

Drinking Water Crisis in Refugee Camps

Department of Information and Culture

Eritrean People's Party

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Umgurgur and Abud, two of the many Eritrean refugee camps in Eastern Sudan, are facing chronic shortage of drinking water. According to sources from the refugee camps, the shortage of drinking water is getting worse than before as hundreds of new refugees are brought in and settled in these two camps. As a result, the population of Umgurgur has risen to 10,000 and that of Abud to 5800, reported UNHCR in Sudan. Yet, the shortage of drinking water has not been tackled by refugee authorities despite the recent increase of the refugee population in these two camps.



Eritrean refugees with donkey carts queuing up to fetch drinking water

Eritrean refugees in these two camps said they have filed complaints a number of times before the refugee authorities, but no attempt has been made to take urgent action to address the shortage of water.

The unwillingness of UNCHR to address the scarcity of drinking water in these two camps is raising fear among the refugees who say people are getting into physical fighting and tensions to pump the little available water in these two camps. As refugees queue up with

their donkey carts and buckets to fetch water from the few wells, there is always a problem as to who should or should not be in line first, which leads to physical fighting among the refugees.



Eritrean refugees with donkey carts waiting to get in line for drinking water

The Eritrean refugees both in Umgurgur and Abud call on the UNHCR in Sudan to look into the chronic shortage of drinking water in these two camps and take urgent measures to correct the problem.