

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Delegation to Mitigate Friction in North Darfur



On 21 August 2012, a UNAMID delegation traveled to Mellit, North Darfur, to meet with community leaders and mitigate friction between the two main tribes in the area. Shown here are two Armored Personnel Carriers, part of the convoy, on the outskirts of Mellit.

A UNAMID team visited Mellit, North Darfur, on 21 August to meet with community leaders and mitigate friction between the Ziyadiah and Berti tribes, the two main tribes in the area.

Leading the team, UNAMID Head of Office for North Darfur, Hassan Gibril, expressed the Mission's deep concern for the tragic events that confronted members of the two tribes and presented his condolences for the lost lives. He offered UNAMID's assistance in mediation and intertribal reconciliation activities.

Disagreements between the Ziyadiah and Berti tribes emerged on 15 August and resulted in violent clashes in which shops were looted and destroyed in Mellit's main market area and six people were reportedly killed and 12 injured.

Mr. Gibril noted that Mellit is known for the peaceful co-existence between tribes, and said he hoped that reputation will continue well into the future. He also noted with appreciation that local initiatives by civil society leaders, native administration and the citizens in the area are underway to bring peace and security to the area. "We want to learn from what happened to prevent such incidents in the future," he said.

During a meeting with Mr.

Gibril and the UNAMID delegation, the chief umda (local leader) of the Abassi camp for internally displaced persons, Adam Abdurahim Kharif, said that the residents fear attacks similar to the one that happened in the Kassab camp, and asked for more protection to prevent them. "We have learned from what happened to our brothers; we won't wait until it happens to us," he added, thanking the Mission's Team Site staff for their support and for increasing the number of peacekeepers in the camp.

Mr. Kharif went on to express his hope for the full

implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which he said will bring security to the region and allow the displaced people to return to their places of origin.

The local commissioner of Mellit, Mohamed Osman Ibrahim, speaking about the violence and loss of life, said that what happened last week was a series of isolated incidents that have been resolved through goodwill. "The security situation is under total control; it's back to normal," he added.

The deputy leader of the Ziyadiah tribe, Rabih Mohamed Rabih, explained that

members of the community moved quickly to contain the situation and now are working together to find a peaceful remedy. He added that both tribes live in a single location where they share land and other resources. He expressed hope for additional support to the community so its people will be able to make a living and not resort to violence or criminality.

The leader of the Berti tribe, King Yassir Hussein Ahmadi, said that, in general, the culture of the area values peace and the people are not troublemakers.



On 21 August 2012, the local commissioner in Mellit, North Darfur, Mohamed Osman Ibrahim (right), welcomed Head of Office for North Darfur, Hassan Gibril (left), who led the UNAMID team that met with community leaders to mitigate friction between the two main tribes in the area.

Displaced Population Returns to Kassab Camp



On 28 August 2012, a UNAMID peacekeeper from South Africa is followed by children in the Kassab camp for internally displaced people. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

An estimated 80 percent of the internally displaced people who had fled Kassab camp to the town of Kutum, North Darfur, in the aftermath of the recent attacks in the area, have returned to their camp, according to UN agencies on the ground.

Following the incidents in Kassab, UNAMID has been providing a 24/7 presence and continuous patrols, and is monitoring movements in and around the camp to facilitate humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organisation partners have been able to resume their ac-

tivities in the camp. Food distribution began, a mobile clinic is operating and an assessment of the needs of the affected population is ongoing to provide assistance, including in the form of non-food items such as plastic sheets, mats and blankets.

Kassab camp was attacked and looted by armed men following the killing of the commissioner of the Alwaha district and his driver in Kutum on 1 August. The incidents forced more than 25,000 internally displaced people from the camp to flee and seek refuge among the host population in the town of Kutum.

Human Rights Team Celebrates Eid with El Geneina Children



UNAMID's Human Rights team in West Darfur celebrated Eid with destitute children in El Geneina, West Darfur, in an event organized on 19 August by the nongovernmental organization Child Friends for Services and Development. During the event, the children participated in various games and cultural activities, such as singing and dancing.

UNAMID Condemns Attack on Darfur Regional Authority

On 14 August, UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative Aichatou Mindaoudou and Force Commander Patrick Nyamvumba visited Darfur Regional Authority Chairman El Tigani Seisi to convey the Mission's commitment to the DRA and to the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

The visit came one day after an attack on the offices of the DRA by armed men, who fired shots and temporarily took a

hostage. The incident ended through the intervention of Sudanese security agents. UNAMID received reports that two of the attackers were wounded and five arrested; no DRA personnel or visitors were injured.

On behalf of the Mission, Ms. Mindaoudou expressed concern that such acts of violence could undermine the peace process and called on Sudan and the DRA not to relent in their efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.

UNAMID Donates Water Filters to West Darfur Community



On 28 August 2012, UNAMID's Nigeria Level II Hospital provided several biosand water filters to the residents of Krindig camp in West Darfur.

On 28 August 2012 in the Krindig camp for internally displaced people in West Darfur, the Commander of the Nigeria Level II Hospital, Col. Ikechukwu Okeke, presented water filters to the residents of the Krindig community.

The Nigeria Level II Hospital staff demonstrated to the recipients how to operate the filters, which are designed to remove pathogens and suspended solids through a combination of biological and physical processes that take place in the column. The filters can remove contaminants such as bacteria,

viruses and protozoa, and can help reduce discoloration, odor and unpleasant taste.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 biosand filters are in use worldwide. The filters are relatively easy to construct with materials that are readily available. Materials necessary for the construction of the filters include cement, gravel, plastic tubing and sand. Lids and diffuser plates are also needed.

The Level II Nigeria Hospital, located in UNAMID's camp east of the city of El Geneina, has so far constructed 22 filters using its own resources.