



Sudan Liberation Movement-General Leadership (SLM-General Leadership)

Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)-General Leadership was formed in November 2010 by a group of commanders who left the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) after their leader, Adam Ali Shogar, was arrested by JEM in August, accused of reaching a secret agreement with the Government of Sudan (GoS). The commanders accused JEM of failing to prioritize peace; of working for the interests of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) of Hassan Turabi, the loser in a power struggle with the National Congress Party (NCP) of President Omar al Bashir a decade ago; and of fighting for countries hostile to Sudan—a likely reference to Libya, whose hosting of JEM's leader, Khalil Ibrahim, has caused a sharp crisis in relations between Tripoli and Khartoum.

The announcement of the new faction was made in Addis Ababa and broadcast by Sudan's state-run television.

Shogar, a longtime leftist militant, joined JEM from the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) at the beginning of the year. He was the first in a series of prominent rebels who moved from the SLA to JEM in what a colleague said was an attempt 'to change JEM from within'. If that was indeed the reason for their shift, they failed. Shogar was given the title of secretary for political affairs in JEM, but real power remained in the hands of a group of members of the Zaghawa Kobe clan—most of whom are related, by blood or by marriage, to Khalil Ibrahim. Shogar is Zaghawa, but not Kobe.

In announcing the new faction, Shogar said he was ready to sit with any group, as well as with the GoS, to reach the comprehensive peace that Darfur's displaced needed after more than eight years of inconclusive rebellion. Although not considered militarily significant, Shogar's declaration reflects a general war-weariness among the more than 2.5 million Darfurians who are displaced within Darfur and in refugee camps in Chad.

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