



COMMISSION

CEASEFIRE VIOLATION REPORT

ALLEGED ATTACK

ON

SOLOKOYA VILLAGE

ON

10 JANUARY 2005

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AFRICAN UNION		AFRICAN MISSION IN SUDAN
الاتحاد الأفريقي		CEASEFIRE COMMISSION
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AMIS/CFC/VIO//G/1

See Distribution

Headquarters
African Union Mission in Sudan
El-Fashir
SUDAN

9 February 2005

CFC CEASEFIRE VIOLATION REPORT NO. 08/05: ALLEGED ATTACK ON SOLOKOYA VILLAGE ON 10 JAN 05

References:

- A. Humanitarian CeaseFire Agreement of 8 Apr 04.
- B. Security and Humanitarian Protocols Signed on 9 Nov 04.
- C. HQ/SECT 4/TG/VIO/10 dated 13 Jan 05

INTRODUCTION

1 The Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) filed a complaint on 11 Jan 05 with AMIS accusing armed militia supported by the Government of Sudan (GOS) of attacking Solokoya village on 13 Jan 05. A team of military observers (MILOBs) was tasked on 13 Jan 05 to investigate the complaint. The team interviewed 3 witnesses who claimed to have witnessed the attack on the village.

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ASSESSMENT

2. The team established that an attack took place on 10 Jan 05 by armed militia. It was further established that the attack on the village was the third in a series of attack in recent times by armed militia. All witnesses account revealed that the village was attacked by armed militia supported by the GOS which resulted in the death of many civilian and damage to properties. This fact could not be substantiated, as the team could not verify the bodies or the grave sites during the course of investigation.

3. The Commission is of the opinion that the deteriorating situation in Darfur caused by the Janjaweed/Armed militia will continue to hamper the peace process except necessary steps are being taken by the GOS to curb the activities of these armed bandits.

CONCLUSION

4 A team was tasked on 13 Jan 05 to conduct an investigation on the attack on Solokoya which was reported by the SLA on 11 Jan 05. The team's assessment show that the Janjaweed/Armed militia carried out an attack on the village. The deteriorating situation in Darfur caused by the activities of Janjaweed/ Armed militia needs to be effectively addressed by the GOS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. It is recommended that:

- a The GOS should arrest and prosecute the culprits of the attack on the village

b. The GOS should disarm the Janjaweed/Armed militia in Darfur.

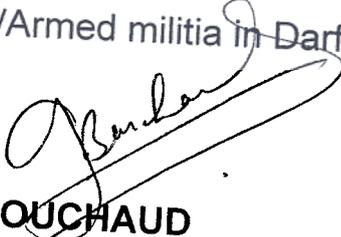
FO OKONKWO
Major General
Chairman



IBRAHIM EZ-ADEEN
Brigadier General
GOS Rep



A DARY
Colonel
Chadian Rep

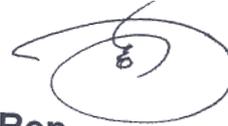


G BOUCHAUD
Brigadier General
Vice Chairman



MOHAMMED IBRAHIM
Colonel
GOS Rep

A MUSA
Colonel
Chadian Rep



A ABDOU
Colonel
SLA Rep



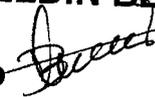
ALI MUHTAR
Colonel
SLA Rep



MA OMAR
Colonel
JEM Rep



BAHARELDIN BECHIJI
Colonel
JEM Rep



G NIOUKY
Colonel
AU Rep

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Enclosure:

- 1 Report on the Alleged Attack on Solokoya Village on 10 Jan 05.

Distribution:

External:

Action:

AU - Commissioner Peace and Security
JC Chairman Joint Commission
GOS
SLA
JEM

Information:

Director Peace and Security
Head of CMD

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169
Distributed to
CFE-members
3/2/05
[Signature]

AMIS
HQ Team Golf
Kebkabiya
SUDAN

TG/VIO/10/05

January 2005

ALLEGED ATTACK ON SOLOKOYA VILLAGE ON 10 JANUARY 2005

Reference:

A. SLA written complaint dated 11 Jan 05.

INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 January 2005, a report was received from the SLA (Reference A) alleging an attack on Solokoya village (Latitude 12 Degrees 52.77 Minutes North and Longitude 024 Degrees 04.53 Minutes East) by armed Militia backed by GOS military on 10 January 2005. Team G was tasked to determine whether the alleged attack violated the ceasefire agreement. The team departed Sector 4 HQ at 1030hrs on 13 January 05 to Solokoya village by AUCFC helicopter, and returned at 1600hrs. (See Attachment A).

INVESTIGATION

2. On arrival at Solokoya village, Team Golf found the village to be deserted. The village had been burned however this was the third alleged incident at the village so it was important for Team Golf to consider fresh evidence from the alleged attack on 10 January, rather than evidence from previous attacks. Inspection revealed every house in the village to be burned and there were no possessions in the charred remains of the village. Recent vehicle tyre marks were found in the centre of the village and measured 15cm in width. Hoof marks from camels and horses were also found throughout the village.

3. As the visual inspection continued a few villagers appeared from the adjoining fields. From these initial people the Team selected three witnesses (Attachment B) for interview. During the interview of the second witness, it became apparent she was also a victim of the attack.

4. After interviewing the witnesses and victim, the Team was escorted to two locations, one on the edge of the village and the other a hut within the village. It was claimed that victims were shot and killed at both locations. Significant quantities of blood

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supported this evidence and photographic evidence was taken however no bodies, the graves of bodies or injured persons were seen. An empty 7.62 cartridge was found at the first location and 3 bullet holes in the metal door to a hut were evident at the second location. Further photographs were taken. (Attachment C).

5. Team Golf concluded their investigation by thanking the individuals for their cooperation and departed to Sector 4 HQ.

ASSESSMENT

6. The Team assessed that an attack took place on Solokoya village on 10 January 2005. Though this was the third alleged attack on the village there was evidence of recent burning and the village was now deserted indicating the fear of the local inhabitants. Empty cartridges and bullet holes, particularly through sheet metal, found at the scene supported the claim that high velocity rifles and machine guns had been fired during the attack.

7. There is evidence to support the witnesses who said that the attackers came by horse, camel and vehicle. Marks from all three were found in the village however such marks are not uncommon in villages. Fresh tyre marks and their measurements were compatible with those that could be found on a Land cruiser vehicle.

8. The bodies of those killed were not seen nor their graves. Substantial quantities of blood, at the alleged murder sites, were seen and this is consistent with high velocity gun shot wounds. The injured personnel were not seen either and though a NGO (details not known) evidently recommended they attend Zalinje hospital, they did not report. (Sector 7 was tasked to confirm this and found no evidence of their admission.) The team therefore could not ascertain the validity of this claim.

9. The Team considered that the evidence of the witnesses was accurate. Though precise timings, numbers of attackers and distances vary slightly between the witnesses, the Team considered this to be not unreasonable in the circumstances. The first witness was invited to judge distance and he proved to be poor at this skill, overestimating distance. His estimate of 2 kms is therefore likely to be considerably less. The second witness was fairly old, 53, and did not have a watch.

10. Fresh ashes of burnt houses were evident indicating that the attackers wanted to destroy the village as well as kill some of the inhabitants. The victim interviewed showed the team her burnt home and the unmistakable smell of recent fire was evident.

11. The witnesses all state that the attackers were "Arab Militia" (Their words not Team Golf's) supported by vehicles driven by persons in khaki uniform. Since there are many types of khaki uniform the witness was invited to explain what colour of khaki uniform was worn by the attackers. The witness pointed to the GOS representative and stated it was of that type and colour. Team Golf understands that the witnesses infer that

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the attackers were those Armed Militia that are ethnically of Arab origin however their specific tribe could not be ascertained.

12. Finally the Police had still not either visited or investigated the incident by 13 January despite the murders having been reported.

CONCLUSION

13. Based on the evidence gained from the witnesses and an investigation of the area, Team Golf conclude that;

a. There is substantial evidence to support the view that Armed Militia of ethnic arab origin supported by pick up vehicles driven by men in GOS khaki uniform, attacked the village on Selokoya on 10 January 2005 at approximately 1400 hours.

b. The remains of the village was burned suggesting that the aim of the attack was to destroy the village rather than just loot.

c. Abdullah Heroun and Shata Mohammed were probably killed and Ali Abraham and Adam Mohammed Issa were possibly injured.

d. The civilian police would not investigate the matter suggesting the Republic of Sudan was complacent in neither seeking the culprits of this attack nor protecting the inhabitants for the future.

And therefore

e. The Armed Militia of ethnic Arab origin with GOS support violated Article 2 of the Cease Fire Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14 That the CFC endorses the findings of Team Golf.

15. That a police investigation be launched with International Police advisors (AMIS 2) to;

Find, arrest and charge the culprits of this attack.

2. To report on the civilian police investigation making recommendations on responsibility and dereliction of duty.

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16. That GOS vehicle patrols should not be mounted unless either authorized or escorted by the AUCFC.



T. Arigo
Major
Golf Team Leader

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Initial Allegation Report.
- B. Personal Contact Reports. (3)
- C. Photographs. (2)

Members of the investigating Team:

Name

Signature

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APPENDIX B- INITIAL ALLEGATION FORM

Received by: Sector 4 HQ

1. **Who (source of allegation):** SLA rep in Sector 4.
2. **When did the report of allegation take place:** 11 Jan 05
3. **Where did the report of allegation take place:** AUCFC Sector 4
4. **When did the incident(s) in the allegation take place:** 10 Jan 05
5. **Where did the incident(s) in the allegation take place:** Solokoya village.
6. **What is the allegation:** Attack on Solokoya village by Arab Militia backed by GOS forces on 10 Jan 05.
7. **Corroboration of report/source (if applicable):** N/A

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APPENDIX C. PERSONAL CONTACT REPORT

- 1. Report number (reporter's initials and time/date):** TG/VIO/01/05
- 2. Who initiated contact (contact or reporter):** Reporter
- 3. Means of contact (personal meeting or technical):** Personal meeting
- 4. Person(s) met with (and agency/organization they represent if applicable):** First eye witness from Solokoya
- 5. Credibility/reliability of rating in reporter's judgment (1-5 with five being most credible/reliable):** 4
- 6. Possible ulterior motivations for contact making report (if applicable):**
- 7. Summary of meeting (if necessary continue on second page):** Bullets rather than narrative
The witness stated the following:
 - On Monday 10 Jan 05 "Arab Militia" with 100 horses armed with rifles attacked the village of Solokoya at 1400 hours.
 - The attackers came from West, East and North direction
 - Those from the East were supported by 2 white cars which he thought were pickup land cruiser vehicles.
 - These cars were stationed outside the village and giving covering fire. The witness was about 2 kms away from the cars.
 - The 2 vehicles were mounted with heavy machine guns.
 - 4 civilians who were found hiding in the sugar cane plantation were arrested and shot, killing 2 of them, and injuring the others.
 - Abdullah Haroon and Shata Mohammed were killed
 - Ali Ibrahim injured in the arm and Adam Mohammed Issa injured in leg.
 - The attackers were dressed in khaki uniforms with head turbans. He pointed to the GOS military uniform as the example of khaki.
 - Attackers looted items in the village. Remainder of village that had not been burned in previous attack was burned.
 - The attack was reported to the Intelligence Officer named Nazar at the GOS Camp in Thur.
 - Police in Bloro about 3km from the village did not come to investigate.
 - The attackers withdrew to the east and southeast.
 - Wounded were first sent to Gollo and an unknown NGO sent them to hospital in Zalinji. The two dead were buried in Dinakro and Gollol.
- 8. Cross referenced corroborative report number (if applicable):**

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APPENDIX C. PERSONAL CONTACT REPORT

1. Report number (reporter's initials and time/date): TG/VIO/01/06
2. Who initiated contact (contact or reporter): The witness was selected from a random group of people who appeared in the village.
3. Means of contact (personal meeting or technical): Personal meeting
4. Person(s) met with (and agency/organization they represent if applicable):
Second Witness from Solokoya
5. Credibility/reliability of rating in reporter's judgment (1-5 with five being most credible/reliable): 4
6. Possible ulterior motivations for contact making report (if applicable):
7. Summary of meeting (if necessary continue on second page): Bullets rather than narrative
The witness stated the following:
 - At 1400 hours on the day of the attack I was watering my vegetables in my farm when I heard gun shots. I went to find out what was happening, realized there was an attack and went to hide in the sugar plantation.
 - I saw armed Arabs proceeding on horses from the east attacking the village.
 - I saw 2 white land cruisers mounted with heavy weapons attacking from the north.
 - My brother was killed in the attack, Abdullah Heroun Abdul Rafat.
 - Another was killed. He did not know his name as he was a migrant on business.
 - Three others were also wounded during the attack
 - 30 huts were burnt by the attackers
 - I reported the attack to the Thur "security" but they did not investigate the incident..
8. Cross referenced corroborative report number (if applicable):

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APPENDIX C. PERSONAL CONTACT REPORT

- 1. Report number (reporter's initials and time/date):** TG/VIO/01/05
- 2. Who initiated contact (contact or reporter):** After the Team arrived in the village this witness appeared and claimed to be a victim. She was selected from a random group.
- 3. Means of contact (personal meeting or technical):** Personal meeting
- 4. Person(s) met with (and agency/organization they represent if applicable):** Third Witness and Victim from Solokoya
- 5. Credibility/reliability of rating in reporter's judgment (1-5 with five being most credible/reliable):** 4
- 6. Possible ulterior motivations for contact making report (if applicable):**
- 7. Summary of meeting (if necessary continue on second page):** Bullets rather than narrative
 - The witness stated the following:
 - "I cannot remember the exact day" but at around 1pm men on 10 horses and a camel from Barbora came and attacked our village. The men were made up of soldiers from Barbora and some "Arabs".
 - Two people were killed in the attack, Adam Haroun and Ali Ibrahim.
 - Two others were wounded in the attack who were migrant visitors to the village and may be named Musah Saleh and Adam.
 - During the attack, I saw 5 land cruisers and large lorry. I heard they belonged to Musa Hilal. Some were white and others green in colour.
 - The vehicles were also shooting.
 - Bullets were dropping like "rain" on the day of attack.
 - My house was burnt during the attack.
- 8. Cross referenced corroborative report number (if applicable):**

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HQ Sector 4
Kabkabiya
SUDAN

02 February 2005

Sector Commander's Comments on investigation report:

- 1- Regarding to the attached report , I agree with the team conclusion and recommendations for the following reasons :
 - a- The (SALAKOIA) village exposed to such sort of attack (dated on 10 January) for the third time.
 - b- The physical evidences which had been seen and the witnesses statements proved that the attack aim was for destroying the village And to expel the locals from their homes.
 - c- Since the GOS committed to neutralize and disarm the janjaweed / armed militias therefore the GOS responsible for that attack.
- 2- The armed militia supported by GOS violated the cease fire agreement in article 2, 6 and the protocol of the security situation in article 5.

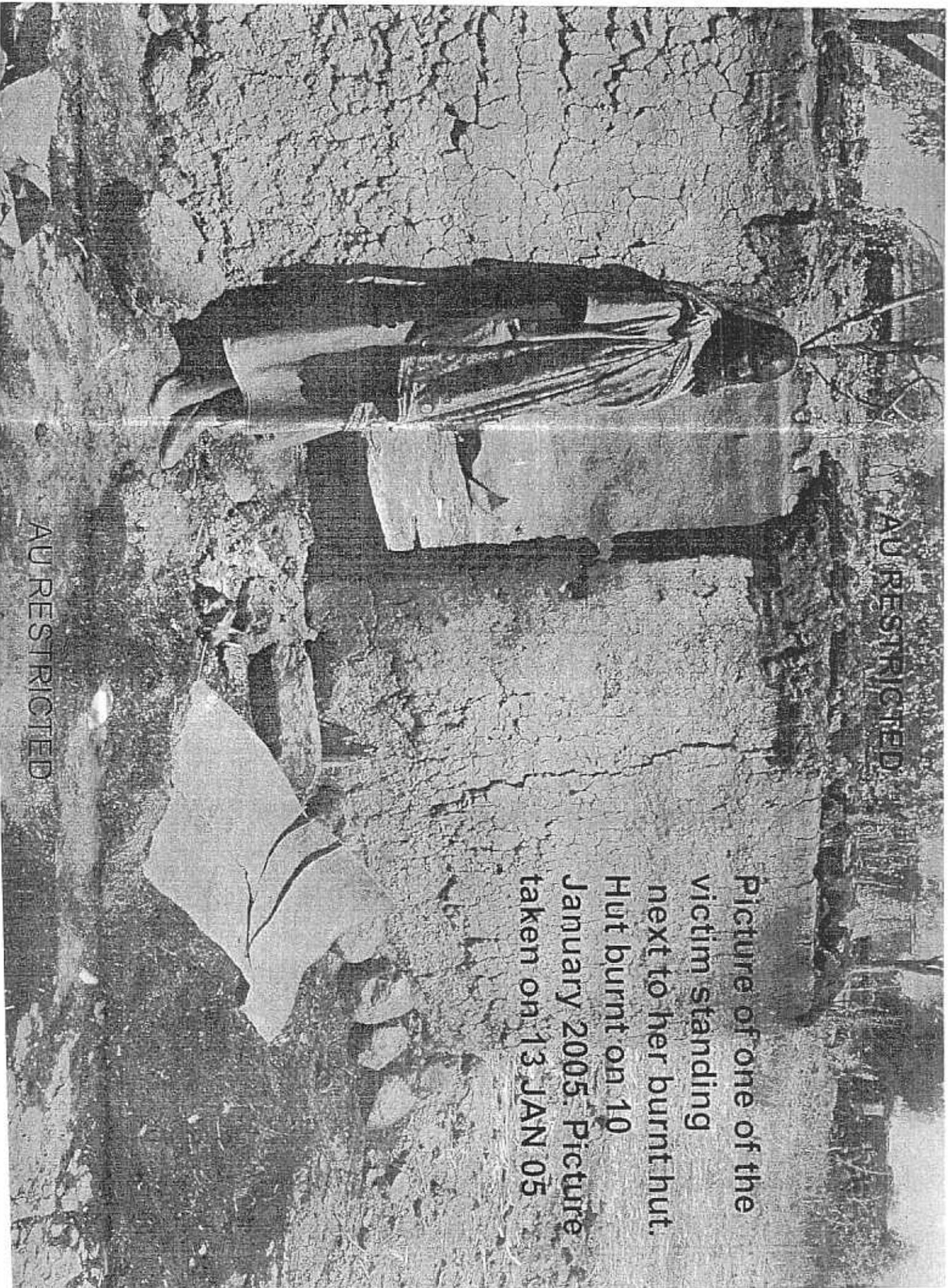


Akram, Louis D.
Colonel
Sector Commander

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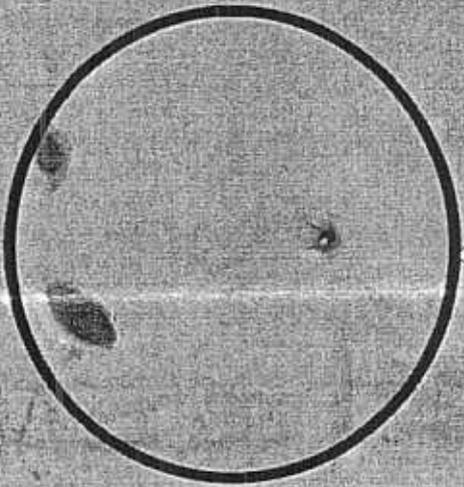
Picture of one of the
victim standing
next to her burnt hut.
Hut burnt on 10
January 2005. Picture
taken on 13 JAN 05

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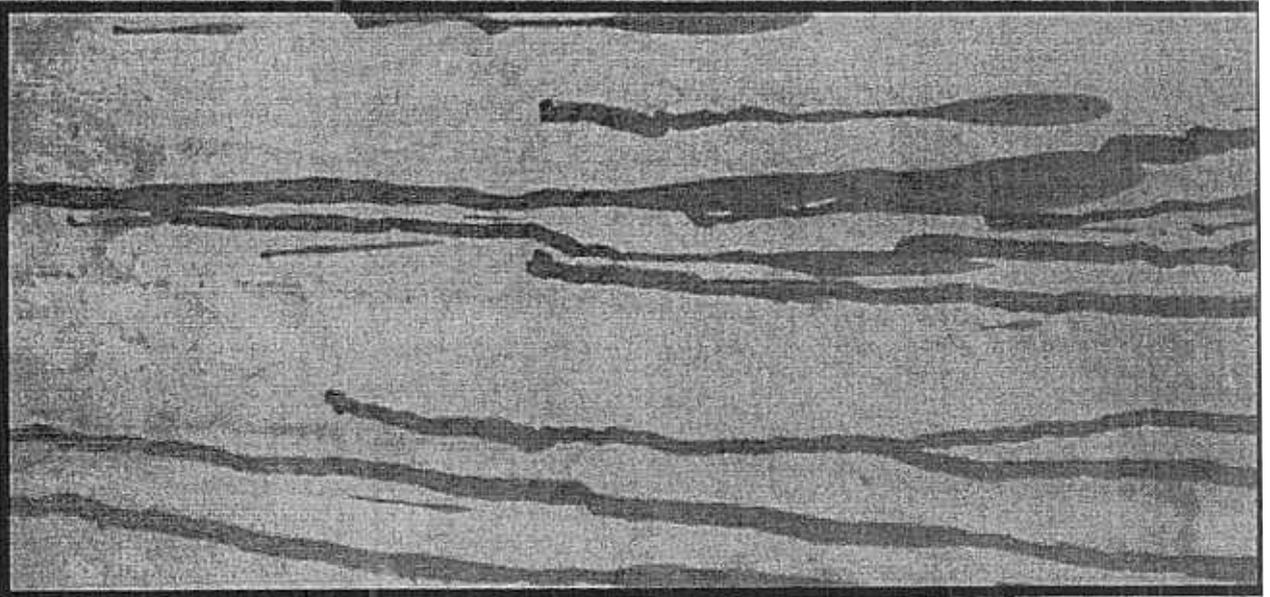


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BULLET MARKS ON HUT'S DOOR



BLOOD



13 JAN 05

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First February 2005

sir / AU CFC

kabkabiya - sector

A claim concerns the report written on Solokoya-attack.

- 1- I inform you sir that the team mentioned in the assessment of investigation that there were heavy arms used during the attack and this assessment is incorrect, because there is nothing in the location of the incident except two empty cases for small rifles. The investigation-team mentioned there were marks of camels, horses and a type of land cruiser vehicle - well known that Solokoya is occupied by SLA and they live with civilians together and use camels, horses and landcruisers.
- 2- I inform you sir there is a diversity in the statements of witnesses, Time of attack and Numbers of attacker and this means that the witnesses were not familiar with the incident and did not discern the forces, but the witnesses mentioned them as Arabs having military uniforms - Is it a sufficient evidence accusing GOS-forces with the attack - for the team to regard it - as a violation of the second article as mentioned in conclusion - But GOS is innocent for this accusation.
- 3- I inform you sir that the team mentioned the assessment of investigation there were no graves of murders and wounded persons were not interviewed - and after further inquiry from Zaliniji - hospital as coordinated by our sector in Zaliniji, the response was non-existence for such names of wounded persons. And this is regarded as incomplete investigation, except after taking the statements of the wounded persons and seeing the graves in order for the view to be obvious and ensure justice.

#A I inform you sir that the team took the statements of ~~SE~~ SLA-Forces only who are available in Solokoya, and this means that the team sufficed with one party statements only and without considering the other party. Therefore it can be regarded as oppression to QOS which accused by supporting the attack.

4. I inform you sir that the team mentioned the attack was carried out by Arab-Militia supported by Land Cruiser vehicles, driven by persons had military uniforms these were based on the First and Third witnesses stated the distance was 2 kms.

A: First, How can vehicles be distinguished around the mentioned distance? How can distinguish the driver's uniform?

B: secondly, Do you think that any vehicle available in Dar Fur - area belonging to QOS-forces? Though SLA and JEM utilize similar Land Cruisers-vehicles, and therefore QOS-Representative believes the conclusion of investigation mentioned by the team and accused the QOS-forces by violating the second article of The agreement is not reality. As I have illustrated them in the above paragraphs (A) and (B) -

5- I inform you sir it was lastly mentioned in the assessment of the investigation that the police could not visit the village and investigated the incident after the attack - well known that QOS-forces are committed to CFA, in addition, Solokoya-area is under the control of SLA and therefore they have been investigated by the team if so how police forces can visit an area under the control of SLA? And this can be regarded as violation for Police-forces whether they have moved there. Therefore, QOS Representative believes this assessment is unjustice -

6- It has been mentioned in the statement of witnesses, the vehicles which were stopping about two kms came from the police-camp (Bor-Bora) but the team did not interview the camp and take their statements in order for the team to ensure this reality. Therefore we regard it as unjustice and oppression for QOS. QOS-Representative believes that the investigation is incomplete and it is unequal

Because it the duty of CFC to monitor the situations with justice and neutrality as their basic aim

7 ally, please sir kindly consider the former mentioned paragraphs because GOS-Representative believes this report is unequal

Thank you sir

Lt Colonel ~~AB~~

A M J 2006 Mohammed Abu Asala

Jeep Golf

GOS Representative

لله الحمد والبركة

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله الذي جعلنا من عباده المخلصين
الذين هم خير خلق الله على وجه الأرض

الحمد لله الذي جعلنا من عباده المخلصين

الذين هم خير خلق الله على وجه الأرض

