



DARFUR PEACE PROCESS CHRONOLOGY

2012

1 January: In a letter, the SRF coalition asks the National Consensus Forces (NCF), a Khartoum-based political opposition coalition pursuing political change by peaceful means, to abandon the political track in favour of a unified armed struggle with the SRF. The NCF consists of a variety of Sudanese opposition political parties, including the Popular Congress Party (PCP) and the National Umma Party.

3 January: Sudan’s intelligence chief, Mohammed Atta, claims to have evidence linking PCP leader Hassan al Turabi to the SRF in planning a coup.

10 January: President Omar al Bashir issues three decrees that establish two new Darfur states and re-shuffle the governors with the appointment of two new ones. The new Central and East Darfur states center around Ed Daien and Zalingei, areas traditionally associated respectively with the Baggara Arabs (Rizeigat) and Fur.

President Bashir’s first decree relieves the governors of South Darfur state, Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha, and of West Darfur state, Al Sharati Gaffar Abdul Hakam, of their positions. The second decree establishes East and Central Darfur states. The GoS seeks to compensate Kasha by appointing him governor of East Darfur, but he refuses, claiming he had a legal mandate to continue as South Darfur governor. Yusif Tibin, a former minister of infrastructure of Khartoum state, takes over as governor of Central state. While the governor of North Darfur state, Osman Kibbir, retains his position, Abdul Hakam loses his position to Haydar Koma, a Masalit vice-chairman of LJM. Another new appointee is Ismail Hamad, who is named governor of South Darfur. Hamad, a Rizeigat, was until recently one of the Darfur leaders associated with the NCP.

19 January: JEM Collective Leadership, another splinter group led by Zakaria Musa, is formed and says it will sign the DDPD.

21 January: In east Darfur, one Nigerian UNAMID peacekeeper is killed and three others are wounded by unknown gunmen.

25 January: Protests calling for the reinstatement of former governor Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha greet the appointment of new South Darfur governor Ismail Hamad.

26 January: JEM says Khalil Ibrahim’s brother, Jibril, is its new chairman following a two-day leadership conference in South Kordofan. The Government of Sudan claims the meeting took place in Bor, South Sudan.

31 January: Displaced people in three North Darfur IDP camps reject Gambari’s proposal to return to their villages as part of the DDPD process, saying security must improve first.

1 February: Gambari is cautioned by UN HQ in New York after he attends the wedding of Musa Hilal’s daughter to President Déby in Khartoum.

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- 3 February:** New JEM Chairman Jibril Ibrahim appoints an 18-member executive office.

- 4 February:** JEM says it has notified the UN secretary-general that Gambari is an obstacle to peacemaking efforts in Darfur. The full deployment of the joint Sudan/Chad/Central African Republic border protection force is announced.

- 6 February:** LJM’s deputy chairman, Ahmed Abdel Shafi, announces his withdrawal from the movement and any commitment to the DDPD.

- 8 February:** President Bashir, President Déby, and LJM Chairman Tijani Sese celebrate the inauguration of the Darfur Regional Authority (formally established on 27 December 2011) in Al Fasher, North Darfur.

- 20 February:** Malik Agar is elected head of the SRF. The leaders of the constituent Darfur movements (SLA-MM, SLA-AW, and JEM) are elected vice-presidents. Abu Elgasim Imam al-Haj is appointed spokesman.

- 21 February:** JEM temporarily holds 55 UNAMID peacekeepers, saying they failed to notify the group of their movements into JEM’s territory. UNAMID asserts its right to unrestricted access to all of Darfur.

- 25 February:** Former West Darfur Governor Hamid Musa Kasha is nominated to a lead a group of ‘wise-men’ whose primary mandate is to engage with DDPD non-signatories.

- 26 February:** SRF claims to have taken control of Jau town and Toroge areas in South Kordofan. The GoS asserts that the GoSS supported the attack—a claim the SRF rejects.

- 29 February:** One UNAMID peacekeeper is killed in Shearia, South Darfur by unidentified gunman while on patrol.

- 1 March:** The ICC issues an arrest warrant for Sudanese defense/interior minister Abdel Rahim Muhammed Hussein on 20 counts of crimes against humanity, including persecution, murder, forcible transfer, rape, inhumane acts, imprisonment, and torture.

- 1 March:** The LJM accuses SLM-AW of attacking and killing six of their fighters in a battle near Korma, North Darfur. SLM-AW claim to have targeted SAF, not LJM, in the attack.

- 5 March:** SRF forces claim to have attacked an army garrison in Dilling, South Kordofan.

- 6 March:** JEM forces announce a clash with SAF near Ba’achin, North Darfur.

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8 March: Sudan’s defense minister announces a tri-partite force composed of Sudanese, Chadian, and Libyan forces that will be deployed to protect the joint border.

11 March: Following DRA Chairman Tijani Sese’s criticism of delays, UNAMID completes the verification of LJM forces process (begun 5 March).

16 March: Vice president of the Umma party, Nasreldin Hadi El Mahdi, announces that Umma had joined the SRF.

The DRA announces a large conference for displaced Darfurians to discuss repatriation and voluntary return. Some IDP and refugee leaders publicly oppose the conference on the grounds that conditions for return are not safe.

DRA chairman Tijani Sese calls for UNAMID forces to be gradually replaced by the joint Chad/Sudan border force, freeing UNAMID to focus on facilitating returns of displaced, and other activities.

20 March: Sudan sentence six JEM fighters in custody to death: Ibrahim el Maz, Siir Jibril Tia, Mahjoub al Gazouli, Muhammed Khameis, Ibrahim Abdullah, and Yahia Adam.

23 March: High-level UK and US public statements call on South Sudan to end military support to the SPLM-N.

26 March: Sudan accuses the SPLM-N and JEM of being the main forces behind the taking of the Heglig area from Sudan after battles in the surrounding areas.

27 March: UNAMID and Sudanese police forces repulse Kabkabiya IDP camp protesters objecting to the North Darfur commissioner’s plan to dismantle the camp. Seven protesters are killed and 21 injured. LJM calls the action “deplorable” and demands an independent inquiry.

28 March: JEM clashes with SAF forces near Heglig, in South Kordofan, as the SAF attempt to retake the area from SPLA control.

30 March: SRF forces overrun villages surrounding Teludi, South Kordofan, a strategic center.

1 April: Sudanese refugees in Chad, interviewed on Radio Dabanga, refute claims that 100,000 refugees had returned to Darfur.

SLM-AW claims to have repelled a SAF attack near Jebel Marra, seizing 40 vehicles in the process.

2 April: JEM calls on AU/UN Joint Special Representative Gambari to step down over the Kabkabiya IDP incident.

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4 April: Hundreds of Darfur students demonstrate in Khartoum protesting the killing of a Darfur student by the security services.

Reports emerge that one of South Darfur's GoS paramilitary forces, the Border Patrol Force, rejected calls to mobilize in a "deterrence force" against South Sudan, citing past broken promises by the GoS.

17 April: The GoS announce a string of rebel attacks: SPLM-N attacked a SAF column in al Meram locality in South Kordofan; JEM attacked the Sispan area in Katila locality, which borders South Sudan; and SLA-MM claimed to have attacked and occupied Um Dafouq, South Darfur. SAF denied SLA-MM occupied the area.

18 April: CAR claim that unidentified Darfur rebels killed 11 of its soldiers earlier in the month.

19 April: JEM claims to have fought SAF at Kharsana near Heglig, South Kordofan.

20 April: Four UNAMID peacekeepers are killed near Mourne, West Darfur by unspecified armed groups. SRSNG Gambari uses the occasion to draw attention to increased violence in Darfur, speculating that it is due to Sudan-South Sudan tensions.

24 April: DRA Chairman Tijani Sese accuses the finance ministry of failing to produce USD 200 million stipulated under the terms of the DDPD for the Darfur Development Bank. This Qatari-initiated bank is meant to act as the holding account for all Darfur donor grants. Following receipt of the funds, a Joint Assessment Mission is slated to explore projects for early recovery and voluntary return.

26 April: Under-Secretary General for UN Peacekeeping, Herve Ladsous, announces a scale down of 4,000 peacekeepers from UNAMID, citing improved conditions due to the Chad-Sudan and the Sudan-Libya rapprochement. Other forces formerly stationed at these borders areas will be redeployed to East and South Darfur states.

2 May: President Bashir forms the High Follow-Up Committee for Peace in Darfur (HFPCD) to oversee the implementation of DDPD, appointing himself as chairman. Amin Hassan Omer announces that arrangements are underway to hold the first meeting of the 20-member HFPCD within two weeks.

3 May: SAF arrest three Sudanese in Nyala, South Darfur, for "spying" on behalf of the SPLM and the ICC. SAF claimed the staffers were linked to SUDAN AID and SCC; both partners of the UK-based Sudan Social Development Organization and the Norwegian Church Aid.

7 May: DRA Chairman Tijani Sese condemns the SPLA's alleged occupation of four areas in South Darfur: Al Amood al Akhdar, Kafan Dabi, Hofrat al Nuhas, and Safaha areas.

8 May: SLM-AW and SLA-MM mount a major attack on Guereda, South Darfur, occupying the town for two hours. SAF forces push the rebels out of the town soon after.

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9 May: Tijani Sese announces the release of the first funds from the ministry of finance to fund the DRA.

9 May: A SAF spokesman announces that Kafya Kingi (50 kilometers from Kafan Dibi, South Darfur) had been “liberated” from SPLA occupation.

15 May: JEM and SLA-AW claim the GoS arrested 30 civilians from Guereda, South Darfur, in retaliation for the recent rebel attack on the town.

28 May: The International Follow up Commission and the HFCPD hold its third meeting in Doha, Qatar, calling for international financial support for the DDPD. LJM Chairman Sese acknowledges that the GoS has transferred some but not all of the promised USD 200 million to fund the DRA.

1 June: Following its third leadership bureau meeting, the SRF reiterates its call for a comprehensive solution to Sudan’s conflicts. The alliance’s stated goal is to topple the government of President Omar al Bashir through a mix of armed struggle on the peripheries and mass civil unrest in the centre.

3 June: SAF says its forces killed 45 rebels while repulsing a JEM attack on a garrison at Fataha, North Darfur. JEM says it captured the garrison and seized 15 vehicles, some armoured.

14 June: The UN independent expert on human rights in Sudan, Mashood Adebayo Baderin, is denied access to Darfur during his first visit to Sudan.

19 June: Sudan’s justice minister, Mohamed Bushara Dousa, appoints Yasir Ahmed Mohamed as special prosecutor for Darfur crimes. He is the third special prosecutor in six months.

24 June: At a meeting in El Fasher, North Darfur, the AU, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the GoS agree to scale back UNAMID’s size over the next 18 months.

26 June: SLM-MM claims an attack on a GoS military convoy in Nyala, South Darfur.

10–12 July: The DRA-led Darfur Peoples’ Conference for Peace and Development is held in El Fasher, North Darfur. Attended by First Vice-President Ali Osman Taha, it seeks to bring together leaders of the displaced and refugee communities, civil society, and traditional authority figures to produce a vision for managing voluntary return and the necessary inter-tribal reconciliation. Non-signatory rebel groups and a wide sampling of displaced and refugee leaders refuse to participate, denouncing the meeting as pro-GoS, and the DDPD as a failure. The conference concludes by calling for workshops in all five Darfur states to encourage the voluntary return of displaced persons. The attendees also call for the implementation of security arrangements and the establishment of mechanisms to secure the roads and spread a culture of reconciliation and tolerance.

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16 July: SLM-MM says it downed a MI-17 military helicopter that crashed in the Khazan Tunjur area of North Darfur.

18 July: LJM and the GoS, represented respectively by Bahr Abu Garda and Amin Hassan Omer, announce the rescheduling of the DDPD implementation agreement to account for ongoing delays.

22 July: The GoS announces the deployment of a buffer force after clashes between Missiriya and Rizeigat tribes in East Darfur and South Kordofan. The fighting killed 58 and injured 24.

23 July: JEM's military spokesman says JEM/SLA-Unity captured Tabun and Karkade (South Darfur) and Tabaldi oil field (South Kordofan), seizing 26 armoured vehicles, 10 transport trucks, and military and logistical supplies. SAF's spokesperson says the rebels attacked Karkade and Um Showaikah but were repelled by the army when they attacked and shelled Tabun.

24 July: SRSR Gambari tells the UNSC that it is time to move forward with early recovery in Darfur and that some splinter rebel groups have contacted him to request inclusion in the DDPD.

31 July: Eight students are killed during protests against price increases in Nyala, South Darfur.

1 August: The district commissioner of Al Waha in North Darfur is killed by unknown gunmen in Kutum, triggering revenge attacks. The commissioner was a leader of the Al Zayidya Arab tribal group. Arab militias seek reprisals against Zaghawa groups blamed for the assassination. Attacks mainly target Kassab IDP camp, leading to the displacement of 25,000 and 21 deaths.

6 August: In Rahid al Barad, South Darfur, people riot against an increase in electricity charges, burning several government buildings.

9 August: JEM Chairman Jibril Ibrahim sacks his commander-in-chief, Bakheit Abdallah Abdel Karim (Dabajo).

10 August: SLM-MM says its fighters killed 11 army soldiers in an ambush between the towns of Al Mujlad and Babanosa, 50 km east of East Darfur.

11 August: LJM announces a deal with the GoS over disarmament and demobilization modalities that have delayed DDPD implementation.

12 August: Unknown gunmen kill a Bangladeshi member of UNAMID in Otash camp, South Darfur. Another Bangladeshi is injured.

13 August: In El Fasher, North Darfur, a group claiming to be an LJM splinter faction attacks the ministry of environment, the ministry of youth and sport, and the headquarters of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, stealing four vehicles.

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14 August: SRSR Ibrahim Gambari resigns. Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) Aichatou Mindaoudou is appointed interim officer-in-charge of the mission and the joint mediation.

15 August: Clashes break out in Nyala's Sikka Hadid neighbourhood between government forces and an unknown armed group.

17 August: JEM leader Ibrahim denounces efforts by Chad and others to sow dissent within JEM by encouraging the formation of a splinter group.

30 August: The director of the National Intelligence and Security Services claims to have intercepted a truckload of smuggled arms to be used in Khartoum by the SRF to start an internal uprising. SRF denies the allegation.

3 September: During a series of revenge killings in the Kutum and Al Waha districts, the district commissioner of Kutum escapes an assassination attempt. Five policemen and two civilians are killed and 11 are injured in the attack.

5 September: North Darfur Governor Osman Kibbir declares a state of emergency and appoints a temporary military ruler for Kutum and Al Waha.

5–6 September: Central Reserve Police and SAF forces clash in Kutum and Al Waha, leading to a number of casualties. An unidentified armed group also sets fire to the police headquarters in Kutum. Three armed men are killed in the attack.

6 September: JEM military spokesperson Badawi Moussa al Sakin says there was a battle between SLM-AW/JEM forces and SAF in Tanga, eastern Jebel Marra, South Darfur. The rebels allegedly defeated the SAF, which was equipped with 110 vehicles and two tanks. They captured 30 vehicles and destroyed 10 others (as well as the tanks).

7 September: SAF soldiers clash with SPLM-N and Darfur rebels in Hagar al Dom, 30 km northeast of Kallugi, South Kordofan, and claim to have killed 77 rebels. In a second clash with the SRF in Al Arabeib al Ashara in eastern Jebel Marra, North Darfur, 32 rebels are reportedly killed and 10 vehicles destroyed. SLM-AW says SAF attacked its base in Fanga Suk on the West Darfur/North Darfur border, resulting in the capture of 32 vehicles and heavy SAF losses.

11 September: Following a conference on 8-9 September in Furawiyia, North Darfur, a JEM splinter group (JEM-Bashar) emerges. It is headed by an interim military council under Mohammed Bashar Ahmed, and under the military command of former JEM chief commander, Abdel Karim (Dabajo).

16 September: The JEM splinter group says it is interested in a peace agreement, provided it has serious international support. Chadian President Idriss Déby conveys this offer from the splinter group.

17 September: JEM says it fought SAF between the Al Dabib and Al Mujald areas of South Kordofan, seizing 11 vehicles and destroying 17 others.

19 September: SLA-MM says its fighters, led by Mohamed Harri Cherdgo, clashed with GoS forces near Jebel Marra and captured 12 vehicles.

25–27 September: The US government condemns the killing of more than 70 civilians in Hashaba, North Darfur, in an aerial bombardment and fighting between Sudanese government forces and rebels.

27 September: SLA-MM and JEM say they attacked a military convoy between Tabet and Hamrah in North Darfur, and seized 15 four-wheel drive vehicles loaded with military equipment, and four fuel trucks. The deputy governor of South Darfur confirms the incident but says the convoy was commercial, not military.

1 October: The SRF issues a new political platform drafted in Kampala, Uganda.

2 October: Four South African peacekeepers are killed in an attack by unknown gunmen on a UNAMID patrol in El Geneina, West Darfur. Eight others are injured. The South African government appeals to Khartoum to investigate the incident.

7 October: SAF military An-12 aircraft en route to Darfur crashes west of Omdurman, killing 15. The SAF spokesman states that ‘military equipment’ was also on board.

8 October: In protest over a range of issues, including sexual violence against female students, students at the University of El Fasher begin a peaceful sit-in of the university premises.

10 October: NISS storms the campus of the University of El Fasher and fires tear gas students. Several dozen students are reportedly detained.

In Nyala, an unidentified armed group kills a policeman at Otash camp. The police return fire and kill two.

14 October: The government appoints 42 members of the Darfur Regional Authority Council, 20 from the NCP, 17 from the LJM, and 5 from other parties. A further 25 positions are reserved for representatives from the yet to be appointed Eastern Darfur State Legislature and for potential future DDPD signatories. The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the work of the DRA executive, but its effectiveness and relations towards the five state legislatures is uncertain.

15 October: The DDPD Joint Commission meets in Khartoum, warning: ‘No tangible progress has been made towards the implementation of the most critical aspects of the Final Security Arrangements.’ The Commission sets 15 November as the new deadline for the verification of the strength of LJM forces.

17 October: A UNAMID convoy is attacked about 10 km from Hashaba, North Darfur, killing one South African peacekeeper and wounding three others. Heavy weapons not seen before in Darfur were used in the ambush, suggesting the attack was carefully planned. Suspicions fall on government-aligned forces aiming to prevent UNAMID from investigating fighting in Hashaba (see 25–27 September).

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SLA-MM attack PDF and SAF near Abu Delek, south of El Fasher, North Darfur, killing 16 PDF soldiers.

21 October: LJM boycotts a Ceasefire Commission meeting, delaying the Joint Commission timetable agreed on 15 October.

22 October: JEM-Bashar signs a cessation of hostilities agreement in Doha, and agrees to further talks on the basis of the DDPD. UNAMID and Qatar call the development a major breakthrough, claiming JEM-Bashar represents a significant part of JEM's forces, a characterization rejected by the mainstream JEM.

24 October: Residents report aerial bombardment of east Jebel Marra. No casualties are reported.

25 October: On the eve of Eid al Adha, DDPD non-signatories once more reject participation in the Doha negotiations.

27 October: JEM and SLA-MM claim to shell El Fasher, but the government dismisses their claims. UNAMID reports hearing routine gunfire near the city.

Near El Geneina, West Darfur nine millet farms are destroyed in an unexplained fire. Pro-government militias have previously burned other farms in West Darfur.

29 October: The federal Ministry of Health informs the World Health Organisation (WHO) of a yellow fever epidemic in Darfur. The WHO later calls the outbreak the worst anywhere in the world in a generation, which prompts an emergency vaccination campaign targeting three million people.

30 October: Kunjara, Sunduga, Karyala and Tardona are bombed by government aircraft, destroying livestock and crops.

2 November: PDF attack the village of Sigili in an apparent reprisal attack against SLA-MM for its 17 October attack on Abu Delek, killing ten. In protest at the incident and UNAMID inaction, villagers bring the bodies of those killed to the gates of UNAMID headquarters in El Fasher. Some 1,000 people leave Sigili for the safety of El Fasher.

7 November: PDF prevent UNAMID from travelling to Abu Delek, in violation of the Status of Forces Agreement. UNAMID continues to routinely experience access violations, but not all such incidents are publicly reported.

9 November: SLA-MM and JEM ambush a SAF convoy at Abu Zerega, south of El Fasher, killing at least 18. The attack demonstrates the potential for increased military coordination of non-signatory forces.

At Wadi Murrah, near Tabet, North Darfur, SLA-MM fight SAF, and claim to have killed 100 government soldiers. This is likely an exaggerated figure.

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10 November: In response to the Abu Zerega convoy ambush, SAF aircraft bomb the area of Shangil Tobay.

12 November: Fourth meeting of the DDPD Implementation Follow-Up Commission in Doha. The deputy prime minister of Qatar says ‘progress in DDPD implementation had fallen short of expectations.’

14 November: Military commanders from JEM’s Kordofan sector announce their defection to JEM-Bashar. JEM had previously fought alongside SPLM-N in South Kordofan, so this defection has potentially greater implications for the SRF and the fighting in the Nuba Mountains than for conflict in Darfur.

SAF aircraft bomb Abu Zerega, Shangil Tobaya and Tawila in North Darfur.

15 November: Speaker of the legislative assembly of West Darfur, Mustafa Mohammed Ishaq, is impeached due to his repeated absence from El Geneina. Ishaq is allegedly involved in gold mining activities in Jebel Amir (see report of 5 January 2013).

16 November: SLA-MM clashes with government forces west of El Fasher airport.

17 November: SAF aircraft bomb Um Kadada, targeting rebel vehicles.

19-20 November: 500 fighters meet in Darma, North Darfur, to confirm Bakhit Abdullah Abdul Karim as military chief and Mohamed Bashar as president of the JEM interim military council.

SAF bomb Samaha, near the Darfur-South Sudan border, in an attempt to disrupt rebel movement supply lines between South Sudan and Darfur. 11 civilians are killed.

23 November: SLA-AW forces attack the SAF military camp at Ed Al Nagab, near Kabkabiya, North Darfur. 22 soldiers are reported killed, and a number of vehicles and weapons are stolen.

3 December: Clashes at Gezira University between Darfurian students and student supporters of the NCP turn violent. The Darfurian students are protesting the university’s refusal to exempt them from tuition fees, as provided for by the DDPD.

SAF aircraft bomb Foula, near Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur. The number of casualties is unknown.

5 December: SAF attack a LJM convoy on the road from Kutum to El Fasher, killing two. The LJM officially protests the attack, and claims SAF was aware of its movements. For its part, SAF asserts it repelled SRF forces moving towards El Fasher. The incident is significant as the first serious military violation between signatories of the DDPD, and demonstrates the tensions that exist between the DRA, headquartered in El Fasher, and the North Darfur state authorities, which work closely with the local SAF command. LJM also threatens to withdraw from the DDPD, but quickly moderates this position.

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7 December: Four Darfurian students, previously reported missing, are found dead in an irrigation canal near the University of Gezira. The dead students had participated in the anti-tuition protests earlier in the month. The official explanation—that the students drowned—is widely discounted, and protests at the deaths take place at universities across Sudan. Violence is reported at a number of universities in Khartoum.

8 December: In Nyala, armed men storm the special court for crimes in Darfur, freeing three defendants and beating the judge. The governor of South Darfur later confirms that the attackers were affiliated with SAF.

10 December: Following the university protests, the government directs institutions of higher education to exempt Darfurian students from tuition fees for the current academic year.

12 December: Pro-government militia attack the village of Dali, north-west of Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur. Ground attacks are followed by SAF bombing. Meanwhile, in Khartoum, outgoing US senior advisor on Darfur, Dane Smith, states that Darfur militias ‘seem to be more and more out of control.’

15 December: Fighting between rival groups of soldiers at the SAF garrison in Mornei, West Darfur leaves eight troops dead. The apparent dispute was over a refusal of troops to move to fight in East Jebel Marra.

16 December: Berti and Ziyaddiyah tribal leaders sign a peace agreement in El Fasher under the sponsorship of the governor of North Darfur, Osman Kibbir, following clashes in August.

19 December: Fuel shortages and power outages continue for the third day in Nyala, South Darfur, as insufficient supplies reach the city. Officials deny the fuel shortage, to the anger of the local population.

20 December: Mohamed ibn Chambas of Ghana is appointed as the new Joint Special Representative, Joint Chief Mediator, and head of UNAMID. However, UNAMID continues for the time being under the leadership of Aichatou Mindaoudou, as Chambas will not take up his post full-time until April 2013.

20 December: In Mukjar, Central Darfur, an Ethiopian soldier kills three fellow UNAMID peacekeepers before turning the gun on himself.

24 December: SLM-AW forces attack and seize the town of Golo, Central Darfur. SAF experiences heavy casualties and sends reinforcements from Zalingei. Golo is of strategic importance as one of the few remaining government controlled towns in Jebel Marra.

In Nyala, three UNAMID national staff are arrested for alleged involvement in anti-government activities, in violation of the status of forces agreement.

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25 December: President Bashir forms a new committee to oversee foreign NGOs in Sudan. Headed by a ministry of defence general, the DRA is a member of the committee. The added bureaucracy is unlikely to make NGO activities in Sudan, and particularly Darfur, easier.

28 December: SLA-AW seize the garrison town of Jumera, near Kass in South Darfur. SLA-AW also claim to control Jildu, near Nertiti, but this cannot be independently confirmed.

In Khartoum, Tijani Sese meets with Ali Osman Taha to discuss NGO access to Darfur and government obligations under the DDPD.