

UNAMID BULLETIN

Follow-Up Commission Notes Peace Progress, Challenges



Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud and UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas address the media at the press conference following the seventh meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission at UNAMID Headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Delegates to the seventh meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC) of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) convened on 16 December 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the DDPD since the Commission's last meeting in September this year.

The Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, chaired the meeting. The Government of Sudan was represented by Minister of State Dr. Amin Hassan Omer, while the Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority

(DRA), Dr. Eltigani Seisi, and Mr. Altoum Suliman Mohammed Arbaa, represented the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan, respectively.

Also in attendance were the representatives of the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States, Canada, Chad, China, Egypt, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the AU-UN Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator, represented UNAMID.

Speaking to the media following the IFC meeting, JSR Chambas noted that the sign-

ing of the agreement on 20 November by the Government of Sudan and LJM on the Final Security Arrangements marked a step forward in the implementation of the DDPD. The agreement, he said, is designed to integrate LJM combatants into the Sudan Armed Forces and Police and begin the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

The JSR went on to highlight the commencement of 315 reconstruction and development projects, in line with the Darfur Development Strategy, as a positive step toward bringing peace to the people of Darfur. He said he hoped that the signing of the DDPD

by the Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan would bring additional impetus to the Document's implementation.

Dr. Chambas briefed the delegates on his efforts to bring the non-signatory movements to the negotiation table on the basis of the DDPD. He noted that at the technical workshop in Addis Ababa, the movements reiterated their commitment to a negotiated political process to end the conflict and expressed readiness for a humanitarian cessation of hostilities.

Deputy Prime Minister Al Mahmoud reiterated the commitment of the State of Qatar to Darfur's development and to early recovery projects for the region. "It is very important to restore the social fabric, in addition to the political process," he said. The Deputy Prime Minister noted that one of the factors delaying the implementation of the DDPD is the increased insecurity in Darfur following the surge in tribal conflicts in 2013.

Earlier, on 15 December, the facilitators of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) mechanism, the State of Qatar, the African Union and UNAMID, met and adopted a strategy and roadmap for the conduct of the DIDC as stipulated in the DDPD. ■

UNAMID Head Welcomes SLA/Minni Minawi Decision to Ban Recruitment of Child Soldiers

On 18 December 2013, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas welcomed the decision taken by the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) to prohibit the recruitment and use of child soldiers in its ranks.

"UNAMID appreciates the commitment of SLA/MM to adhere to the international laws and principles on the protection of children against violence," the JSR said. "Involving children in armed conflict is a serious crime that not only endangers their own

lives but will also affect negatively their future and that of their societies."

The command order, issued by SLA/MM leader Minni Minawi, comes following his participation in a workshop on peace and security in Darfur held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

on 9 to 11 December and co-organized by the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

The event discussed issues related to international humanitarian law and human rights. ■

Joint Chief Mediator Commends Movements on Peace Talks



On 9 December 2013, AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator Mohamed Ibn Chambas delivers opening remarks at a workshop to explore ways to achieve a comprehensive peace in Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 12 December 2013, the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, said he values and appreciates the three-day

workshop on peace and security in Darfur, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the participation of two non-signatory movements, Sudan Liberation Army / Minni Minawi (SLA/

MM) and the Justice and Equality Movement / Gibril Ibrahim (JEM/Gibril).

Dr. Chambas said he welcomed the willingness of the participants to move forward into a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict. "We are ready to continue engaging with all the non-signatory movements to bring them on board the peace process and find a durable solution for the Darfur conflict," he said. "The only way forward is through dialogue, not violence."

The workshop, which concluded on 11 December, was co-organized by the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and

was designed to discuss issues related to international humanitarian law and human rights.

In a press statement, JEM/Gibril and SLA/MM emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment for peace talks through confidence-building measures to pave the way for a comprehensive, inclusive, just and durable peace.

In their jointly released statement, the two movements expressed their appreciation for the relentless efforts of the Joint Chief Mediator in search of comprehensive peace, and their commitment to respect and promote the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights. ■

UNAMID, UNDP Provide Vocational Skills to Prisoners

On 17 December 2013, inmates from Al Shallah Federal Prison in El Fasher, North Darfur, graduated from an intensive training course during which they acquired various vocational skills, including in welding, masonry and electrical work, in two new workshops that UNAMID recently constructed.

UNAMID implemented this project with UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Government of Sudan support to empower prisoners at risk of recidivism. Staff members from UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) section guided the programme, while Sudanese Police conducted the training.

The Chief of UNAMID's DDR section, Mr. Aderemi Adekoya, spoke during the graduation ceremony, noting that the course's completion marks the end of one of the largest vocational skills workshops ever implemented in a Darfur prison. "We believe in the reintegration of inmates," he said, explaining that Darfur's conflict has increased delinquency rates. "It is a priority to change the



On 17 December 2013, local singer Magda Musa performs for prisoners and police officers during the ceremony to commemorate the graduation of prison inmates from an intensive skills-training programme at Al Shallah Federal Prison in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

lives of these prisoners when they are released on completion of their sentences," he added.

UNDP's representative, Mr. Christopher Laker, also spoke during the ceremony. "This project is an opportunity for the inmates to start a new life with their families," he said, noting that the impact of this project extends not merely to the inmates themselves, but also to the communities to which the

prisoners will return once they have completed their sentences.

As part of the Mission's approach to support peace at the community level, UNAMID's DDR section has been implementing similar workshops across Darfur. In addition, DDR has been working on a violence-reduction strategy that has taken several forms in practice, most notably in community-based, labour-intensive projects.

These community projects are designed to support the efforts of the Government of Sudan in addressing the needs of at-risk young people and other vulnerable groups in communities and in camps for displaced people. The projects focus not only on building vocational skills, and in many cases facilitating infrastructure development, but also on fostering reconciliation across Darfur. ■

UNAMID Observes Human Rights Day in Darfur

On 10 December 2013, with outreach events conducted throughout Darfur, UNAMID joined in the worldwide celebrations on the occasion of Human Rights Day, observed every year on 10 December.

In El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID organized an event at Al Salam camp for internally displaced people. The event, attended by more than 2,500 people, including students, community leaders, civil society members and representatives from the State Ministry of Education, consisted of poetry recitals, songs and dramatic performances promoting human rights, peace and coexistence.

The gathering was addressed by the Deputy Chief of UNAMID's Human Rights Section, Mr. Amadu Shour, who emphasized the importance of compliance with human rights standards to ensure justice and equality for every human being around the world. Mr. Shour affirmed that the Mission is working with all stakeholders to promote and protect human rights.

The Acting Head of UNAMID's Human Rights Section in North Darfur, Mr. Ahmed



On 10 December in North Darfur, an actor performs a drama presentation in Al Salam camp for internally displaced people during a Human Rights Day celebration. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam.

Hassan, spoke to those in attendance and reiterated the premises of the Vienna Declaration, a document that declares that human rights are universal and commits states to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all people, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

The representative of the North Darfur Ministry of

Education, Mr. Mohamed Abdulrahim, commended UNAMID's role in promoting human rights through collaborative efforts with stakeholders such as the Government of Sudan and human rights activists to enhance awareness of human rights issues. "We are grateful for UNAMID's role when it comes to human rights enhancement and promotion," said Mr. Abdulrahim.

The celebrations in North Darfur, South Darfur, Central Darfur and West Darfur included the reading of the messages from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, as well as music performances and drama presentations to highlight specific issues related to human rights in Darfur communities.



Women's Shopping Centre Opens in El Fasher

On 14 December 2013 in the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced people, the UNAMID Police Advisor responsible for coordinating the Police Women's Network, Ms. Farkhanda Iqbel, attends the opening ceremony of El Raman Women's Shopping Centre. The centre, built with the support of UNAMID's Police component, is run by nearly 100 women who make and sell their handicrafts to the community. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Darfuri Women Deliberate on UNSCR 1325



On 5 December 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID staff members, local students and residents from in and around El Fasher march to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence in an event organized by UNAMID's Gender Advisory Unit to raise awareness about gender-based violence. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 10 December 2013, more than 50 women leaders from various civil society groups, non-governmental organizations and the State Legislative Council, along with local Government representatives and UNAMID officials, participated in a workshop on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.

Unanimously adopted on 31

October 2000, UNSCR 1325 is a landmark legal and political framework that reinforces the importance of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peace-building and governance. It is the first ever resolution passed by the UN Security Council that specifically addresses the

impact of conflict on women and emphasizes the equal participation and full involvement of women in efforts to maintain and promote sustainable peace and security.

The event, organized by UNAMID in collaboration with the North Darfur State Government, provided a platform for Darfuri women to review the progress made with regard to

implementing the provisions of the resolution, the way forward as well as the challenges faced by women in Darfur.

Addressing the participants, the representative of the Women State Committee, Dr. Salwa Mukhtar Saleh, outlined the crucial role played by women in bringing peace to the community and achieving lasting stability. UNAMID Gender Advisory representative, Ms. Khadijatu Carrera, also addressed the participants, stressing the importance of understanding UNSCR 1325 and reaffirming UNAMID's commitment to raising awareness about it.

Other speakers during the workshop called attention to the progress the Government has made in this area, and urged participants to conduct more activities to engage women, particularly those in rural areas. At the close of the workshop, participants reached consensus on several recommendations, including on increasing women's involvement in traditional mediation and increasing the number of women in leadership positions. ■

UNAMID Celebrates Nelson Mandela's Life



On 12 December 2013, UNAMID peacekeepers held a memorial service in honour of former South African President Nelson Mandela, who died on 5 December 2013. Photo by Sharon Lukunka, UNAMID.

South African peacekeepers serving with UNAMID, including Police Commissioner Hester Paneras, organized a memorial service in El Fasher, North Darfur, to honour former South African President Nelson Mandela, who died on 5 December 2013.

The ceremony, attended by UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba and other senior UNAMID officials, including military, police and civilian personnel, was marked by a candlelight vigil, poetry recitals as well as traditional songs and dances.

During this solemn event, peacekeepers reflected upon the life Mr. Mandela led and his universal values, which had an impact not only on his country but also on the world at large. ■