

UNAMID BULLETIN

Joint Commission Meeting Focuses on Security, Verification of Forces



On 15 October, Acting Joint Special Representative Aichatou Mindaoudou greets Government of Sudan representatives at the second meeting of the Joint Commission on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

The second meeting of the Joint Commission, which took place in Khartoum on 15 October, focused on the implementation of final security arrangements of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and identified the inconclusive verification of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) as the main challenge delaying the process. The Commission decided that the parties, the Government of Sudan and LJM, under the supervision of the Ceasefire Commission, should conclude the verification exercise and conduct a desk review of the outcome by 15 November 2012.

“The impasse in the verifi-

cation exercise will significantly impede the establishment of a secure environment,” said Ms. Aichatou Mindaoudou, UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Chairperson of the Joint Commission. “I urge the Government of Sudan and the LJM to demonstrate commitment and flexibility in efforts to reach an agreement in the way forward to concluding the verification of the LJM forces and strength, in the interest of peace and security in Darfur.”

The Acting JSR noted the increasing number of security-related incidents in North Darfur, including high-casualty armed clashes between members of different communities, and called attention to the need for urgent disarmament and disbandment of militia groups and illegally armed persons. Ms. Mindaoudou acknowledged the progress made so far by the Darfur Regional Authority, in collaboration with the

international community, in leading the process to assess the need in Darfur for economic recovery, development and poverty eradication. She called on the Government of Sudan to continue to cooperate with the international partners and to provide them with access to all areas of Darfur in the interest of peace and development. The Joint Commission is established to resolve disputes referred to it by the Ceasefire Commission. Its functions include the follow-up of the implementation of the permanent ceasefire and the final security arrangements, as stipulated in the DDPD, and the arbitration of irregularities and violations.

The Commission consists of representatives of the Government of Sudan, LJM, the State of Qatar, the League of Arab States and the European Union. Canada, China and Norway are observers on the Commission. ■

DJSR Visits Nigerian Peacekeepers in West Darfur



On 11 October, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Mohamed B. Yonis visits wounded peacekeeper recovering from injuries suffered during a 2 October ambush. The incident, which involved a Nigerian military patrol, occurred approximately two kilometres from the Mission's regional headquarters in El Geneina. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

On 11 October, UNAMID's Deputy Joint Special Representative (Operations and Management), Mr. Mohamed B. Yonis, led a delegation of the Mission's officials to El Geneina, West Darfur, to commiserate with the Nigerian peacekeepers, who lost four soldiers in an ambush by unidentified assailants on 2 October in the area. Eight others were injured in the attack.

“The visit is on behalf of Acting JSR, senior management and all staff of UNAMID, to extend condolences to the Nigerian troops for the loss of their comrades, who were

ambushed and killed by gunmen, and to extend prayers for the full recovery of the eight Nigerian soldiers who were wounded in the attack,” said Mr. Yonis.

He noted that the attack on the Nigerian soldiers had been condemned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Security Council and the African Union, and reiterated the Mission's own condemnation of the criminal act. Mr. Yonis said that the Head of Office in El Geneina is working with the Wali and all security outfits in El Geneina to enhance the security of UNAMID's civilian,

police and military personnel.

"I once more call on the Government of Sudan to bring the perpetrators to justice," said the DJSR. "UNAMID is working with both the national and regional authorities to ensure

that the people responsible for this act of savagery are apprehended and dealt with according to law."

The incident occurred approximately two kilometers from the Mission's regional

headquarters in El Geneina.

"I understand your sense of loss, of sadness and your feelings of frustration," he said. "However, as peacekeepers and as men in uniform from one of the greatest Af-

rican nations that has contributed to international peace and reconciliation, you must take comfort from the fact that you have saved many lives and are working to restore peace to Darfur." ■

Darfur's Women Discuss UN Resolution 1325

In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Wali's (Governor) Advisors on Women and Children in the five Darfur states, UNAMID organized a series of events to highlight United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The events, which concluded on 9 October in El Fasher, North Darfur, focused on the role of women's civil society organizations in contributing to peace building and the prevention of armed conflict.

The events brought togeth-

er women representatives from civil society groups, nongovernmental organizations, and internally displaced persons, as well as local authorities and UNAMID officials. Participants reviewed recommendations and achievements made in the implementation of Resolution 1325 in the region.

During the 9 October event, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (Operations and Management) Mohamed B. Yonis called attention to the role women's organizations play in contrib-

uting to the peace process and fostering confidence between communities. "In Darfur, much progress has been made but more remains to be done," he said, adding that to build a viable society, it is essential to give equal opportunities to all. He also said there is a need to support and promote the efforts of women in peacemaking and peace building.

The head of UNAMID's Gender Advisory Unit, Ms. Yegerawork Angagaw, explained that the Darfur events have provided an opportunity

for women to assume full ownership of Resolution 1325 and cement their commitment to ensuring its implementation.

The Deputy Wali of North Darfur, Mr. Alfateh Abdulaziz, expressed his support in facilitating efforts by women's groups in Darfur. He added that the Government will adopt the outcome of the deliberations and work with UNAMID to implement the Resolution.

All participants signed a Declaration on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Darfur. ■

Darfur-Wide Campaign Against Meningitis



On 8 October, in El Daein, East Darfur, a child receives a vaccination against meningitis at the Community Centre in the El Neem camp for internally displaced people. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Sudan's Ministry of Health launched a vaccination campaign against Meningitis on 7 October, targeting 16.9 million children and adults, age 1 to 29, in the five Darfur states and in the other

Sudanese states of Blue Nile, Khartoum, Gezira, Sennar and Gedaref.

"This is the first campaign against Meningitis in Darfur," said Abdallah Bashir, Extended Programme of Im-

munization State Operation Officer. "The region received a Meningitis outbreak in 1998 to 1999."

This year's campaign is phase one of a two-phase campaign. The second phase will take place during the first quarter of 2013.

The meningitis vaccine is designed to protect children and young adults by conferring immunity that lasts up to one decade. Vaccination reduces transmission and contributes to herd immunity, meaning that even people who were not vaccinated receive some protection because of others vaccinated.

The UN World Health Organisation estimates that the vaccine reduces cases of meningitis by up to 85 per cent. This figure is valid for Sudan

as well. The new vaccination programme in Sudan is part of a larger effort to address the disease in what known as the meningitis belt countries of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Sudan. The vaccination is expected to save nearly 150,000 young lives in the meningitis belt countries by 2015.

To facilitate the campaign in Darfur, UNAMID provided security escorts in Garsalba, Garsemba, Androo and Gadeer villages, which are located in the Tine and Karnoi localities of North Darfur. UN World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the GAVI Alliance, along with the UNICEF, supported the Government of Sudan during the vaccination campaign. ■