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Nomads and Herders Movement

The Nomads and Herders Movement (NHM), the first Arab group to define itself in terms of livelihoods, announced itself in October 2010. It claimed 1,500 fighters and accused Khartoum of using Arabs as ‘human shields’ in its counter-insurgency. The movement’s spokesman, Ahmed Abdul Jabbar, said the NHM would join other insurgent groups fighting the government.

The emergence of a specifically-pastoralist armed group, reportedly centred on the Kass area of South Darfur, followed months of heavy fighting around Kass among Arabs armed by Khartoum in the first years of its counter-insurgency operations. The fighting took approximately 1,000 lives in the first 10 months of 2010. Both sides accused the government of encouraging the conflict in order to ‘divide and destroy’ the Arabs it had armed in 2003-04 with light and medium weapons and scores, if not hundreds, of vehicles.

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