



Freedom and Reform Movement (FRM)

The FRM was formed on 27 July in Geneina, the capital of West Darfur State, by the unification of two small rebel groups from Jebel Mun, the base of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) until government forces launched an offensive against the area in April. The two groups—SLA-FREES and the Justice and Reform Movement (JRM), splinters of the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) and JEM respectively—draw their support from the Misseriya Jebel people of Jebel Mun, a group of Arab lineage that lost the Arab language several generations ago.

SLA-FREES escaped into government-controlled West Darfur in February after being driven out of Jebel Mun by JEM. JRM followed two months later, accusing JEM of abusing the Misseriya Jebel and leaving them unprotected when it moved its own forces southwards under fierce government attack in April. JRM, the stronger partner in the new faction, is estimated to have some 1,500 men, nine cars, small arms and one SAM-7, a portable, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile taken from JEM.

On 22 October the FRM signed an agreement with the state government of West Darfur. Under the agreement, the new coalition was given 25 positions in the state government including as an advisor to the governor.

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