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**Kuma, North Darfur**

The area where the foundation Al-Arjoun is located, the Eastern part of North Darfur, is not characterized by violent conflict. But there is still tension between the tribes due to regular disagreements between nomads and farmers.

In this situation, Al-Arjoun approached representatives from four local areas, Al-Malha, Al-Kuma, Al-Sayah and Milliet, to decide on a brotherly agreement between the farmers and the nomads. In the words of Zarah: “We initiated and signed a joint peace treaty. The treaty allows the Meidoob tribe to enter the areas of the Al-Zayadia tribe. Up until this moment we



remain connected and have good lines of communication. We’re expanding the circle of connection starting from the locality of Milliet to the locality of Kuma and then on to the locality of Al-Malha”. Zahra’s dream is that women will stop talking about tribal differences and renounce tribal strife and agitation. They should refer to themselves in the first instance, as Darfurian women who strive for peace.

Unfortunately, on March 2015 a violent conflict started between two tribes (the Berti and the Zayadiya). However, while the Berti live in a town called Milliet and the Zayadia live in Kuma, many members of each tribe live in the county of the other tribe. For example, Zayadi live in 8 out of the 21 neighbourhoods of Milliet while many Berti tribes have been living in Kuma for centuries. In fact, there has been a lot of intermarriage between them. Despite the peace agreement which was signed to end the violence, families from both cities were harassed or forced to leave their homes. Al Arjoun participated, together with other women’s organisations in the Women’s Alliance for Peace in Darfur (WAP-Darfur), in a mediation effort to stop the killings. In the beginning, they were not allowed to enter the area, but then they succeeded in organising meetings between the women, and after that it was possible to approach the men and the sheiks as well<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For more details, see the last portrait, “Stichting VOND, towards a gender approach in mediation.”