The United Revolutionary Forces Front

The United Revolutionary Forces Front (URFF) emerged in mid-2007. It was initially depicted by the Popular Forces Army (PFA) as being part of the PFA. But it soon took on a separate Northern Rizeigat identity, claiming to represent nomadic Arab tribes that had been ‘unfairly associated with the conflict’s notorious government-backed militias known as the janjaweed’.

On 5 October 2010, the group’s leader, Ibrahim Zubeidi, a graduate of Khartoum University and member of the Eteifat branch of the Northern Rizeigat, was killed in an ambush by government forces in West Darfur. Its spokesman, Mohamed Ahmed Fadl Darut, was captured in the ambush. Sources close to the insurgents claimed he was subsequently tortured.

The URFF had earlier split over participation in the Darfur peace talks in Doha, Qatar, under the umbrella of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) coalition. Zubeidi, camped in Jebel Jur north of Jebel Marra, was opposed to the talks; Yassin Yousif, formerly of the PFA and camped east of Jebel Marra, was in favour. With 300 fighters and four vehicles, the URFF is assessed as one of the strongest groups in the LJM, where it holds one of five deputy chairmanships.

Updated November 2010