

UNAMID BULLETIN

UN Security Council Extends UNAMID Mandate

On 31 July 2012, the United Nations Security Council extended for another year the mandate of the joint United Nations - African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, and demanded that all parties to the conflict in the Sudanese region immediately end violence and work toward a comprehensive peace settlement.

By a vote of 14 in favour, with one abstention, the Council decided that the uniformed personnel serving with the Mission will be reconfigured “to focus on the areas of Darfur with the highest security threats.” As a result, the Mission will be reconfigured, over a period of 12 to 18 months, to consist of up to 16,200 military personnel, 2,310 police personnel and 17 formed police units of up to 140 personnel each.

This is in response to a recommendation by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who wrote in his recent report that “the reconfigured force, although smaller in number, would be better equipped and more rapidly deployable than at present to address emerging threats to civilians.”

The Council demanded that all parties to the conflict—which has pitted Government forces and allied militiamen against armed movements since 2003 and led to the displacement of millions of civilians—immediately end violence, attacks on civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel.

In addition, the 15-member body also demanded that all parties to the conflict, including in particular all the nonsignatory armed groups, engage immediately and without preconditions to make every effort to reach a permanent ceasefire and a comprehensive peace settlement on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).



On 2 August 2012 UNAMID Police Captain Afrizal Asri, from Indonesia, briefs his squad in El Fasher, North Darfur, following an evening patrol. Indonesia's 150 police serving in the Mission provide security for UNAMID, UN agencies and aid organisations in addition to internally displaced persons in the local Abu Shouk and Zam Zam camps. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

The UN has said that the DDPD, an agreement signed in Qatar last year between the Sudanese Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement, can form the basis for a permanent ceasefire and a comprehensive peace accord to end the fighting in Darfur.

The Council and top officials, including the Joint Special Representative and head of UNAMID, Ibrahim Gambari, have repeatedly called on the armed groups—such as the Sudan Liberation Army / Abdul Wahid faction, the Sudan Liberation Army / Minni Minawi faction, and the Justice and Equality Movement—to make every effort to reach a comprehensive peace settlement on the basis of the DDPD. ■

UNAMID Deeply Concerned over Violence in North Darfur

On 6 August 2012, UNAMID leadership expressed deep concern over the spread of violence and attacks against civilian population in Kutum, North Darfur.

The series of incidents began on 1 August when the Commissioner of the district of Alwaha, in Kutum town, and his driver were shot dead and their vehicle was carjacked by three unknown armed men. Later in the day, the official's vehicle was recovered by Sudanese security agents 2 kilometres from the Kassab camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Subsequently, on the same day, armed men surrounded Kassab, looted the market, burned down the Sudanese Police post in the camp, reportedly killed four people (three civilians and one police officer) and injured six others.

Similar events leading to the deteriora-

tion in the security and humanitarian situation occurred the following days in and around Kutum town, Kassab and Fataborno IDP camps, including fighting between the armed elements and Government forces, as well as looting and displacement of civilians.

UNAMID has taken measures, including establishing a 24/7 protection force presence in affected IDP camps to protect civilians and reinforce the strength of its forces. On 6 August, an assessment team from the Mission visited Kutum and Kassab camp to meet with local authorities and community representatives, and to evaluate the conditions on the ground and the needs of the population.

Furthermore, Mission leadership has directly engaged Government officials on their responsibility to provide protection and defuse tension. In his capacity as Joint Chief Mediator a.i., UNAMID

Joint Special Representative (JSR) Ibrahim Gambari initiated a mediation track between the feuding parties as provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 2063 (2012).

“I call upon all parties involved to put down their arms, to seek a peaceful resolution and a common dialogue; killing and destruction are not the answer,” said JSR Gambari. “It is my hope that the Government will promptly restore law and order in the area, fulfilling its responsibility to protect civilians and to allow those recently displaced to return to their homes.”

Mr. Gambari requested the Government to investigate the reported attacks on and abuses of the civilians and the destruction and looting of equipment belonging to humanitarian agencies. He added that all the perpetrators must be brought to justice. ■

UNAMID Deputy Chief Inaugurates Development Projects in North Darfur

On 1 August 2012, hundreds of men, women and school children took part in the launch of six quick-impact projects (QIPs) implemented by UNAMID's peacekeepers in Kuma Garadayat village, located around 85 kilometres northwest of El Fasher, North Darfur. The facilities are designed to improve the health services, sanitation and education in the area.

The projects, inaugurated by UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane, include four classrooms for the boys' school, four classrooms for the girls' school, two ablutions, a women's development centre and a medical clinic.

"Our gratitude goes to UNAMID's Senegalese soldiers who have spent months to construct these buildings which we hope will significantly improve the quality of life at Kuma Garadayat," said Ms. Souleymane. "In a larger sense, UNAMID's projects represent our commitment to peace in Darfur and what peace could bring to your communities."

Mohammed Abbaker, a community representative, said the day is an



On 1 August 2012, girls in Kuma Garadayat, North Darfur, welcome the arrival of a UNAMID delegation to celebrate the inauguration of their newly rebuilt school (shown in the background) as part of six quick-impact projects in the areas of education, sanitation, health, community development and women's empowerment. UNAMID peacekeepers from Senegal implemented the projects, which include a clinic, a women's centre and several schools. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

important one for Kuma Garadayat. "Our hope has become a reality," he said, explaining that the first phase of the projects has addressed the bigger part of the community's concerns, especially in connection to education and women's

development.

During the inauguration, the UNAMID deputy chief announced that the Mission will support the training of 10 traditional midwives from the rural area of Kuma Garadayat.

UNAMID Assists Young People in Ardamata and Kass

On 31 July 2012, UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) section launched several Community-based Labour-Intensive Projects (CLIPs) in Ardamata, West Darfur. The projects are designed to give young people in the area job skills as they work on construction projects, such as building a roof to provide shelter for visitors to Ardamata Prison. These CLIPs are financed by UNAMID and will be implemented by the Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA).

CLIPs, a programme of UNAMID's DDR section, are designed to support the efforts of the Sudanese Government to address the needs of at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups in violence-affected communities. The beneficiaries of the projects in Darfur, mainly people age 18-35, of whom 25 per cent are women, will learn several livelihood and life skills to improve their employability and social integration, while at the same time helping to rebuild their fragile communities.

Earlier in the week, on 29 July 2012, UNAMID's DDR section launched a CLIPs agricultural project in the Kass locality in South Darfur. The project is scheduled to be implemented during the next four months in coordination with the Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission and in co-operation with the local nongovernmental organisation Mubad-iron.

The agricultural project is expected to benefit 500 families and 50 young people living in four villages in the Kass locality.



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The communities will receive seeds, digging tools and training. In the upcoming weeks, several other CLIPs are slated for implementation in South Darfur. These clips, much like the construction and agricultural projects, are designed to facilitate on-the-job-training for young people.