

Obstacles facing Darfur peace talks

by UPI

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Mediators for the United Nations and African Union are working to restart talks to end the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region. The talks which began in Libya last month saw participation by only eight of the rebel groups necessary to produce a lasting settlement, the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported Monday. Rebel factions boycotting the talks include the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement. George Ola Davies, of the U.N.-AU Joint Mediation Support Team says meetings are being held in Juba and Darfur in hopes of bringing all groups boycotting the peace talks on board. Salim Ahmed Salim, the AU envoy for Darfur, says without the participation of all parties, the talks may not be able to restart next month. Armed resistance in Darfur has claimed at least 200,000 lives since 2003 and displaced more than 2 million civilians.

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