

COURSE GRADUATE PROFILE



Raduan A. Ali Nyala (South Darfur)

As part of the UNs' support to the African Union's Initiative on Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020, UNAMID has partnered with Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) to provide capacity building on unarmed protection methodologies to African youth and peace leaders in Darfur through an online training course. From June to July, over 40 Darfuris from all 5 Darfur states were trained. Below, you find one out of eight interviews of course graduates who give their insights on how the eight-week course has changed their perspective on how to deal with conflict and how to change behaviours of those around them to prevent or mitigate violence.

My name is Raduan A. Ali. I am from Kidineer, located in the south-eastern slopes of the Jabal Marra mountains and currently live in Nyala. I am an activist working for nonviolence and peace building. I am 36 years old.

How has this course added to or changed what you knew or believed about protecting civilians or securing communities?

As an activist, I had some prior knowledge in the area of protection of civilians. However, I was surprised about the UCP course content, logical narration of knowledge and the new progressive cosmic values that it maintains: it is the most valuable knowledge I received since my MSc degree. These two months of reading, thinking, analyzing and discussing has made a unique paradigm shift filling the conceptual gap in my mind from believing in the duality violence/nonviolence to believing in peaceful civil resistance as the objective and ethical method for social change.

Of the things you learned or experienced in the UCP course, what has been the most important for you?

The inclusive approaches used during the UCP course. I believe that if a wide range of Darfuri young men and women are trained and qualified to utilize UCP, we will certainly be able protect civilians, reduce tribalism, promote peaceful coexistence and advance a just peace. The course has provided various distinctive topics worthy of consideration. I have really enjoyed

studying conflict/context analysis as methods and tools of analyzing conflicts. The way I analyze Darfuri conflict and its national repercussions has changed after studying the course. Nonviolence is another topic I took time to deeply think about. Now I believe that peaceful change is an inclusive, democratic and participatory mechanism for social change, and is twice as effective as armed struggle in achieving major political objectives.

Were you able to use the information and methods from the UCP course in your life, whether in your family, your community, or your work? Can you give one example?

Since I finished the course, UCP values, principles and methods became a part of my life. I now use them in all aspects of life: it influences the way I think, behave, believe and act. In particular, when it comes to politics or conflict in Sudan, I utilize UCP conflict analysis methods for logical analyses and logical arguments. For instance, when I, Hassan and Abutalib (all UCP course graduates) went to Outash IDP camp [near Nyala, South Darfur] to establish a UCP working group, we met resistance movement activists. We had a discussion about the nature of conflict in Sudan and I took the opportunity to apply conflict analysis tools which was very convincing to them.

What initiatives in civilian protection have you participated in since you took the course, if any?

I also had many meetings with youth on

UCP and am looking forward to having further consensus meetings with youth from different backgrounds for networking and developing collective strategies.

What opportunities for UCP do you see in your community?

I think the time is now appropriate to implement unarmed civilian protection as the war is now almost over, and the tyrannical regime that engaged the war has been dethroned. This opportunity must be taken advantage of, to consolidate lasting peace before any setbacks occur. I am sure that UCP strategies will succeed in bringing about a radical change and ending the war forever. So, from here I call on Nonviolent Peaceforce and other organizations working in the field of UCP to come to Darfur to help building sustainable peace.

How do you see that UCP can contribute to silencing the guns in Darfur?

When the social contract between the government and its people is broken, this leads to a non-state. This is exactly what we have experienced in Darfur: the government did not treat all its citizens equally which lead to tribalism and chaos by possession of guns. Though, I should say that traditionally in Darfur, most people have owned weapons to protect themselves, animals or farms and not to initiate violence. Hence, from what I see the unarmed strategic plans will succeed in mitigating violence and safeguarding human lives in one of the most critical challenges in the 21st century.