



Security Council

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Letter dated 13 June 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

By its resolution [2363 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2018 and requested me to report every 60 days on its implementation. Pending forthcoming deliberations in the Council on the renewal of the UNAMID mandate, and consultations on the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID ([S/2018/530](#)), in lieu of the 60-day report, I have the honour to submit an update on the main developments relevant to the implementation of the UNAMID mandate from 16 April to 10 June 2018 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António **Guterres**



Annex**Update on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (16 April–10 June 2018)****I. Introduction**

1. The present note provides a brief update on major developments since the publication of the previous report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), dated 25 April 2018 (S/2018/389). It focuses on the clashes in the Jebel Marra area between the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) and the Sudanese Armed Forces, and between SLA-AW and nomadic communities, which have reportedly resulted in the displacement of civilians from the Jebel Marra area. As during the previous reporting period, the level of intercommunal violence remained low, with a marginal increase in the number of incidents, while attacks on camps for internally displaced persons and reported forced evictions from those camps created anxiety and insecurity among the internally displaced population. Efforts to break the stalemate in the Darfur peace process continued, with several significant political developments taking place during the reporting period.

II. Fighting in the Jebel Marra area

2. Intermittent clashes in the Jebel Marra area between SLA-AW and government security forces continued, with government forces putting pressure on SLA-AW strongholds and aiming to weaken its presence. Proactive attacks by SLA-AW during the reporting period were largely limited to ambushes, likely in an attempt to impede the advance of security forces. On 19 April, SLA-AW elements ambushed a Sudanese Armed Forces convoy in the Tarantara area in southern Jebel Marra, killing three Sudanese Armed Forces personnel. From 19 to 21 April, SLA-AW positions were reportedly attacked by militias supported by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) around Boulay in northern Jebel Marra, with an unconfirmed number of villages being burned down. While attempting to reach the SLA-AW stronghold in Kibli, Sudanese Armed Forces clashed with the rebel group on 1 May in Katti and on 24 May in Manubu, in Central Darfur. On 11 May, SLA-AW again ambushed a convoy of the Sudanese Armed Forces and RSF near Tarantara and Kara, in South Darfur, with reports of 17 government soldiers being injured and villages being burned down. On 13 May, government forces carried out an operation against SLA-AW in Gubbo, Kawara and Kimintunge, in South Darfur, during which villages were burned down and civilians were displaced. From 22 to 24 May, government forces reportedly attacked SLA-AW positions in Tarantara, Gur Lambung, Kara, Kawara and Saboon El Fag, in South Darfur, and in Rockero, in North Darfur, causing displacement. Unconfirmed reports were received of government airstrikes in Gubbo, Kawara, Sabun El Fagor and Gur Lambung, in South Darfur, causing civilian casualties. There were reports of fighting taking place on 27 May in Buju Buju and Gubbo, in South Darfur.

3. UNAMID faced difficulties in monitoring, verifying and reporting incidents, including human rights violations, owing to access restrictions imposed by the Government. During the reporting period, UNAMID was denied access four times for verification missions to Tarantara, and once for a mission to Feina, both in South Darfur.

4. Since humanitarian actors were also denied access to many areas, it remains difficult to gauge the scope of displacement emanating from the clashes. Humanitarian actors were able to verify that 3,055 individuals had been displaced

from the eastern Jebel Marra area, in South Darfur, in addition to unverified reports of another 4,210 displaced persons. An inter-agency assessment undertaken from 25 to 29 April identified 11,425 individuals displaced in Rockero and Gemeza, in the northern Jebel Marra area, in Central Darfur. By mid-May, those displaced individuals were reported to have returned to their places of origin. About 1,750 people were reportedly displaced to Sortony, in North Darfur. Credible reports from two camps for internally displaced persons indicate that grave violations, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abductions and attacks on schools, were committed against children by RSF and militias during the clashes between government forces and SLA-AW in the eastern Jebel Marra area.

III. Internally displaced persons

5. Attacks on the Khamsa Dagayeg, Ardayba and Jemma camps for internally displaced persons in Central Darfur, which took place from 21 to 23 May, resulted in a number of fatalities and injuries among internally displaced persons. On 21 May, a woman was reportedly injured in a confrontation between internally displaced persons and RSF in the Khamsa Dagayeg camp. In response, hundreds of internally displaced persons demonstrated in Zalingei, leading to another confrontation with government forces in which 15 protesters were injured, including two women and three minors. Over the following two days, fighting between internally displaced persons and Nawa'ibah tribesmen in the Ardayba camp reportedly left five internally displaced persons dead and 28 injured. During the same period, clashes between Nawa'ibah tribesmen and internally displaced persons also occurred in the Jemma camp, which reportedly left 2 dead and 8 injured.

6. There was anxiety among internally displaced persons over various statements made by government officials on possible forced evictions from camps for internally displaced persons. In Kass, in South Darfur, internally displaced persons complained about their forced eviction from public lands and buildings, as well as threats and assaults perpetrated by RSF aimed at persuading internally displaced persons to leave the sites. Local government authorities denied that any eviction order had been issued and stated instead that the relocations had been agreed upon by the internally displaced persons in exchange for land, with a total of 3,500 plots having been identified. However, leaders of those internally displaced persons maintained that any return or relocation must be undertaken on a fully voluntary basis and not infringe upon their right to choose to remain in the camps or to return to their villages of origin.

IV. Other conflict-related issues

7. Tensions over land ownership and use persist across Darfur, in particular as internally displaced persons attempt to return to their original homes. A total of 26 incidents of harassment and denial of access to land were recorded during the reporting period. The most serious of those occurred on 4 June, when nine internally displaced persons were reportedly shot and killed in Hijaartono, in South Darfur, after returning to their original homes.

8. The level of intercommunal violence remained low, with only a marginal increase in the number of incidents. Six intercommunal clashes over land disputes and livestock theft resulted in nine fatalities. On 3 May, fighting over land ownership occurred between Fallata and Misseriya tribesmen in Abu Jabrah and resulted in the death of one Misseriya tribesmen and the displacement of an unknown number to areas around Graid. Clashes between Fallata and Masalit farmers occurred on

27 May in Abdoze, north-west of Graidia, with one farmer killed and four others injured.

V. Peace process

9. Representatives of the Government of the Sudan and of the non-signatory Darfur armed movements met in Berlin on 16 and 17 April to discuss a pre-negotiation framework. The African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur and representatives of the troika countries (Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) attended the meeting. Although the parties agreed on all other elements of the proposed pre-negotiation framework, they could not reach consensus on the issue of the timing for the creation of new and independent implementation mechanisms for any subsequent peace agreement. The non-signatory movements insisted on agreeing on the establishment of new implementation arrangements before negotiations, while the Government maintained that implementation modalities could only be discussed once an agreement had been reached on the substantive issues. Notwithstanding the failure to agree on that issue, the parties reaffirmed their commitment to a negotiated settlement, and for the first time, the Darfur armed movements accepted, in principle, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for future negotiations.
