



Sudan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 27 January 2012

Information on concerns regarding the safety and security of residents of the Abu Zar (Abu Zahr) IDP camp in El Geneina or in the close vicinity of the camp.

A *UNAMID* report states:

“Two internally displaced persons (IDPs) died today after a fire broke out at the Abu Zar IDP camp near the West Darfur state capital of El Geneina. A joint team of UNAMID military and police personnel that was dispatched to the camp to investigate the fire’s cause was informed by residents that two armed men in military uniform and two others in civilian clothes were seen entering the camp, starting a fire about 12:30 a.m., and then fleeing. One female IDP died at the scene and a 22-year-old male IDP died later after being taken to hospital. Three other seriously injured IDPs are receiving medical treatment at El Geneina hospital. The blaze spread relatively quickly because of strong winds at the camp and as many as 1,500 residents were affected by the fire. Senior UNAMID military and police officials, speaking on behalf of the Mission, expressed their deep concern to the IDPs at Abu Zar following the incident.” (African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) (25 March 2009) *UNAMID investigating fatal fire outbreak at Abu Zar camp in West Darfur*)

A report from the Darfur-based *Radio Dabanga* states:

“Armed men opened fire on a displaced person, Mohammed Adam, in front of his house in Abu Zar camp near the city of El Geneina. An eyewitness said that he and other witnesses recognized the shooters and that one of them was a policeman in civilian clothing.” (Radio Dabanga (12 June 2011) *Police in plain clothes shoot man from camp near Geneina, Darfur*)

A *Radio Dabanga* report on the lack of health services in IDP camps in West Darfur states:

“A source in the health sector in West Darfur said that unknown viruses are spreading as well as diarrhea, cases of malnutrition among children, and diseases affecting pregnant women. The source attributed the causes of outbreaks of diseases to contaminated drinking water, especially in the rainy season in the absence of water sources and pumps sufficient to provide clean water to drink. The displaced in the camps complained of the lack of health services and health units within the camps. An elder from camp Abu Zar in El Geneina told Radio Dabanga that there isn't any medical clinic inside the camp, and he said they have to travel three kilometres to get treatment.” (Radio Dabanga (20 September 2010) *Sudan: Eye disease in S. Darfur, diarrhea and infections in W. Darfur*)

A *Radio Dabanga* report states:

“The displaced people living in camps in El Geneina are experiencing a bad humanitarian situation as relief from aid organizations has been cut off to its lowest level yet. The displaced have been provided with only some bread millet to live on

during the last month. Leaders in the camps around El Geneina told Radio Dabanga that the exchange of sugar, salt, sugar, salt, and lentils has stopped in the camp. Child nutrition services have been stopped for more than three months, said the displaced people. As a result of this situation, displaced people have to go out of the camp to look for work as construction workers and porters in the markets. But those who are desperate enough to go out on the streets of the city looking for work are mainly harassed by security authorities and don't find work. Activists told Radio Dabanga that what is happening in the camps in El Geneina is part of the government's plan to dismantle the camps to starve the refugees and squeeze them into 'voluntary return.' The activists appealed to international organizations to act and provide aid and assistance for displaced people in camps in El Geneina and all the camps in Darfur." (Radio Dabanga (1 February 2011) *Displaced in El Geneina face tough humanitarian situation*)

A *Radio Dabanga* report states:

"Gunmen wearing military uniforms started shooting at random within IDP camps in El Geneina, West Darfur. Witnesses reported intensive gunfire inside Riyadh Camp last Monday after a fight between members of the police and army inside the camp." (Radio Dabanga (4 March 2011) *Gunfire in El Geneina IDP camps*)

A *Radio Dabanga* report states:

"Armed men raped two displaced women in El Geneina, West Darfur on Tuesday. A relative of the victims told Radio Dabanga that three displaced women went out on Tuesday to gather hay from the bushes, 6 kilometers away from the camp. Gunmen appeared to the group and captured and raped two of them, the remaining one having managed to escape. They filed a report at the police and called on the UNAMID to provide more protection to the displaced people in camps in Darfur, especially women who go out to collect firewood or hay from the bushes and forests." (Radio Dabanga (13 October 2011) *Two women raped in El Geneina*)

See also a *Radio Dabanga* report which states:

"Another case of rape was reported in El Geneina near Martyr Airport. A 16 year old girl from Ardamata Displaced Camp was raped at gunpoint. She was later taken to the hospital in El Geneina after opening a police case at the Ardamata Police Department. Witnesses told Radio Dabanga that the girl was among four who went to the area near the airport to collect firewood. Shepherds armed with a Kalishnikov rifle fell upon them but three of the girls managed to escape. One source identified the camp district where the victims lives and described her as an orphan whose father had been killed in events in the El Geneina region." (Radio Dabanga (13 February 2011) *2 Darfuri girls raped near Kutum and El Geneina*)

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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