



DARFUR PEACE PROCESS CHRONOLOGY

2013

1 January: Restrictions on five international NGOs working in West Darfur come into effect. The humanitarian organizations, which previously operated in IDP camps, are now only allowed to operate inside the state capital, El Geneina.

2 January: Two Jordanian UNAMID police officers, held hostage for 136 days, are released unharmed. It is unclear who was responsible for their abduction.

In Hashaba, North Darfur, three people are killed, allegedly by pro-government militia.

4 January: SAF aircraft bombs Golo, Central Darfur; casualties unknown.

In Kalma camp, south of Nyala, South Darfur, pro-government militia kill one displaced person and injure three others.

5 January: Intense fighting between Abbala Rizeigat and Beni Hussein breaks out in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, over control of gold mining in the Jebel Amir area. Fighting is sparked when a Rizeigat leader and officer in the government border guards claims an area also claimed by the Beni Hussein. Some 60,000 people are thought to be displaced.

In Kampala, the SRF signs a cooperation deal with the opposition coalition National Consensus Forces (NCF). The NCF had previously called for the peaceful overthrow of the NCP regime; the SRF states it would pursue only armed opposition. In the joint 'New Dawn Charter', the signatories agree to use both means. Fearing possible repercussions from Khartoum, a number of NCF parties subsequently distance themselves from the deal.

6 January: LJM member and federal minister of health Bahr Abu Garda announces that the five states of Darfur are free of yellow fever following a campaign that vaccinated more than three million people. But in Mukjar, Central Darfur, local residents complain that they still have not been vaccinated.

SLA-AW claims to have killed 70 soldiers, and suffered five casualties, in the battle for the garrison of Jildu, Central Darfur.

8 January: Three Darfurian students go on trial in Khartoum, charged with crimes related to the anti-tuition student protests of December 2012. However, no one has been held responsible for the deaths of the four students, which triggered the protests.

9 January: The government claims to have killed 30 SLA-AW troops in ongoing fighting in Jildu, Central Darfur. SLA-AW denies the claims.

In Zalingei, Central Darfur, secondary school students start fires at seven schools in protest at the murder of a classmate. At least six students are arrested.



10 January: Abbala Rizeigat attack the town of al Sref Beni Hussein, in ongoing clashes between the two groups over control of the gold mining trade.

11 January: Ten civilians are reportedly killed after SAF aircraft bomb the SLA-AW controlled town of Dresa, East Jebel Marra, North Darfur.

12 January: In an embarrassment for the government, fifteen road construction staff working on the flagship Salvation Road project are kidnapped by unidentified armed men near El Fasher. Four Chinese nationals are among the abductees. The government accuses rebel groups of responsibility.

Kabkabiya town is threatened by the ongoing Abbala-Ben Hussein conflict, as the dispute escalates. Kabkabiya is the most important settlement affected so far by the fighting.

13 January: Rebel movement Sudan Liberation Movement for Justice (SLJM) claims it destroyed the army garrison at Abu Adjura, South Darfur, killing 25 soldiers. The government rejects the claims.

14 January: JEM-Bashar begins pre-negotiation meetings in Doha, Qatar.

16 January: The four Chinese road construction workers seized on 12 January are released after government negotiations. The Sudanese remain in captivity.

17 January: Beni Hussein and Abbala Rizeigat sign a ceasefire in Saraf Omra. Estimates of those displaced by the fighting have climbed to 100,000, with people moving to Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra, El Sireaf and Garra Az Azawia. 260 have died. SLA-AW representatives announce that they will launch a reconciliation effort between the two groups.

18 January: Abbala on camels attack the market at El Salam camp, South Darfur. The attack is an apparent reprisal for the earlier killing of an Abbala man in the area.

20 January: As part of the ceasefire agreement signed on 17 January, the Beni Hussein make the first restitution (diya) payment of 250 cows to the Abbala.

22 January: An argument at the livestock market in Umm Dukhun, Central Darfur, between an Abbala man and a soldier of the joint Sudanese-Chadian border force escalates, causing people to flee the town. The situation is defused when, confronted by the soldier's colleagues, the Abbala withdraw from the town.

24 January: JEM-Bashar signs an agenda for negotiations with the government of Sudan in Doha, Qatar.

The DRA council members first appointed on 14 October 2012 are finally sworn into office in Nyala, South Darfur.



25 January: JEM, SLA-AW, and SLA-MM reject the statements of the businessman Siddig Wada'a that they will join the Doha process. Wada'a was appointed by President Bashir to head a committee to encourage non-signatory parties to join the Doha process, but has little to show for his efforts to date.

27 January: SAF reinforcements withdraw from Jebel Amir, where they were policing the ceasefire agreement signed between the Beni Hussein and the Abbala on 17 January.

29 January: Pro-government militia attack market at Kendebe, Sirba, West Darfur, looting 23 shops. The attack appears to have been motivated by events earlier in the day when a local policeman shot a member of the militia who had stolen a cow.

Near Umm Nunu, on the border between Central and South Darfur states, clashes between Beni Halba and Missiriya kill seven.

30 January: DRA officials, including the regional minister for reconstruction, confirm receipt of the balance of the USD 200 million from the central government earmarked for Darfur reconstruction, although there are questions over the liquidity of funds, which may only have been issued as a letter of credit from the central bank. The funds are 12 months late. Release of the funding is a pre-condition for Qatar to set a date for the indefinitely postponed Darfur donor conference, originally scheduled for December 2012 and then postponed to January 2013.

31 January: With fighting near Golo, Central Darfur continuing, the Sudanese government and rebel groups continue to deny humanitarian access to the region, as SAF attempts to regain control of the area.

4 February: A state government vehicle carrying more than SDP 300 million in salaries is robbed at gunpoint in Nyala, South Darfur. Witnesses suggest the robbers have links to the Sudanese border guards.

5 February: Qatar announces that the delayed Darfur donor conference will be held in Doha on 7–8 April 2013.

6 February: After protracted fighting, the government retakes control of Golo, Central Darfur from SLA-AW. SLA-AW confirms its withdrawal from the town.

7 February: In a possible indication of the regional widening of the conflict, SLA-AW claims it killed insurgents from Mali fighting alongside Sudanese government forces in a battle on Derbat, West Jebel Marra, Central Darfur. SLA-AW evidence is based on questioning of a captured fighter. The government rejects these claims.

10 February: JEM-Bashar and the government sign a ceasefire agreement in Doha.

UN independent expert on human rights in Sudan, Mashood Adebayo Baderin, completes his second visit to Sudan. Baderin states that some progress has been made in Darfur, but criticizes the handling of conflict related crimes, saying that trials continue in the ordinary courts rather than in the special courts required by the DDPD.



12 February: New clashes between SLA-AW and government forces occur near Golo, Central Darfur.

13 February: SLA-MM and JEM engage SAF in a joint operation near Umm Gunja in Bilel locality, near Nyala, South Darfur. The rebels claim to kill 87 SAF soldiers and capture nine officers.

14 February: The UN Security Council renews the arms embargo on Sudan and the mandate of the panel of experts appointed to oversee it until 17 February 2014.

15 February: Three people, including two police officers, are killed in Umm Shalaya, Central Darfur, after reported attacks from Abbala militants.

17 February: In apparent positioning for the upcoming Doha donors conference, Tijani Sese tells reporters Darfur's economic recovery needs USD 6 billion.

19 February: President Bashir's envoy Mustafa Ismail visits Oman for talks. Ismail's key goal is to obtain a funding pledge for the upcoming donor conference in Doha.

21 February: SAF bombs a market in Ungdeita, south of Nyala, South Darfur. Three people are reported killed and 15 injured. The deputy governor of South Darfur later confirms government forces bombed the market, but that it was an accident.

23 February: In a breakdown of the 17 January ceasefire, more than 50 people are killed in El Sireaf, North Darfur after a Riezigat militia attack, in renewed fighting between Beni Hussein and Abbala. One NCP official states that at least 500 people have died since the fighting began in January.

24 February: In a rare conviction obtained by the Special Prosecutor for Darfur Crimes, six members of the PDF are found guilty of murder and are sentenced to death.

26 February: LJM clashes with pro-government militia at a market in Kabkabiya, North Darfur. A member of the militia was killed in an initial dispute, which led to a reprisal attack.

Visiting Paris, Sudanese foreign minister Ali Karti discusses with French officials the possible presence in Darfur of fighters from Mali. Intelligence has passed to France from Chadian sources, and if true, suggests that the Sudanese-Chadian border cooperation is either ineffective or at worst potentially complicit in the migration of Malian insurgents.

1 March: Beni Halba and Gimir clash in Ed al Fursan and Katila, South Darfur, over ownership of land and control of grazing rights. Eight people are reported killed.

2 March: JEM attacks Wad Bahr, North Kordofan, its first confirmed activity in the area since 2011. Wad Bahr is the district in which JEM's former leader, Khalil Ibrahim, was killed in late December 2011.



Governor of North Darfur Osman Kibir announces a reconciliation agreement between Beni Hussein and Northern Rezeigat, following a meeting in Saraf Omra. Both sides agree to open access to El Sireaf in the gold mining area of Jebel Amir. Previous agreements have been quickly violated.

In Nyala, South Darfur, traders publicly protest the deteriorating security situation in the city. Nyala has seen repeated attacks on its merchant class, with kidnapping and armed robbery becoming increasingly common.

6 March: JEM and SLA-MM jointly engage SAF troops outside Tawila, North Darfur. The rebels claim to kill 25 soldiers.

8–9 March: Several homes are destroyed and livestock killed when SAF planes bomb Al Malaha, North Darfur, in continued contravention of UN Security Council resolutions against offensive over flights by the Sudanese military.

9 March: A police station in Gereida, South Darfur, is attacked by unidentified armed men, killing a senior police officer.

10 March: SLM-Justice and SLM-Unity kill two PDF militiamen west of El Fasher, North Darfur.

13 March: Militia kidnap nine people from Murnei, West Darfur, including an official of the government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC).

15 March: SLA-MM forces kill four Rizeigat in an attack near Beleil, South Darfur. SLA-MM claim an exaggerated 260 casualties and 36 SAF prisoners of war.

Near Al Salam IDP camp, South Darfur, unidentified men kill five. Humanitarian agencies are unable to provide assistance, as security restrictions have prevented access to the camp since 12 March.

At a school near Yassin, East Darfur, at least three policemen are killed in an attack by unidentified men.

24 March: 31 IDPs travelling to a refugee and IDPs conference in Nyala, South Darfur are taken hostage by SLA-AW near Kass. The three-bus convoy was being escorted by UNAMID troops, who were unable to prevent the attack.

In Doha, JEM-Bashar and the Government of Sudan reach a preliminary agreement to endorse the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

25–26 March: In preparation for the upcoming summit in Doha, a refugee and IDPs conference is held in Nyala, South Darfur, although only half of the participants are IDPs or refugees. The conference is overshadowed by the abduction, a day earlier, of part of the refugee delegation.

29 March: JEM-Bashar and the Government of Sudan reach agreement on the group's participation in government and integration of forces into SAF.

30 March: SLA-AW release the 31 civilians abducted on 24 March.

Government-aligned militias attack a market in Nyala, South Darfur, after local police arrest two militia members.

31 March: Former governor of South Darfur Abdel Hamid Kasha is appointed governor of East Darfur, an appointment he had refused last year.

1 April: Mohamed ibn Chambas takes up his duties as head of UNAMID. Chambas is the third head of mission since UNAMID was formed in 2007, succeeding Ibrahim Gambari.

6 April: JEM-Bashar signs the DDPD in a ceremony in Doha, Qatar. There are few substantive changes in the supplemental agreement. Protests occur across Darfur to oppose the Doha agreement.

In a rebuttal to Doha and Qatari claims that “the war is over”, SLM-MM attack and occupy Muhajeria and Labado, East Darfur, prompting the GoS to respond with air strikes. An estimated 17,000 people flee their homes.

An attempted robbery in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur triggers a series of clashes between Missiriya, Ta’aisha, and Salamat across Central and South Darfur, killing approximately 100 people.

8 April: The International Donors Conference for Reconstruction and Development in Darfur concludes, raising approximately USD 3.7 billion in pledges, of which USD 2.65 billion is from the Government of Sudan.

10 April: Missiriya and Salamat agree to cease hostilities. However, fighting continues in South Darfur, displacing an estimated 3,000 people to Nyala.

16 April: SAF, supported by militias, regain control of the Muhajeria and Labado from SLM-MM.

19 April: Saleh Mohammed Jerbo, due to be tried by the International Criminal Court for the September 2007 attack on AMIS peacekeepers in Haskanita, South Darfur, is reportedly killed during fighting in North Darfur.

Unidentified armed men attack the UNAMID base in Muhajeria, East Darfur, killing one peacekeeper.

22 April: After SLA-MM attempts to shell Nyala airport, clashes ensue with SAF. At least five SLA-MM fighters are killed; SLA-MM claims to have killed 89 SAF soldiers (clearly an extreme exaggeration).

24 April: In a potentially major setback to the peace process, LJM suspends its participation in the government and DRA, in protest at the removal of its minister of health in West Darfur; the expulsion of IRI, an organization providing capacity-



building support to LJM and the DRA; and continued, delayed implementation of DDPD security arrangements.

Following the attack on Nyala airport, SLA-MM and SAF clash in Bileil, South Darfur.

25 April: Emergency meetings between Vice President Taha and DRA chair Sese rescind LJM's decision a day earlier to suspend participation in the government. The government agrees to "take appropriate steps" to implement security arrangements and review the expulsion of IRI.

27 April: JEM confirms it participated in a SRF attack earlier today on Um Rawaba, North Kordofan's second largest town.

28–29 April: New clashes between Missiriya and Salamat force a reconciliation conference scheduled for 30 April to be postponed.

29 April: A gold mine in Jebel Amir, North Darfur, collapses, killing sixty.

1 May: Unidentified armed men attack UNAMID peacekeepers in Ed al Fursan, South Darfur, injuring one soldier.

3 May: SLA-MM forces attack PDF at Joghana and Mashrou, South Darfur, killing six.

8 May: Government forces and aligned militias attack SLA-MM forces in Abu Jabra, 30 km north of Gereida, South Darfur.

12 May: Mohammed Bashar, leader of JEM-Bashar, his deputy, Arku Suleiman, and at least six others of his group are killed during an engagement with JEM near the Sudan-Chad border. Bashar's death, little over a month after he signed the DDPD, is a serious setback for the Doha process and is an embarrassment to the Qatari and AU mediation.

16 May: Headed by the chair of the DRA, the government establishes a new Darfur Regional Security Committee, responsible for the maintenance of security in Darfur.

22 May: Beni Halba attack Gimir at Katila, South Darfur, killing 31 and displacing an estimated 13,000.

23 May: Bakheit Abdallah Abdel-Karim, aka Dabajo, succeeds Mohammed Bashar as leader of the JEM-Bashar faction.

27 May: Clashes between Salamat, Missiriya, and Ta'aisha are reported in Al Gara'aya and Um Sawri, south of Um Dukhun, Central Darfur, killing 32.

29 May: South Darfur police announce the death toll has climbed to 64 in fighting between Gimir and Bani Halba. In an apparent evolution of Darfur's resource conflict,

fighting appears to have been motivated by over control of gum Arabic production and harvest.

2 June: Fighting between Salamat and Missiriya continues in Central Darfur. 14 are killed in Sarow village, near Mukjar.

3 June: Missiriya and Salamat begin a reconciliation conference in Zalingei, Central Darfur, under the mediation of East Darfur governor Abdel Hamid Kasha. An estimated 35,000 people are displaced by the conflict to date, with many crossing the border to Chad.

4 June: Four Missiriya are killed and five others wounded in clashes with Salamat at Muradaf, north of Um Dukhun, Central Darfur.

In Doha, an extraordinary meeting of the DDPD's implementation follow-up commission condemns JEM for its attack on JEM-Bashar on 12 May and expresses its concern at the deteriorating security situation in Darfur.

9 June: A military convoy carrying army payroll is ambushed at Nertiti, Central Darfur by SLA-AW. One SAF soldier is killed.

In an apparent retaliation, later that day SAF soldiers enter an IDP camp in Nertiti and burn 25 buildings, steal livestock, and kill a local doctor. People flee the camp for Nertiti town.

17 June: Gunmen open fire on merchants in Gereida, South Darfur, injuring two.

1,500 Salamat flee their homes for Zalingei, Central Darfur following fighting with Missiriya at Irikom. Irikom had previously been considered a successful area for IDP return.

Meanwhile, special envoys for Sudan meet in El Fasher, North Darfur, convened by UNAMID head Chambas. DRA chair Sese states "the implementation of the agreement is moving forward in the right direction for reaching a sustainable peace in Darfur".

19 June: The prosecutor for Darfur crimes files charges against 18 defendants for the 12 May attack on the JEM-Bashar convoy.

Clashes between Missiriya and Salamat leave 40 dead and 45 injured at Shataya, South Darfur.

20 June: The UN independent expert on human rights in Sudan, Mashood Adebayo Baderin, reports that fighting had displaced 4,500 people to Otash IDP camp, South Darfur, in the last six weeks.

21 June: Fighting between Rizeigat and Beni Hussein in El Sireaf, North Darfur, kills 60. The latest fighting began when Beni Hussein grazing cattle were attacked.



24 June: Fighting between Gimir and Beni Halba kills 11 near Ed al Fursan, over land disputes.

25 June: JEM-Bashar confirms Bakheit Abdallah Abdel-Karim, aka Dabajo, as leader at an extraordinary meeting of the movement in Kutum, North Darfur. Dabajo assumed leadership of the group on 23 May.

Clashes between Missiriya and Salamat are reported in Abu Garadil in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur, killing 17 and injuring 29.

26 June: Renewed clashes between Bani Hussein and Rizeigat over control of gold mining near El Sireaf, North Darfur kill at least 39 people.

27 June: Continued clashes between Missiriya and Salamat are reported at Muradaf village in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur.

Updated 24 July 2013