

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed by the Sudan Organisation Against Torture (SOAT), a member of the OMCT network, that at 3 p.m. on 9 March 2005, three women from Kalma IDP camp, 17 km east of Nyala in Southern Darfour, were attacked by five armed men wearing military uniform. The armed men reportedly attempted to rape the women, and shot dead one of them, Mrs. Meryem Abaker Abdel Raheem. The other two women managed to escape the attack and return to Kalma camp. According to the information received, the women were attacked while fetching fire wood, two km from Kalma IDP camp. Meryem Abaker Abdel Raheem, 23 years old, was a member of the Fur tribe, married with three children and lived in Kalma camp centre No.7. OMCT condemns sexual violence and urges all parties to the conflict in Darfour to cease perpetrating violence against women, and stop violations of the ceasefire agreement and subsequent agreements. OMCT recalls that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in article 4(c), states that States should "exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons."

Please write to the authorities, urging that they launch a prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into the attack on these three women and the death of Mrs. Meryem Abaker Abdel Raheem, in order to find those responsible for any violations of human rights and to bring them to justice and apply the penal and/or administrative sanctions as provided by law, to:

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, President' s Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan.

Fax: + 249 183 783223

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