

67 dead in Jebel Moon attack

Just before dawn on Sunday 29 October, the Sudan government backed Janjawid militia launched a day of attacks on civilians, starting with the sleeping village of Ghrabaysh.

The militias attacked four further villages and an IDP camp in the Jebel Moon area of North Darfur that day, leaving in total at least 67 men, women and children dead.

At least 32 of the dead were children, mostly from Ghrabaysh, which was attacked first, without any warning.



Children from Darfur at Gaga refugee camp, near Abeché © AI

Forced to flee

Reportedly, the majority of the villagers and other people from the area have fled across the border to Chad. Some have gone to Sileah, the nearest town and hundreds are still believed to be hiding in the bush. Janjawid are still in the Jebel Moon area and are said to be massing in various camps in North and West Darfur.

Targeted attacks

Journeying from village to village in 30 minutes on horses and camels, the Janjawid were reportedly in brand new Sudanese military uniforms and equipped with new weapons. Upon entering each village, those on horses reportedly opened fire randomly on the residents, while those on camels rounded up the livestock. When they had killed or forced the villagers to flee, they plundered goods and burnt the rest of the harvest, so that villagers lost all their food stores.

Ethnic ties to rebels

Those attacked were mostly from the Zaghawa, Jebel and Erenga ethnic groups. The attacks reportedly took place because of ethnic links between some villagers and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), one of the armed opposition groups, which has a base in the area.

AMIS fail again to protect

The day after the attacks, on 30 October, military observers and other forces from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) visited the area. Villagers were said to have been angry at the AMIS failure to protect them from the Janjawid attacks.