Nuba Mountains. There are also foreign detainees who were not released even with their legal rights violated.

The Authorities in Abbasiya town had allowed the relative of the detainee/ Eljaili Taweer S. J. to visit him.

HUDO found out the names of some current detainees in Al-Obeid who were arrested in March by the Military Intelligence:

1. Mustafa Mohammed Abdallah, (27 years) detained in Jabal Falata on March 6, 2014.
2. Yuhana Ali Kalu, (32 years) detained in Rashad on March 6, 2014.

Two of them deported to El-Obeid.

There are unconfirmed information to **HUDO**, that some youth were detained during the attacks on villages west of Rashad town and deported to Abugebaiha.

Other Issues:

A. Blue Nile trials

The Defense panel is still waiting for the response of the Court of Appeal regarding their appeal (submitted on 20th March 2014) on the judgments of Blue Nile incidents (sentence to death, life imprisonment and confiscation of properties).

B. Military Trials in El-Obeid

Scheduled Hearing of April 30, 2014 took place where the court heard to the defense witnesses and rescheduled the next hearing on May 26, 2014 to listen to the rest of the defense witnesses.

Sporadic Events:

- On April 10, 2014, Dr. Nazik Suleiman the Medical Manager of Abbasiya Hospital was physically harassed (beaten) and her private Dental Clinic was destroyed by a group of governmental armed soldiers led by an officer.
- Foreign detainees detained at the National Security detention cell for more than Eight months without filing any legal charges against them, also they been denied access to their embassies in the country:
 - ☒ **Khalid Rida**, 40 years **Egyptian** citizen detained since September 2013.
 - ☒ **Matinda Madeca**, 34 years DRC sitizen, detained since February 2014.

Appeal:

Human suffering in the conflict areas is getting worse day after day, the numbers of affected people are increasing rapidly due to aggressive government attacks on their villages with giving a damn to their sufferings. To safe this situation, a very quick international move is needed to put pressure on the government to stop the violence. Amnesty to release detainees happened in a discriminative way three times therefore, International NGOs must push the Authorities to implement it fully, there are detainees in the detention since 2011 & 2012 without being released regardless the Amnesty Declaration by the President, if there are evidences show their involvement in any crime then they should be taken to Justice instead.

HUDO urges NGOs that have links with the countries of the non-Sudanese detainees, to contact their embassies and inform them. the issue National Security detaining non- Sudanese needs requires more and more attention and consideration.

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ⁱ Report – New tragedy in Nuba mountains (www.hudocentre.org/EN/ApealForm22.html)

ⁱⁱ <http://nubareports.org/thousands-flee-refugee-camp-as-opposition-seizes-unity-state/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.hurriyatsudan.com/?p=149602>

^{iviv} ICRC & French organization working in Darfur