

Sudan, Darfur: No one to complain to

Testimony of X, brother of a man who was extrajudicially executed by the Sudanese armed forces in Darfur:

“My brother, a merchant in Saraf Omra, West Darfur, had a lorry. The armed forces arrested him on 14 June 2003, at 8am in a lorry station, saying that he was helping the armed opposition and that the goods in the lorry were for the rebels. They brought Janjawid and other soldiers to take the goods from the lorry. Then they stole 350 million pounds from him.

They took him, his assistant and the driver, blindfolded them, to Sania Dari (30 km south west of Saraf Omra), a Janjawid camp. They stripped them naked and tied their arms and legs. They were taken to the valley where it is hot, dug a hole and put my brother in it and beat him saying ‘you are a rebel’. The two others were also tied and laid beside him. They put hot sand on his stomach and charcoal from a fire nearby and burnt him. So that is how my brother died.

Some people called me to tell me what happened. They said my brother had been buried in the middle of the valley where there is water. The armed forces took his lorry to al-Jeneina, they are still using it nowadays to drive between their camp and the Janjawid camp.

So I travelled to Saraf Omra to see my brother’s grave. I brought sugar and tea to sell on the way but the Janjawid stopped my car and took the goods. When I went to Saraf Omra the armed forces prevented me from going to see the grave. I hid myself so as not to be arrested. After seven days I got a donkey and went to Zalingei, then Nyala, then Kabkabiya because it is not far from Saraf Omra. I reported the murder of my brother to the police but they told me to go and see the armed forces. So I went to the Security who told me to report to the armed forces. Both asked me to pay and I paid in total 35 million [Sudanese pounds].

Then, after someone contacted the army officer in Saraf Omra, I was arrested on 20 August 2003. The armed forces took me to a military camp outside Kabkabiya and beat me, tied my feet and arms and hung me up to a tree from the morning to the evening. They were saying: “You and your brother support the armed opposition, where did you find the lorry and the goods?”. I was detained for 12 days and beaten five times a day, before the prayer, after sunrise, at night... I was released because one of my brothers paid seven million pounds to a man working for the military intelligence.

When I was released I went to al-Fasher and went to the Wali (State Governor) Yusuf Kibir. Yusuf Kibir who said: ‘We will provide justice to every man’ and he wrote a letter to a local Minister in North Darfur. The Minister took me to the Commander of the armed forces in al-Fasher, who sent me to the Major General. This one said: ‘We have no cars and cannot go to Saraf Omra. This office is only for the low ranks, you have to go to a 3 stars officer to follow up on your case.’

Until now I have not had any success in the case, even in just reporting the case. My brother had eight children and I have to look after them now. I don’t feel safe and I may still be killed. I suffer a lot because the government does not provide any protection to me. Even if you report to the police you get arrested afterwards.”

Since February 2003, tens of thousands have been killed and thousands raped in the Darfur region of western Sudan, during attacks by the Sudanese government and its allied nomad militias, known as the Janjawid. A million and a half have been forcibly displaced from their homes and live in precarious settlements around the towns of Darfur. Civilians are still attacked.

The Darfuris cry for justice...

... But victims of human rights violations have little, if any, recourse to justice. Some are even punished for trying to seek justice. There is no respite for the victims, while the perpetrators enjoy impunity. The rule of law is upside down in Darfur.

HELP THE VICTIMS OF DARFUR OBTAIN JUSTICE!

Write to the Sudanese Government stating that:

- All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law;
- Allegations or complaints of grave human rights abuses should be promptly investigated by a body independent of the alleged perpetrators;
- Those who have unlawfully killed or used or ordered torture should be brought to justice, in accordance with international standards of fairness;
- Victims should have access to redress, including compensation and restitution. The safety of the victims and witnesses should be protected;
- Compensation must be provided to victims of torture as well as medical treatment and rehabilitation.

ACT NOW!

► Please send your appeals to:

- Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
First Vice-President
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 771025/779977
Salutation: Dear First Vice-President
- Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 770883
Salutation: Dear Minister
- Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax : + 249 183 779383
Salutation: Dear Minister
- Dr Abdel Moneim Taha
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 779173/770883
Salutation: Dear Sir
- El Tayeb Harun Ali
Head of Complaints Committee
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 183 781343
Salutation: Dear Sir

► Please raise Amnesty International's concerns with your own government.

More information on the Sudanese legal system and the human rights situation in Darfur can be obtained on Amnesty International's website:

<http://www.amnesty.org/sudan>

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