

## Rehab Abdullah Musa Saleh El Daein (East 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.*

I am Rehab Abdullah Musa Saleh. I was born and raised in East Darfur. I am active in voluntary work, especially serving on women's issues. I founded an initiative called Darfur Women for Peace, which is an awareness-raising initiative. I live in El Daein and am 28 years old.

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

I don't think I believed that peaceful methods can preserve security. But after having taken the training course I think that it is perfectly suitable for my community, as the repression for many years has not been able to fully maintain security, and the application of these methods of protection begins with awareness within the community.

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

Protection methods were the

most important and a real plus.

**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?**

Yes. In my community, we are using the method of nonviolence and we have launched an initiative on peaceful coexistence by spreading a culture of nonviolence in society by involving young people themselves from the various conflicting groups.

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

I participated in the Darfur Women Peace Initiative and in a Peaceful Coexistence Initiative.

**What opportunities for UCP do you see in your community?**

I think there are many opportunities because our society has been suffering from wars for many years. Our youth hate war and seek peace. There are many experiences of protection that we can work on

from the treatment of failures.

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

I think that the war for long years has weakened the shoulders of Darfurian citizens. We are looking for a way to find peace and stability, so we are now suitable partners in the process of silencing the guns.

**Many people, including civilians, have and use weapons in Darfur. Do you see that UCP can effectively protect people in this context? How?**

Yes, a nonviolent approach can stop the tampering with weapons in Darfur and greatly reduce their presence in the hands of civilians, by using the method of priority of local actors and targeting the influential figures in their societies. The methods applying force and intimidation in order to collect weapons has failed in Darfur. By influencing communities through local leaders, we may be able to eliminate this problem and civilians will collect weapons voluntarily.