

## Box 2 Chadian rebel groups and coalitions

The following groups represent the most significant of the rebel groups and coalitions from 2005 to the present.

**Front uni pour le changement (démocratique) (United Front for Democratic Change) or FUC/FUCD.** Coalition founded in December 2005 and expected (by Khartoum) to unify all of the Chadian rebel factions against Déby under the Sudanese protégé Mahamat Nour Abdelkarim, a Tama. At its peak in April 2006 the FUC had 5,000–7,000 men but went into decline after its failed attack on N'Djamena on 13 April. In March 2007, the Tama section of the FUC rallied to the Chadian regime and became a pro-government militia operating in Dar Tama.

**Rassemblement pour la démocratie et les libertés (Rally for Democracy and Freedom) or RDL.** The main component of the FUC, which recruited principally among the Tama (from Chad and Sudan), Chadian Arabs (particularly the Eregat of Dar Tama), and the Ouaddaïans.

**Union des forces pour la démocratie et le développement (Union of Forces for Democracy and Development) or UFDD.** The second significant Sudanese-supported coalition of groups, founded on 22 October 2006, led primarily by Mahamat Nouri (a Goran). The UFDD has 2,000–3,000 men including Ouaddaïans, Arabs, and Gorans. Khartoum intended for the UFDD to replace the failed FUC and unify all the major Chadian rebels against Déby. The UFDD has operated mostly in south-eastern Chad, Adré, Abéché, and west of Ennedi (Goran area). It was party to the Tripoli agreement of October 2007. Following several splits, the UFDD was reduced to two main factions:

**(i) Union des forces pour le progrès et la démocratie (Union of Forces for Progress and Democracy) or UFPD.** Founded in July 2006 by Mahamat Nouri, a Goran from the Anakazza sub-group, like Houssein Habré. Nouri was formerly Chadian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

**(ii) Rassemblement national démocratique (National Democratic Rally) or RND.** Founded by Adouma Hassaballah Jedareb (Arab with an Ouaddaïan mother), ex-member of the FPRN (see below) and of the FUC, who took numerous Ouaddaïan combatants with him in the wake of the failed FUC attack on N'Djamena.

**Rassemblement populaire pour la justice (Popular Rally for Justice) or RPJ.** A Bideyat component of the FUC, headed by Abakar Tolli and made up of deserters from the Borogat sub-group, a Bideyat group very close to the Goran. After the fall of the FUC, it joined the UFDD.

**UFDD-Fondamentale.** An Arab breakaway group from the UFDD, founded in May 2007 by Acheikh Ibn Oumar Saïd and Abdelwahid About Makaye. Party to the Tripoli agreement of October 2007.

**Conseil démocratique révolutionnaire (Revolutionary Democratic Council) or CDR.** One of the oldest Chadian rebel movements, founded in 1978. Until 1982 it was led by Aycl Ahmat Agbash and since then by Acheikh Ibn Oumar Saïd—both Awlad Rashid Arabs. Acheikh Ibn Oumar retained the CDR name when he left France, where he was a political refugee, to rejoin the rebellion in Sudan and found the UFDD alongside Mahamat Nouri in 2006. He broke away in May 2007 and formed the UFDD-Fondamentale.

**Rassemblement des forces pour le changement (Rally of Forces for Change)–Rassemblement des forces démocratiques (Rally of Democratic Forces) or RFC–RAFD.** Founded in February 2006, this is a coalition of several Bideyat deserter groups, the principal one being the Socle pour le Changement, l'Unité et la Démocratie (Platform for Change, Unity and Democracy) or SCUD. Initially known as the RAFD, it took the name RFC during a brief alliance with the Ouaddaïan Rassemblement National Démocratique Populaire (RNDP), a splinter group of the RND (see above). The RAFD is led by Tom and Timan Erdimi, Bideyat twin brothers and cousins of Idriss Déby. Because of these family links, both the Sudanese government and other rebel factions remain suspicious of the movement. The force consists of approximately 800 men. They have been based mainly in the area of Hadjer Morfain, at the Sudanese border east of Guéréda.

**Concorde nationale du Tchad (Chad National Concordia / Convention) or CNT.** Sometimes called Convention nationale du Tchad (Chad National Convention). The main Chadian Arab rebel group, founded in 2004 by Hassan Saleh Al-Gaddam 'Al-Jineidi', a Chadian Hemat Arab and former member of the CDR in the 1970s who has been in rebellion against Déby since 1994. The CNT made its first incursion on to Chadian territory while attacking Haraz Mangueigne, in southern Salamat, in July 2004. Arrested by the Sudanese government, which disapproved of this early operation, Hassan Saleh was released in 2005 and became the first vice-president of the FUC. He broke away in July 2006. The CNT is the only rebel group to have controlled a part of Chadian territory—the south-eastern areas of Daguessa and Tissi—during several months in 2006 and 2007. The group is said to have had close links with *janjawid* active in Chad and West Darfur. In March 2007, the CNT participated alongside *janjawid* forces in the very violent attack on the villages of Tiero and Marena in Dar Sila, in which 200–400 civilians and militiamen were killed.<sup>53</sup> In December 2007, after the failure of the Tripoli agreement (to which the CNT was a party), Al-Jineidi resumed talks directly with the Chadian regime and finally switched allegiance, bringing some 2,000 men with him.

**Front populaire pour la renaissance nationale (Popular Front for National Rebirth) or FPRN.** Founded in 2001 by Adoum Yacoub, this group of Ouaddaïan (like Adoum Yacoub) and Masalit combatants was first based in West Darfur. When the war in Darfur began in 2003, ethnic solidarity with non-Arab civilians made the FPRN switch from rebelling against N'Djamena to fighting the Sudanese Army and the *janjawid* alongside the newborn SLA. For these reasons, and because of Yacoub's friendship with the late John Garang, the FPRN did not benefit from Sudanese support until the end of 2007 at least. Not party to the Tripoli agreement, it operates mostly in the area of Tiss, on the border between Chad, Sudan, and the CAR.<sup>54</sup>

**Front pour la salut de la république (Front for the Salvation of the Republic) or FSR.** Led by Ahmat Hassaballah Soubiane, a Chadian Arab from the Mahamid branch and a former minister of Déby. A recently founded group, it was not party to the Tripoli agreement and is not strongly supported by Khartoum. At the end of 2007, the FSR united with the FPRN. Together, the two groups comprise some 500 men.