

PRESS RELEASE

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Serious Violations of Cease-fire by Rebels in Darfur

In a serious violation of the Cease-fire Agreement of April, 2004, and in a dangerous escalation of violence in Darfur region, dissident factions inside the rebels' movements of SLM and JEM, have committed consecutive crimes in the last few weeks since last August.

Civilians in several regions in Darfur were attacked and killed , in the time the Sudan government and the other rebel movements were engaged in serious and peaceful negotiations in Abuja- Nigeria , which started on September 15, 2005 up to now, under the auspices of the AU and UN.

The dissident factions , which refused to join the peaceful negotiation, culminated their crimes by kidnapping 39 and killed 3 of the AU personnel (Nigerians) working in Darfur.

These atrocities were condemned by the Sudanese government, the AU commission, Peace and Security Council, and other countries including the Canadian government (Mr. Pettigrew's statement on October 10, 2005).

The Government of Sudan believes that it is only through peaceful negotiation that the Darfur dispute would be solved. The government calls upon the international community to apply maximum pressure on all factions of the rebels to respect the agreement of the cease-fire and to abide them selves by their commitments. The Government of Sudan also calls upon the dissident factions to join the negotiation in Abuja, for the sake of solving and putting an end to this problem.