



Sudan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 3 April 2009

Whether the Zaghawa are targeted by the Janjaweed.

In a section titled “Analytic Summary” an assessment on Darfur published by the *Minorities at Risk Project* states:

“In 2003 two rebel groups from Darfur – the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) – accused the Sudanese government of oppressing black Africans in Darfur, while promoting Arabs in the region. The government at first denied any sort of rebellion but eventually responded with attacks on Black Muslim civilians orchestrated by Arab militias, called Janjaweed. It is important to note that the attacks have targeted civilian communities that share the same ethnicity as the rebel groups, but not necessarily involved in rebellion. The attacks by the Janjaweed have consisted of mass killings, looting, burning villages, and the raping of women of Fur, Zaghawa and Masalit tribes.” (University of Maryland (Center for International Development and Conflict Management (25 March 2005) *Assessment for Darfur Black Muslims in Sudan* Minorities at Risk Project)

In a section titled “Background to the Conflict” an *International Rescue Committee* document states:

“The current conflict in Darfur began in 2003, when rebels, primarily from the Fur and Zaghawa ethnic groups, launched raids against Sudanese military bases in the region. The rebel groups claimed to seek greater political representation for Darfur in peace talks between the North and South of Sudan. The rebels' raids triggered both a conventional military response and, more significantly, the mobilization of local militias drawn mainly from herder populations (widely known as the Janjaweed).” (International Rescue Committee (26 December 2006) *Darfur: escalating violence and increasing suffering*)

The Summary of a *Human Rights Watch* report states:

“The government and its Janjaweed allies have killed thousands of Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa-- often in cold blood, raped women, and destroyed villages, food stocks and other supplies essential to the civilian population. They have driven more than one million civilians, mostly farmers, into camps and settlements in Darfur where they live on the very edge of survival, hostage to Janjaweed abuses. More than 110,000 others have fled to neighbouring Chad but the vast majority of war victims remain trapped in Darfur.” (Human Rights Watch (7 May 2004) *Darfur Destroyed – Ethnic Cleansing By Government And Militia Forces In Western Sudan*, p.1)

In a section titled “Abuses By The Government-Janjaweed In West Darfur” this report states:

“Together the government and Arab Janjaweed militias targeted the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa through a combination of indiscriminate and deliberate aerial bombardment, denial of access to humanitarian assistance, and scorched-earth tactics that displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians. Government forces also regularly arbitrarily detained and sometimes tortured Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit students, political activists, and other individuals in Darfur and Khartoum suspected of having any allegiance to the rebel movements.” (ibid, p.7)

In a section titled “Background” a *Human Rights Watch* report states:

“In addition to attacking rebel targets, the Sudanese government’s campaign has routinely targeted civilians of the Fur, Masalit, Zaghawa and other tribes who share the ethnicity of members of the SLA and JEM. Despite public denials of links with the militias, hundreds of eyewitness testimonies highlight the Sudanese government’s policy of arming and supporting ethnic militias. Government documents obtained by Human Rights Watch irrefutably demonstrate the role and responsibility of government officials in ordering the recruitment, arming and deployment of the Janjaweed militias.” (Human Rights Watch (11 August 2004) *Empty Promises? – Continuing Abuses in Darfur, Sudan*, p.6)

See also section titled “Background” of a *Human Rights Watch* report which states:

“During 2003-2004, the Sudanese government and government-backed Janjaweed militia unleashed a violent campaign of 'ethnic cleansing' and crimes against humanity, targeting Fur, Zaghawa, Massalit, and other ethnic groups perceived to be associated with the two main rebel groups: the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).⁴ Civilians suffered deliberate and indiscriminate attacks by land and air, and suffered a range of human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, rape, torture, and pillage.” (Human Rights Watch (6 April 2008) *Five Years On: No Justice for Sexual Violence in Darfur*, p.6)

In a section titled “Towns, villages, and rural areas” this report states:

“Many of Darfur’s largest towns are also garrison towns hosting military and militia bases, and much of the sexual violence reported in those areas is perpetrated by soldiers and militia members. In Kabkabiya, a town in North Darfur, residents from the Fur and Zaghawa ethnicities consistently report to humanitarian agencies and UN human rights monitors cases of sexual violence carried out by soldiers and militia. The town hosts a large military garrison and numerous militia camps, and has been the headquarters for infamous Janjaweed leader Musa Hilal.” (ibid, p.15)

In a section titled “Background on the conflict” a report from the *Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children* states:

“The current conflict in Darfur began in February 2003, when two loosely allied rebel groups, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/SLA), took up arms against the Government of Sudan (GoS) for neglecting the impoverished region. The GoS responded by mounting an aerial bombardment campaign and supporting ground attacks by an Arab militia, the Janjaweed. The Janjaweed militias are accused of committing numerous human rights violations, including mass killing, looting and systematic rape of the non-Arab population, as they burned and destroyed hundreds of so-called rebel villages throughout the region.” (Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children (December 2008) *Too Little for Too Few: Meeting the needs of youth in Darfur*, p.3)

In a section titled “Impact of the conflict” this report states:

“The impact of the conflict has been immense and widespread. Some analysts estimate that more than 300,000 civilians have been killed, mostly from the Fur, Zaghawa, Masaalit and other tribes.” (ibid, p.3)

In an article published by *The Washington Times* American surgeon Bill Frist states:

“Since the conflict began four years ago this month, Sudan’s government in Khartoum and its allied Janjaweed militias have massacred Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa ethnic groups in Darfur.” (Washington Times, The (4 March 2007) *Despair in Darfur*)

A *New Republic* article refers to the alleged experiences of a Zaghawa woman as follows:

“A 30-year-old woman squats on the sand outside her tent in eastern Chad’s Touloum refugee camp as she tells me about her escape from Darfur. Her family, members of the Zaghawa ethnic group, had been farmers near the town of Kutum in Northern Darfur. She describes how, before fleeing to this desolate place, Sudanese soldiers and Janjaweed militias killed her husband and son, then burned her village. She recounts how she fled with other survivors, and how, during her escape, she became separated from three young boys with whom she was traveling. When she found them again, their throats had been cut, their hands chopped off, and their feet sliced from the big toe to the ankle. She saw that their heads had been broken open and their brains removed. Also, their penises had been cut off.” (New Republic, The (15 May 2006) *Words Fail* Loewenstein, Andrew B.)

In a section titled “Commentary: Sudan and the ICC” a *United Nations Mission in Sudan* report states:

“The prosecutor’s investigation reveals that Bashir’s forces and agents forcibly drove approximately 2.5 million Sudanese, including substantial numbers of the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa ethnic groups, into camps of internally displaced persons. They then inflicted rape and other forms of severe sexual violence upon

thousands of women and girls, and continue to do so. A common tactic is for the Janjaweed tribal militia and Sudan's armed forces and security agents to roam outside the camps raping and often gang-raping women and girls who must leave the camps to collect firewood, grass or water in order to survive. One witness said: 'Maybe around 20 men rape one woman. ... These things are normal for us here in Darfur. ... They rape women in front of their mothers and fathers.'" (United Nations Mission in Sudan (4 December 2008) *Media Monitoring Report*, p.5)

A report from the *Institute for War & Peace Reporting* states:

"The Darfur situation was referred to the ICC by the UN in 2005 and, so far, prosecutors have accused government minister Ahmed Harun and Janjaweed leader Ali Kushayb of committing 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The charges include persecution, murder, rape and the forcible transfer of Fur, Zaghawa and Masalit civilians in west Darfur." (Institute for War & Peace Reporting (28 November 2007) *UN Downplays Darfur Resettlement Claims* Glassborow, Katy)

See also *Institute for War & Peace Reporting* report which, in a section titled "President Could Face Genocide Charge", states:

"Revealing his allegations on July 14, ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo called on judges to issue an indictment against President al-Bashir for ten counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Fur, Zaghawa and Masalit peoples of Darfur. Moreno-Ocampo says he has evidence that over the last five years, al-Bashir masterminded crimes intended to destroy communities in Darfur on ethnic grounds, and that he ordered the destruction of food stocks, shelter, wells and anything else necessary to sustain life. He says Bashir should be charged with genocide for his government's actions since 2004, conducted 'without bullets or gas chambers' but with 'different weapons' – 'rapes, hunger and fear'. 'This is the most effective way to commit genocide in front of our eyes. As efficient, but silent,' said Moreno-Ocampo, describing the Sudanese leader's actions as 'genocide by attrition'. Judges are reviewing the evidence Moreno-Ocampo submitted, which he says proves the president ordered regular troops and allied militias known as the 'janjaweed' to murder, torture, rape and forcibly transfer civilians, and inflict conditions calculated to bring about the destruction of nearly two-and-a-half million internally displaced persons, IDPs, living in refugee camps." (Institute for War & Peace Reporting (18 July 2008) *Rattled Sudan Leader Seeks Backers* Glassborow, Katy)

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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