

UNAMID BULLETIN

Surging Violence Reaffirms Need for Inclusive Political Dialogue, Head of UNAMID Says



UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas briefs the Security Council. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.

The security situation in Darfur remains volatile, amid fighting between Sudanese Government forces and armed movements, a recent spate of attacks against peacekeepers and an upsurge in inter-ethnic violence, the head of the joint African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur on 24 July.

“As we enter the tenth year of the conflict in Darfur, it is evident that the only solution ... will be a political one,” Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas told the UN Security Council in New York.

Mr. Chambas called for intensified efforts to accelerate the peace process, which he said was being implemented at “an unacceptably slow pace.”

“While considerable progress was made throughout the years to bring down the initially great casualty numbers and to craft a peace process, much

more remains to be done,” he said, declaring: “The parties to the conflict who have courageously embraced the path of peaceful settlement must be encouraged, supported and protected.”

Since the beginning of this year, the renewed violence in Darfur has prompted more than 250,000 people to flee their villages and abandon their livelihoods, and the inter-tribal clashes have strained the ability of humanitarian organization to reach vulnerable families.

Mr. Chambas said that the inter-ethnic clashes are “particularly worrying,” as the increased militarization and proliferation of arms amongst civilian populations in Darfur – accompanied by the deterioration in the humanitarian conditions for host communities and displaced populations – has led to more deaths, injury and displacement, than the fighting between the Gov-

ernment and non-signatory groups this year.

The clashes have also led to four attacks against UNAMID peacekeepers over the past four months. The most recent incident occurred on 13 July, when seven Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed and 17 other members of the Mission were injured in a roadside ambush.

Mr. Chambas said Sudan has launched an investigation into the incident and an internal investigation is also underway. “We are counting on the Government of Sudan to bring the perpetrators to justice,” he said.

Mr. Chambas told the Council that the Mission and Government are supporting local mediation initiatives to facilitate reconciliation and peaceful co-existence.

“UNAMID has continued to strongly encourage all parties to these inter-ethnic conflicts, and relevant civil

society actors, to enter into dialogue with a view of addressing the root causes of the clashes and developing a common vision for their resolution,” Mr. Chambas said.

The Special Representative also reiterated the UN’s support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) which, negotiated with the support of the Government of Qatar, forms the basis for a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive peace agreement to end the fighting.

The Sudanese Government and two major armed movements have committed to the DDPD. The Liberation and Justice Movement signed on last year; the Justice and Equality Movement signed a framework agreement in January 2013.

Mr. Chambas stated that during his negotiations with regional leaders, three heads of State – from Uganda, Tanzania and Chad – agreed to persuade non-signatory groups to renounce violence and come to the negotiating table with the Government of Sudan without preconditions.

“Hopefully this would lead to formal talks with the Government of Sudan,” he said. “This conflict cannot, and will not be won by force of arms, but can only be resolved through an all-inclusive political dialogue.”

“Those who are still holding out should be persuaded to agree to start talks with the [Government of Sudan] without preconditions. For this to happen, your continued support and engagement is necessary,” he told Council members. ■

UNAMID Deputy Visits El Sereif, North Darfur



On 16 July 2013, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba greets children on his arrival to El Sereif village, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

The newly - appointed Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) of the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, on 16 July, visited El Sereif, North Darfur.

During the visit, the UNAMID Deputy reviewed the security situation and interacted with representatives of native administration, internally displaced people, women and youth, and stressed on the importance of reconcili-

ation and peaceful conflict resolution between tribes for a sustainable peace.

Following an outbreak of violence in early January over mining rights, the locality has witnessed mass displacements of more than 100,000 people.

UNAMID has bolstered its protection of civilians in the area by installing a temporary operating base in El Sereif.

Furthermore, the Mission has been supporting reconciliation efforts.

UNAMID Distributes Water Rollers in North Darfur

On 24 July, accompanied by officials from the North Darfur Ministry of Justice, UNAMID distributed water rollers to a number of prisons and detention centers. The initiative will assist the detainees in storing water in their cells during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Mission handed over 10 water rollers to Shalla prison, five to the women's prison in North Darfur and five to two detention centres (Al Awsat and al Genobi).

The Director of Shalla prison, Col. Ala'a Eldin, the Ministry of Justice Legal Aid Focal Point Prosecutor, Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim, and other officials

expressed their appreciation and requested that UNAMID continue to support the legal system in Sudan and to distribute more water rollers to other prisons in North Darfur during the holy month of Ramadan.

In addition, UNAMID on 24 and 25 July handed over 300 water rollers to the local non-governmental organization, Friends of Peace and Development (FPDO), which functions in Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced people, and to the Disabled Union in El Fasher. The aim is to deliver one water roller to each family of six members. It is expected that 1,800 Darfuris will benefit from this project.



On 25 July 2013, members of the Disabled Union receive water rollers from the UNAMID Ordnance Disposal Office (Mine Action) during a hand-over ceremony in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

UNAMID Commemorates Mandela Day with Community Service

On 18 July, the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) joined the UN worldwide in celebrating the Nelson Mandela International Day in El Fasher, North Darfur.

As part of the day's activities, members of the South African contingent and other UNAMID personnel devoted 67 minutes to clean El-Fasher Maternity and Gynecological Hospital. The hospital treats more than six hundred patients a month.

Conveying the UN Secretary General's message on the Day, UNAMID Acting Force Commander Mathew M Kisamba

stated that "as we extend our best wishes to President Mandela on his 95th birthday, let us also give tangible meaning to our feelings of concern by taking action on behalf of others. The heart of Nelson Mandela International Day is good works for people and the planet. Its theme -- "take action, inspire change" -- is meant to mobilize the human family to do more to build a peaceful, sustainable and equitable world. This is the best tribute we can pay to an extraordinary man who embodies the highest values of humanity."

The day, which commemorates the achievements of Nelson



On 18 July 2013, a UNAMID peacekeeper cleans the delivery room of the Maternity and Gynecological Hospital in El Fasher, North Darfur, as part of the 67- Minute cleaning campaign on Nelson Mandela Day. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Mandela, most notably the African leader's 67 years of fighting for human rights and social jus-

tice, was marked with military parades, cultural performances, songs and poetry.