

**Thuria Ibrahim Salih**  
**Kebkabiya Foundation for Women Development**  
**North Darfur-Kabkabi**



*The Kebkabiya foundation organized several workshops on the role of religion, on the role of women in peace building and on nurturing children. The foundation also organized different debates on subjects such as, social and peaceful co-existence, on changing aggressive attitudes and on blaming and denouncing.*

*Creating awareness is an essential tool in the prevention of armed clashes; the newest proposal from the Kebkabiya foundation is to choose 50 people from each tribe and focusing on them, organize events which will build awareness. The Kebkabiya team have also organized a three day theatre performance about the war. Belligerent tribes including the Zagawa, Tama, Four, Arab and Eringa will be invited to take part in the theatre performance as part of this campaign.*

*At Jabal Amer last year a war broke out between two tribes involving the camel herders (Rizaigat) and Bani Hussein. The war, which continued for six months, caused massive destruction and resulted in fierce fighting. Camel herders burned down a village, men were found killed and thousands of women with their children were evacuated from their homes. 810 people died, among them 60*

*women killed without a reason. Other Arab tribes were called to support the parties. A group arrived at Faza'a to strengthen the Rizaigat. Due to the high number of people killed a famous sheikh called Musa Hilal proclaimed a reconciliation conference in the locality of Kebkabiya.*

*The governor refused to attend the conference in protest against the violence and outside interference. He also ordered the Mayor not to attend, however the mayor refused to comply and a large number of people also attended, among them many camel herders. Strangely enough, the women who were so seriously affected by this long-term war were not invited to the conference. For that reason, Thuria called one of her relatives and demanded an opportunity to allow the voice of the women to be heard. She was invited to the conference and allowed to speak.*

*Thuria gave a speech that made a deep impression. She accused the men of starting a war without thinking about the women who would ultimately pay the price, losing their husbands, sons and brothers. She was very moved and wept during the speech and the men reacted to her by weeping also. She said: "You create the problems and leave us alone as widows and orphans and I am angry because you refuse to allow women to participate in this conference. Women can have a strong influence and are able to guide a reconciliation process when a conflict arises. Women should be aware that the men who did the killing are their husbands and sons. They should talk to their husbands and sons to hold them back from participating in war." Suddenly one man stood up and told Thuria that he would support her, and so he did. He supported an awareness workshop for the cultural leaders, the Hakkamat and Sheikhat, in order to transform their mind-set and to transform their war songs into songs of peace.*