

**July 29, 2004**

• **KHARTOUM, Sudan** -- Sudan has accused rebels in the western Darfur region of killing 1,460 civilians since signing a cease-fire with the government in early April and of slowing delivery of aid to the region.

But one of two main Darfur rebel groups, which accuse the government of using Arab militias to crush them and attack civilians, said it had not launched any military operations since signing the cease-fire.

The United Nations says 1 million people have been uprooted in Darfur and 30,000 killed since the rebels took up arms in early 2003. More than 2 million need food and medicine, it says.

"The violations perpetrated by the rebels are delaying the humanitarian aid operations and the operations intending to establish security and the return of the displaced to their villages," Information Minister Zahawi Ibrahim Malik said in a statement late Tuesday.

His statement was the first time the government had issued a figure for the number of civilians killed.

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