



**COMMISSION
CEASEFIRE VIOLATION REPORT
ALLEGED SLA/JEM BURNING**

OF

A GOS POLICE OFFICE

IN

ABU ZUREYKA

AU RESTRICTED

AFRICAN UNION		AFRICAN MISSION IN SUDAN
الاتحاد الأفريقي		CEASEFIRE COMMISSION
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Headquarters
Ceasefire Commission
El-Fashir
SUDAN

AMIS/CFC/G/VIO/1

See Distribution

25 April 2005

CFC REPORT NO. 65/05: ALLEGED SLA/JEM BURNING OF A GOS POLICE OFFICE IN ABU ZUREYKA

References:

- A. Western Military Command Complaint dated 3 Apr 05.
- B. HQ/SECT1/OPS/2/G dated 9 Apr 05.

INTRODUCTION

1. Team 2 was tasked to investigate a GoS complaint alleging that SLA/JEM had burned a GoS police office in Abu Zureyka on 1 Apr 05.
2. The team commenced with the investigation on 7 Apr 05.

ASSESSMENT

3. The team established that neither SLA nor JEM were responsible for the burning of the GoS Police Office.
4. Team 2 further determined that GoS had committed a series of violations of

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the N'djamena Agreement as follows:

- a. GoS soldiers imposed vehicle road movement restrictions between Al Fashir and Abu Zureyka.
- b. GoS soldiers extorted illegal taxes on goods the locals purchased and brought to Abu Zureyka.
- c. GoS soldiers intimidated and sexually harassed the population.

CONCLUSION

5. The allegations of burning a GoS Police Office against SLA/JEM could not be substantiated.
6. GoS violated Art 2(6) and (8) of the N'djamena Agreement and Art 2(1)-(2) of the Abuja Humanitarian Protocol by committing the following acts:
 - a. Imposing vehicle road movement restrictions between Al Fashir and Abu Zureyka.
 - b. Extorting illegal taxes on goods the locals purchased and brought to Abu Zureyka.
 - c. Intimidation and sexual harassment of the civilian population.

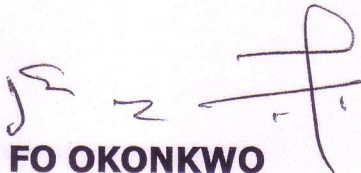
RECOMMENDATIONS

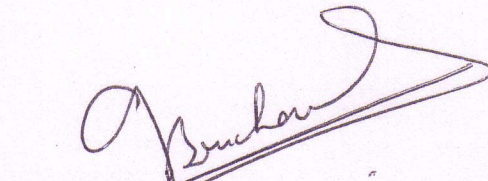
7. It is recommended that:
 - a. GoS should internally investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the

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violations.

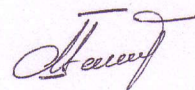
b. GoS should lift the trading restrictions and illegal taxation on the population of Abu Zureyka.



FO OKONKWO
Major General
Chairman



G BOUCHAUD
Brigadier General
Vice Chairman

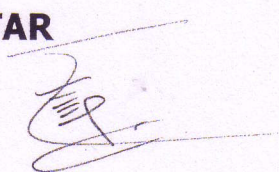
IBRAHIM EZ-ADEEN
Brigadier General
GOS Rep


MOHAMMED IBRAHIM
Colonel *Comment attached*
GOS Rep

A DARY
Colonel
Chadian Rep 

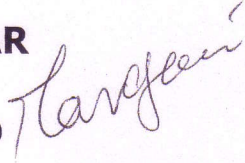
A MUSA
Colonel
Chadian Rep 

A ABDOU
Colonel
SLA Rep 

ALI MUHTAR
Colonel
SLA Rep 

AU RESTRICTED

MA OMAR
Colonel
JEM Rep



BAHARELDIN BECHIJI
Colonel
JEM Rep



G NIOUKY
Colonel
AU Rep

Enclosure:

1. Investigation Report on Alleged SLA/JEM Burning of Police Office in Abu Zureyka.

Distribution:

External:

Action

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

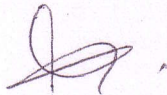
Information:

Director Peace and Security
Head of CMD


**Comment on burning of police
station office at Abu Zuraiga**

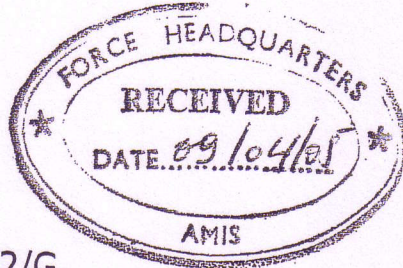
- 1. Who will benefit from burning a police office ?
Who usually come to Abu Zuraiga & threat and
harass the innocent civilians ? It is SLA soldiers.
The police office was burned by them .**
- 2. It is not true that GOS restrict movement to or
from Abu Zuraiga . It was just an unawareness of
the civilians of the problems that will arise from
what they said .**

Col.



**Mohamad Ali Ibrahim
GOS Representative**

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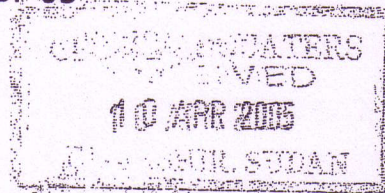


Headquarters
Sector 1
African Mission in Sudan
AL FASHIR

HQ/SECT1/OPS/2/G

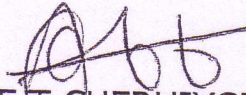
9 Apr 05

DFC/CMO ✓



**INVESTIGATION REPORT ALLEGED
BURNING OF A GOS POLICE OFFICE
IN ABU ZUREYKA BY SLA & JEM FORCES**

MGS Al Fashir conducted an investigation on 7 Apr 05 in Abu Zureyka following a complaint from the GOS western area command that SLA and JEM burnt a GOS police office on 1 Apr 05. The team concluded the investigation by exonerating SLA and JEM forces from any blame though the disused police office actually burnt down. I concur with the team's conclusion and recommendations and strongly urge that the recommendations be implemented soonest. The sector CIMIC officer has already been tasked to take up the humanitarian issue.


E.T. CHERUIYOT
Lt Col
Ag Sector Comd

Enclosure:
Detailed investigation report.

Team Two
MGS Al Fashir
AMIS
NORTH DARFUR

HQ/MGS/OPS/2/G

9 Apr 05

MGS Comd

INVESTIGATION REPORT
ALLEGED BURNING OF POLICE
OFFICE BY SLA/JEM IN ABU ZUREYKA

References:

- A. Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 Apr 04.
- B. Security and Humanitarian Protocols signed on 9 Nov 04 in Abuja.
- C. Western Military Command complaint dated 3 Apr 05.
- D. HQ/MGS/1/OPS/G dated 7 Apr 05.

INTRODUCTION

1. Based on reference C above, Team Two MGS Al Fashir was tasked vide reference D to carry out an investigation into an alleged burning of a police office by SLA/JEM forces in Abu-Zureyka village on 01 Apr 05. The team conducted the investigation into the complaint raised by the Western Military Command area Commander in Abu-Zureyka on 7 Apr 05 in order to establish the facts surrounding the complaint. On arrival at the scene, the team interviewed the GOS police officer on the ground and some civilian eyewitness in relation to the alleged burning of the police offices.

WITNESSES

2. The following witnesses were interviewed and cross-examined at Abu-Zureyka village.
 - a. Ahamad Haribasar
 - b. Asadic Sherif (student)
 - c. Babacarr Hasabala

INVESTIGATION

3. During the investigation, the following key witnesses were interviewed at Abu-Zureyka by the team.

- a. **Cpl Ahamad Harbasar (GOS police)**. He submitted to the team that he did not know the actual culprit who burnt down the GOS police office. He refuted the allegation that the SLA/JEM forces were responsible for the act. The photograph of the burnt office is attached to the report as exhibit 1. He explained that the burning of the office could have been occasioned cigarette smokers or drunkards who always loitered around. He said that the office was burnt on 01 Apr 05. He further reiterated that the office had not been utilized by the police officers for quite a long time and that there were no official documents kept there. He pointed out that the office was previously used by police officers who were on normal routine duties at the checkpoint. He said there was nothing special in that office which could attract people to warrant them to burn it down. He further stated that the GOS soldiers conduct towards the civilian was negative particularly the young girls whom they harassed and subjected them to intimidation and torture. He added that even the shepherds were also subjected to the same treatment. He said this complaint was forwarded to AU CFC and the GOS Military Command two months ago and yet no positive response to that effect had been received. He pointed out that the security situation was tense due to the bad conduct of the GOS soldiers; which instilled a sense of fear and insecurity into the civilians. He said neither militia activities nor banditry activities had ever been reported to them except for the unbecoming and unprofessional conduct of the GOS soldiers.
- b. **Babacarr Hasabala (civilian)**. He expressed his displeasure about the GOS soldiers' conduct towards the civilians and further urged AU to intervene so that they might not be harassed by the soldiers. He further stated that humanitarian assistance was needed urgently to alleviate the suffering of the people. He said that the NGOs passed through their village without having the courtesy to visit them. He said that they needed food, water and medical assistance. He informed the team that Abu-Zureyka was an administrative council with an approximate population of 10,000 persons. He lamented that the conflict had prevented them from farming and as a result people deserted their homes and fled to Zam Zam IDP camp. He further submitted to the team that the only water well where they fetched water was frequently patrolled by GOS soldiers who harassed and intimidated them. He outlined that the GOS had imposed economic sanction on them by preventing goods coming from Al Fashir to Abu-Zureyka which has also made travel difficult. He said

the travel restrictions had forced them to obtain their food supply from Nyala, which was far from them. He stated that when they got goods from Nyala the GOS soldiers imposed illegal taxation on their goods for instance one could be taxed according to the number of bags purchased depending on the quantity of that particular commodity such as sugar, oil and rice.

c. **Asadic Sherif.** He submitted to the team that there was no police officer currently occupying the alleged burnt office in Abu-Zureyka. He said that the culprit could not be identified. He said the alleged burnt office was empty and did not contain any official documents. He further stated that the allegation that the office was burnt by the SLA/JEM forces was baseless with no iota of truth. He submitted to the team that they were facing a lot of difficulties like transportation from Abu-Zureyka to Al Fashir and vice visa. He mentioned to the team that their children were currently not attending schools in Al Fashir due to lack of transport. He stated that school candidates were supposed to sit for examination in Al Fashir but there was no transport.

ASSESSMENT

4. The evidence the team adduced from the witnesses interviewed and physical observations made strongly indicate that neither SLA nor JEM forces were responsible for the burning of the GOS police office. The burning could have been done by any of any of the idlers within Abu Zureyka. The team further established from the GOS police and the witnesses that the GOS soldiers in Abu Zureyka subjected the locals to intimidation and sexual harassment. It was further established that the GOS soldiers had not only imposed vehicle road movement restrictions between Al Fashir and Abu Zureyka but had also imposed illegal taxation on the goods the locals purchased and brought to Abu Zureyka either from Nyala or Al Fashir. The humanitarian situation in Abu Zureyka was found to be wanting in terms of food, water and medical care.

CONCLUSION

5. The team concluded that SLA and JEM forces were not responsible for the burning of GOS police office in Abu Zureyka as it had been alleged by the western area military command.

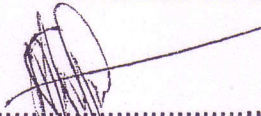
RECOMMENDATIONS

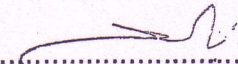
6. The following recommendations were made by the team:

a. The GOS western military command should internally investigate the conduct of the soldiers in Abu Zureyka and disciplinary action be meted against those who have been molesting and harassing the innocent civilians. This move will not only win back confidence from the civilians but will also act as deterrence.


b. The GOS should lift the trading restrictions it has imposed and put a stop to the illegal taxation and extortion currently in effect; this will be in line with the provisions of Article 2 para 8 of the N'djamena HCFA.


c. The sector CIMIC officer should take up the issue of the humanitarian assistance required in Abu Zureyka with FHQs and OCHA.



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Capt Mustapha Ceessay
Team Leader

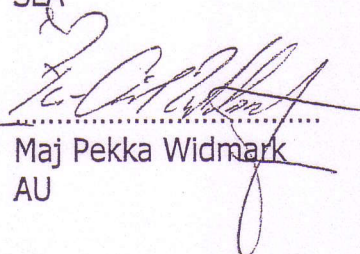

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Maj Nacerredine
Dy Team Leader


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Col Mahade
GOS


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Lt Col Ahmed Hashim
JEM


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Lt Col Abdul Azziz
SLA


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Capt Issak Rahman
Chad


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Maj Pekka Widmark
AU