

Box 5 **Militia-rebel agreements**

Beginning in the second half of 2005, as concern over the Abuja process grew, local militias and paramilitaries, including Border Guards, both explored the possibility of agreements with rebel groups, seeing only more destruction in continued conflict. The agreements reached ranged from military alliances with the SLA to non-aggression pacts with JEM, and included:

Between SLA–Abdel Wahid and:

- Rizeigat from al Da'ain led by Ali Aridala and Omda Abdalla Hassan. Signed in Wadi Toro in August 2005, when the Rizeigat had an estimated 35,000 camels trapped between al Da'ain and Nyala.⁶⁷ The agreement established a joint market for farmers and nomads and enabled rainy-season migration to Jebel Marra for the first time in three years.⁶⁸
- Mahamid and Mahariya militia led by al Nur Omar, Hamoda Hassan, and Jibril Saga. The agreement enabled a second joint market. Signed in Sabanga, Jebel Marra, in December 2006.
- Mahamid and Mahariya militia led by Ali Abundigat, formerly under Musa Hilal. An initial group of 50 men with camels, small arms, and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) grew to 250 by the end of 2007 and was fully integrated into the SLA in pursuit of demands for security and services for nomads, including hospitals and schools. Based south-west of Guldo, near Nyertiti, the Arabs were assigned to protect the south-western flank of Jebel Marra.⁶⁹
- Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo, 'Hemeti'. Signed after weeks of negotiations that began on 5 June 2007, a month after the death of Degersho, the agreement provided for enhanced security in areas under the parties' control, unhindered access to civilian and humanitarian goods and services, action to prevent attacks on civilians and internationals, and a commitment to work towards political and military unification. Hemeti says Abdel Wahid asked him for weapons, but he refused.⁷⁰

Between JEM and:

- Hemeti and Badreddine Abbas al Nur Ator. A mutual non-aggression agreement, signed in Abeche, Chad, on 23 March 2006.
- Musa Hilal. A non-aggression agreement, signed in Adre, Chad, on 20 May 2006 after six months of negotiations conducted largely through Musa Hilal's brother, Mohamed Hassan Hilal, a lawyer based in the Gulf, and JEM chairman Khalil Ibrahim's brother Jibril, formerly based in the Gulf. The two reportedly met twice in West Darfur. JEM sources close to the negotiations said Musa Hilal complained that the government was not supporting Arab demands for land rights.⁷¹