

# UNAMID BULLETIN

## Senior UN Official Calls for Commitment to Peace Process

With renewed violence in Darfur, including attacks on peacekeepers, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the UN Security Council on 24 October and called on all parties to engage fully in implementing the lagging peace process, which he said could ease tensions.

“The implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur provides a base for overcoming the many causes of conflict in Darfur, as well as for the promotion of security,” Mr. Mulet said in his briefing.

Introducing the Secretary-General’s latest report on UNAMID, he said that 15 months after the signing of the Doha Document, the signatory parties—the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM)—were behind schedule and the efforts to gain the participation of nonsignatory armed movements had borne few results.

He added that the requests of the Government and LJM for development assistance would be strengthened, as would the quest to include other movements “if the parties demonstrated their full engagement in the promotion of peace, security and the relaunch of development in Darfur.”

Noting the progress toward implementing the Doha Document, as shown in the report, Mr. Mulet added that since its publication, the Joint Chief Mediator *ad interim*, Aichatou Mindaoudou, had facilitated with the Government of Qatar dialogue between the Sudanese Government and former members of the Executive Council of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) led by Mohammad Bashar. The Joint Chief Mediator *a.i.*, he said, is continuing efforts to get more movements to sign on.



On 24 October, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, addresses the Security Council meeting on the Secretary-General’s periodic report on progress in implementing the mandate of UNAMID. Photo by Evan Schneider, UN Photo.

The Assistant Secretary-General noted that an agreement took place on 15 October on the longstanding dispute between the signatory parties over the results of the initial verification of LJM strength, which was required to begin demobilization of those forces and integration into the Sudanese Armed Forces. The parties agreed to undertake a joint desk review of the initial results and to verify forces not included in the initial exercise due to restrictions by the authorities.

On the latest security incidents, Mr. Mulet said that a dispute over land access between nomads and farmers in Hashaba, North Darfur, had escalated with the involvement of different armed groups. He noted that there were reports of aerial bombing of the nearby mining areas, with the estimated number of civilian casualties ranging from 27 to 100. UNAMID peacekeepers were prevented from corroborating the information due to restrictions by the Sudanese Government and by armed movements, he said.

On 17 October, a UNAMID patrol en route to Hashaba was attacked by unidentified armed assailants, leaving one South

African peacekeeper killed and three others wounded, representing the second fatal attack on the Mission in two weeks.

Mr. Mulet reiterated the Secretary-General’s condemnation of those responsible for what he called “reprehensible acts” and called on Government authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly. Government police informed the Mission on 9 October that they had arrested several people in connection with the first incident, in El Geneina, but they had yet to provide specific information.

The Assistant Secretary-General mentioned that the Mission has augmented its patrols in camps and villages in response to resurgent violence in North Darfur and has called on the parties to cease their fighting. In general, he said, UNAMID continued to take concerted action to protect civilians and otherwise implement its mandate by encouraging parties to avoid violence and resolve conflicts through peaceful means.

The kidnapping of two UNAMID police officers in Kabkibiya, North Darfur, on 20 August, is of deep concern, said Mr. Mulet, who pointed out that UNAMID is working

closely with the Government on their release. “I strongly urge the Government to spare no effort to ensure the safe return of the two police officers,” he said.

Following Mr. Mulet’s briefing, the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the UN, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, stated that the Darfur peace process had come a long way, as shown by the agreement reached with JEM. In addition, he said the upcoming donor’s conference showed evidence of a shift from conflict resolution to development. He called on the international community to show support for the Darfur peace process at that conference.

Regarding the security incidents, Mr. Ali Osman said that they were caused by militias that want to bring down the local government and by groups that want to take advantage of disputes over grazing rights. He said pressure must be exerted on the movements that do not want to join the march toward peace in Darfur and added that UNAMID was prevented from accessing Hashaba because of concerns over the safety of the Mission’s personnel and the fear of a repeat of recent ambush scenarios.

## UNAMID Acting Chief and AU Commission Chair Discuss Engagement in Darfur



*UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i., Aichatou Mindaoudou, meets with the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, in Addis Ababa on 24 October.*

On 24 October, during a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, UNAMID's Acting Joint Special Representative Aichatou Mindaoudou and the new Chairperson of the AU Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, discussed the resurgence of armed violence in North Darfur, as well as

the latest developments in the overall peace process.

The Acting JSR stressed the importance of the full engagement of the African Union (AU) in the Sudanese region to sustain progress toward peace and security.

Ms. Mindaoudou and Ms. Dlamini-Zuma focused on the recent agreement with elements of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), led by the President of the Interim Military Council, Mohammad Bashar Ahmed, in Doha, Qatar, as well as ongoing preparations for the upcoming donor conference for Darfur, which will be held in Doha, in December.

On 22 October, the Gov-

ernment of Sudan and the rebel group signed a declaration affirming their commitment to the ongoing peace process, the immediate cessation of hostilities and the resumption of negotiations "to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict" on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

Ms. Mindaoudou called attention to the fact that five UN peacekeepers have been killed this month alone in attacks by armed groups. Ms. Dlamini-Zuma agreed to raise all of the concerns discussed during the meeting with the AU Commission, and pledged to "put Darfur back on the radar-screen."

## UNAMID Marks UN Day with Celebration Events across Darfur



*UNAMID peacekeepers from Egypt march in Al Zubir stadium in El Fasher, North Darfur, as part of the celebration of the United Nations Day on 24 October. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.*

UNAMID, UN agencies and the people of Darfur gathered on 24 October at El Fasher stadium in North Darfur to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the UN with cultural dances, peace songs, a military parade and exhibitions to promote the principles of the organisation. School children from El Fasher participated in the festivities by parading through the stadium while waving flags.

United Nations Day is observed globally on 24 October to reassure the world of its commitment to the universal values that the organization strives to uphold and symbol-

ise. In addition, the day is used to honour those peacekeepers who have paid the ultimate price serving in UN missions.

"On this UN Day, let us reaffirm our individual commitment and our collective resolve to live up to the ideals of the United Nations Charter and build a better world for all," said UNAMID Deputy Force Commander Maj. Gen. Wynjones M. Kisamba, quoting UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's message for the day.

"In carrying out this global mission, we rely on countless friends and supporters," said the Deputy Force Commander, quoting the Secretary-General. "Nongovernmental organizations, scientists, scholars, philanthropists, religious leaders, business executives and concerned citizens are critical to our success. No single leader, country or institution can do

everything."

Several Darfur dignitaries, including government officials from the Darfur Regional Authority and the office of the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur, attended the event, which followed the theme For the Love of Peace.

"We thank all the peacekeepers for coming here to serve and secure the people of Darfur," said North Darfur Deputy Wali Adam Houbush. "The UN is established to bring peace, and we in Darfur are in need of peace and stability."

Later in the day, Rimaz, a famous singer from Khartoum, performed a concert in the El Fasher stadium. UNAMID put on similar events across Darfur, including in Nyala, South Darfur; El Geneina, West Darfur; and Zalingei, Central Darfur.

Sudan became a UN Member State 57 years ago.