



SUDAN–CHAD PROXY WAR CHRONOLOGY

2003

March–April: Chadian President Idriss Déby sends troops to Sudan to fight alongside the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) against the Darfurian Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) armed opposition groups.

2004

29 January: Sudanese forces attack Tina, a town straddling the Sudan–Chad border, and enter Chad.

March: JEM chief of staff Jibril Abdelkarim (‘Tek’) founds the splinter National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD), backed by the Chadian government.

8 April: The Sudanese government and the Darfur armed opposition groups sign a ceasefire in N’Djaména. All parties repeatedly violate the agreement.

May: Failed coup attempt against Idriss Déby by members of the army from his own Bideyat tribe.

July: Attack at Haraz Manguaigne, on the Chad–Central African Republic (CAR) border, by a Chadian Arab armed opposition faction based in Sudan and led by ex-member of the Conseil démocratique révolutionnaire/Revolutionary Democratic Council Hassan Saleh al Gaddam, known as ‘al Jineidi’.

17 December: Ceasefire agreement between the Sudan government and the NMRD.

2005

July: Peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the NMRD.

October: Defection of more than 600 Chadian military personnel, who then form the Socle pour le changement, l’unité et la démocratie/Platform for Change, Unity, and Democracy (SCUD), based in Sudan.

November: Other defectors led by ex-colonel Djibrine Dassert loot two military camps in the N’Djaména area and found the Mouvement pour la paix, la reconstruction et le développement/Movement for Peace, Reconstruction, and Development.

December: Twin brothers Tom and Timan Erdimi, Idriss Déby’s cousins and pillars of his government, begin a rebellion by forming the Rassemblement des forces démocratiques/Rally of Democratic Forces (RAFD), gathering SCUD and other



Bideyat defectors. Another Chadian opposition group, the Rassemblement pour la démocratie et les libertés/Rally for Democracy and Liberties (RDL) of Mahamat Nour Abdelkarim joins Sudanese forces to attack the SLA's Masalit faction operating in West Darfur.

18 December: Backed by the Sudanese government, RDL and Bideyat defectors from the Chadian army attack the Chadian town of Adré on the border with West Darfur. Soon after, these factions unite with other opposition groups to form the Front uni pour le changement/United Front for Change (FUC), a coalition of Chadian movements led by Mahamat Nour Abdelkarim and backed by the Sudanese government.

2006

18 January: The Chadian government convinces JEM and the SLA faction led by the Zaghawa Minni Minnawi (SLA-MM) to sign a unity agreement, which is never implemented.

8 February: The Chadian and Sudanese governments sign a peace agreement in Tripoli, Libya; in it, both parties commit to stop hosting one another's armed opposition groups. The agreement is never implemented.

14–15 March: Failed coup attempt in Chad led by Bideyat soldiers.

March–April: Chadian armed forces engage the RAFD in Hadjer Morfaïn, on the border with Sudan between Adré and Kulbus, and the FUC in Modeïna, south of Adré.

13 April: FUC lightning raid on N'Djaména, stopped with the support of French forces based in Chad. Within days, Chad breaks off diplomatic relations with Sudan and withdraws from the mediation of the Darfur conflict in Abuja.

3 May: Idriss Déby re-elected president.

5 May: Darfur Peace Agreement signed by the Sudanese government and SLA-MM, with JEM and other groups refusing to sign.

30 June: Non-signatory Darfur armed opposition groups form the National Redemption Front (NRF) in Asmara, backed by both Eritrea and Chad.

July: The Concorde nationale du Tchad/Chadian National Concord (CNT), a Chadian Arab armed opposition group led by 'al Jineidi', leaves the FUC to form a 'united military command' with the RAFD. Another Chadian armed opposition group, the Union des forces pour le progrès et la démocratie/Union of Forces for Progress and Democracy, is formed, recruiting among the Goran ethnic group of northern Chad and led by Mahamat Nouri, ex-minister of defence and former ambassador to Saudi Arabia.



26 July: Chad and Sudan again agree to refuse safe haven to each other's opposition groups.

8 August: Chad and Sudan restore diplomatic relations.

September: Violent fighting between the Chadian army and the CNT, FUC, and RAFD in Dar Tama (Guéréda area).

5 October: New attacks on Dajo villages by Arab, Mimi, and Ouaddaïan militias (called 'janjaweed' because of their similarities and links with Khartoum proxy militias in Darfur) in Dar Sila, in south-eastern Chad. During the first half of the year the attacks displace 50,000 civilians.

7 October: Backed by Chad, the NRF destroys the Sudanese garrison of Kariyari, on the border with Chad.

22 October: Formation of a new Chadian armed opposition coalition, the Union des forces pour la démocratie et le développement/Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD), led by Mahamat Nouri and supported by the Sudanese government. On the same day, this new group briefly takes control of Goz Beïda, Dar Sila's capital in south-eastern Chad. The next day it takes Am Timan, the capital of the neighbouring Salamat region, before engaging the Chadian army on its return to Sudan.

November 2006: The UFDD raids Abéché, capital of eastern Chad, while the CNT and RAFD attack the neighbouring towns of Am Zoer and Biltine. Numerous attacks by Arab, Mimi, and Ouaddaïan militias in Dar Sila and Salamat.

2007

February: RAFD changes its name to the Rassemblement des forces pour le changement/Rally of the Forces for Change (RFC) during a brief alliance with the Ouaddaïan Rassemblement national démocratique populaire/Popular Democratic National Rally.

February–March: Mahamat Nour Abdelkarim rallies the Chadian government with the mostly Tama FUC forces remaining under his command. He is appointed minister of defence and transforms his forces into a militia operating in Dar Tama.

31 March: Attack on the villages of Tiero and Marena, the main stronghold of the Dajo militias in Dar Sila, by hostile Arab and Ouaddaïan militias as well as by the CNT, coming from its neighbouring base in Dogdoré (Chad). This is the most violent attack on Chadian territory since the beginning of the war in Darfur.

9 April: The Chadian army retakes the Dogdoré area from the CNT and follows the group into Sudan, where it briefly fights against the SAF.

May: Arab leaders Acheikh Ibn Oumar Saïd and Abdelwahid Aboud Makaye break with UFDD to form UFDD–Fondamentale.



25 September: Adopted unanimously by the United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1778 allows the deployment of European Union Force (EUFOR)–Chad/CAR, a 3,700-strong peacekeeping force in charge of protecting civilians and humanitarian operations in eastern Chad and north-eastern CAR.

October: The Chadian government signs an agreement in Sirte, Libya, with the four main opposition movements: CNT, RFC, UFDD, and UFDD–Fondamentale. Only the CNT will implement the agreement on its own, and, after separate negotiations, the group joins the Chadian government in December.

November: Yaya Dillo Djérou, SCUD founder and a nephew of the Erdimi bothers, joins the Chadian government with some of his troops.

2008

28 January–3 February: Lightning raid on N’Djaména by RFC, UFDD, and UFDD–Fondamentale forces. After a victory in Massaguett, they are defeated inside the capital. Soon after, EUFOR begins to deploy in CAR and Chad.

25 February: Formation of a new coalition, the Alliance nationale/National Alliance under the leadership of Mahamat Nouri.

13 March: Presidents Idriss Déby and Omar al-Bashir sign a non-aggression pact similar to their former agreements, in Dakar, Senegal.

11 May: Following a raid by JEM on Omdurman, Sudan breaks off diplomatic relations which Chad—although N’Djaména denies any involvement.

10 November: Chad and Sudan restore diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors.

2009

18 January: Formation of the Union des forces de la résistance/Union of Resistance Forces (UFR), a new Chadian armed opposition coalition backed by Khartoum and led by Timan Erdimi.

17 February: The Sudan government and JEM sign a goodwill agreement in Doha, Qatar.

15 March: EUFOR is replaced by the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).

May: Two days after a new reconciliation agreement is signed between Chad and Sudan in Doha, the UFR launches a raid and is defeated by the Chadian army in Am Dam, south of Abéché.



July: Ahmat Hassaballah Soubiane, leader of the Chadian Arab opposition group Front pour le salut de la république/Front for the Salvation of the Republic (FSR) joins the Chadian government with some of his troops.

26 December: Sudan and Chad agree to enforce border controls on each other's armed movements. Within days, Darfur-based Chadian armed opposition groups move away from the border, heading deep into Darfur.

2010

January: Chad asks the UN Security Council not to renew MINURCAT's mandate, set to expire on 15 March.

8–9 February: Déby visits Khartoum for talks with Bashir, resuming the warm personal relationship they enjoyed before the insurgency. Both presidents seem more serious than ever about their intentions to stop their proxy war. Déby reiterates his intention to end MINURCAT's mission, which he considers a 'failure'.

20 February: Under Chadian pressure, JEM chairman Khalil Ibrahim signs a 'framework agreement' and ceasefire with Ghazi Salah al-Din, the Sudanese government representative for the Darfur negotiations, in N'Djaména. The agreement is then sent to Doha to be signed by the representatives of the parties at the official talks there. Soon after, N'Djaména orders JEM to move its fighters out of Chad.

March: Chad and Sudan deploy a joint force of 1,500 men each along their common border.

23 April: After difficult negotiations, Chad and MINURCAT reach an agreement on the force's withdrawal.

May: Mahamat Nouri officially breaks with UFR to form his own coalition, the Alliance nationale pour le changement démocratique/National Alliance for Democratic Change (ANCD).

19 May: Denied permission to transit from Chad to Darfur, Ibrahim and other JEM members are detained at N'Djaména airport for 19 hours and then sent back to Libya. Sudan asks neighbouring states not to receive him—but reportedly declines a Chadian offer to arrest him and hand him over.

25 May: Adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council, Resolution 1923 directs MINURCAT's withdrawal in two stages: its 3,300-man military component is to be reduced to 2,200 (1,900 in Chad, 300 in CAR) before mid-July; after mid-October, the remaining forces and the civilian component are to be gradually withdrawn. All personnel are to be gone by 31 December. Notably, MINURCAT's mandate is renewed but without its main former focus, the protection of civilians. The Chadian government claims it will fulfil this function by itself.

July: Khartoum asks the main Chadian armed opposition leaders, including Timan

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Erdimi, Mahamat Nouri, and Tahir Guinassou, to leave its territory. Together with Adouma Hassaballah Djareb, the three are sent to Qatar two days before Bashir's visit to N'Djaména. Shortly thereafter, a first wave of Chadian armed opposition members, mostly from Mahamat Nouri's ANCD, are flown back to N'Djaména.

September: After a visit to Khartoum, the Chadian 'national mediator' Abderahman Moussa returns to N'Djaména with a second wave of armed opposition defectors.

October: Voluntary disarmament of some 2,000 UFR fighters in El Fasher, North Darfur.

November: A few days after returning to Chad from Doha, following separate negotiations with Chadian officials in Ethiopia en route, Tahir Guinassou is arrested together with Tahir Wodji, UFR ex-chief of staff, and three other armed opposition leaders.

2011

13 February: First parliamentary elections in Chad since 2001.

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