

Extract only

.....On [REDACTED], a Federal Army Special Forces raid to recover the [REDACTED] Gas Field collapsed. Two troop carrying helicopters crashed near the site with 30 fatalities, following the use of MANPADs by the RDM.¹ There is now a standoff at the Gas Field with Federal Army elements, sent in after the crash to support the Special Forces, surrounding the site. The Militia have warned that any assault will result in the ignition of extensive explosive charges in the Field by the RDM garrison. The Federal army is continuing to allow minimal humanitarian resupply to the Field by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The RDM garrison is believed to have custody of up to seven Federal Army personnel, following the abortive raid. The condition of these personnel is unknown.

On [REDACTED] an attack on the RDM checkpoint at [REDACTED] by a well-armed group of ARA was repelled with casualties on both sides. In a follow-up operation, RDM were ambushed by ARA and eight (8) RDM were captured. The whereabouts and conditions of these RDM personnel is unknown.

These escalations resulted in a general upsurge of violent confrontations. There has been a massive increase in displacement of civilians, as fears of further ethnic atrocities and retaliations grow. The area is now virtually closed off to humanitarian access with static and impromptu Federal Army, ARA and RDM checkpoints

preventing access and movement. Harassment by armed elements and by some sections of the Federal Army of civilians considered to be on the opposing side, has become widespread. The OCHA head of Office in [REDACTED] has made an appeal to all sides to consider the sufferings of the civilian population- *'Thousands of men, women and children are being forced from their homes and livelihoods by the current violence and general depravation... this includes internally displaced people and others simply vulnerable and needing help due to the disruption because of the violence.'*

UN Military Observers have deployed.
 Both parties to the conflict breach the Agreement.
 A request is made for High Level Mediation

Pressure from the international community has increased in recent weeks to get the parties, on all sides, to step back from the brink. During this time, ongoing back channel facilitation and leverage efforts were intensified. Eventually, by the end of [REDACTED], consent is achieved for a High Level EU Mediation intervention. The high level mediator is reinforced with a team of specialists, including experts in the design of mediation processes, country and regional specialists, together with military, logistics and political experts.....

¹ light, man-portable (MANPAD) surface-to-air missiles