

# UNAMID BULLETIN

## Sudan and Darfur Rebel Group Sign Ceasefire Agreement

The Government of Sudan and the Mohamed Bashir faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), one of the major armed movements in Darfur, signed a ceasefire agreement to move the peace process forward, the African Union - United Nations mediator announced on 11 February.

"This is a major breakthrough in the road toward a comprehensive and lasting peace accord in Darfur," said Aichatou Mindaoudou, who is also UNAMID's Acting Joint Special Representative.

The Government, represented by State Minister and Head of the Darfur Follow-up Office, Amin Hassan Omer, signed the ceasefire with Arko Sulaiman Dahiya, Vice Chair and Head of the Delegation from JEM, on 10 February in Doha, Qatar. The agreement

lays the groundwork to start negotiations on other substantive issues, such as power- and wealth-sharing and the return of internally displaced people and refugees.

The negotiations for the ceasefire began last month in Qatar under the parameters stipulated in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). The DDPD forms the basis for a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive peace agreement to end the fighting that began in Darfur 10 years ago, pitting government forces and allied militias against rebel groups.

JEM is the second armed movement to commit to the DDPD after the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) signed it last year. Following the signing, Ms. Mindaoudou congratulated both parties and said she hoped that the agree-



On 10 February 2013, the Government of Sudan and the Mohamed Bashir faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), one of the major armed movements in Darfur, sign a ceasefire agreement. Photo UNAMID.

ment would attract the non-signatory movements to join in the peace process.

"The road to peace is challenging and needs a great deal of resolve, perseverance and

concessions from both sides," said Ms. Mindaoudou, who reiterated her commitment to work with the parties to the conflict to achieving a comprehensive peace in Darfur. ■

## Arms Registration Begins in West Darfur



On 30 January 2013, the first registration and marking of civilian arms in West Darfur takes place in El Geneina. The initiative is designed to curb the proliferation of arms and reduce violence in the area. Photo by Caterina Violante, UNAMID.

The first registration and marking of civilian arms in West Darfur officially began on 30 January 2013 in

El Geneina. During the next six months, with the goal of curbing the proliferation of arms and reducing violence

in the area, the Government of Sudan expects to register approximately 30,000 weapons.

The two-day event, organized by the Ministry of Interior, the Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SD-DRC) and the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC), brought together nearly 200 participants from governmental bodies, the diplomatic community, native administration unions, and nongovernmental organizations, to mobilize support to register and mark small arms. In a symbolic gesture, 10 local leaders, each representing a different tribe, were among the first to register arms.

The inauguration ceremony, presided over by Sudanese Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamed and West Darfur Governor (Wali) Hayder Galoucome, followed a one-day workshop designed to sensitize international and national stakeholders on the arms registration initiative and to enhance coordination to ensure success. Despite the process of registering and marking being voluntary, all arms not licensed after six months—subject to extension—will be considered illegal.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNAMID provided technical and logistical support to the SDDRC event. ■

## Former Child Soldiers Registered for Reintegration

In a programme that concluded on 31 January in Nyala, South Darfur, more than 70 former child soldiers, consisting of 24 girls and 46 boys, were registered for rehabilitation and reintegration. The initiative was organized by the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission and supported by UNAMID and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The former members of the Sudan Liberation Army / Historical Leadership (SLA/HL) were originally released to the communities in 2011. Several young adults, identified as former child soldiers, were also registered to benefit from the reintegration programme in compliance with a commitment made to the United Nations by SLA/HL.

On 25 September 2011, SLA/HL submitted an action

plan to the United Nations to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Darfur. In the plan, the movement indicated that the children who enrolled did so for several reasons, including poverty, hunger, psychological issues, displacement and separation from their families. Also in 2011, SLA/HL signed a peace agreement with the Government.

SLA/HL is the sixth armed movement in Darfur to have submitted an action plan on the recruitment of children. ■

## Gender Training the Focus of Darfur-Wide Workshops

During the past two weeks, and as part of its ongoing effort to raise awareness about the role of women in the peace process, UNAMID conducted a series of gender-sensitivity workshops across Darfur for more than 160 members of the media, primarily women.

The workshops, which began on 29 January in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, and concluded on 5 February in Zalingei, Central Darfur, focused on several UN Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

During the workshops, the participating journalists exchanged ideas about how to unify their efforts to empower women in their communities. Participants achieved consensus about the role of the media in highlighting community concerns and experiences, raising awareness of gender issues and women's rights and advocating for the role of women in peace building and conflict resolution.

As part of its mandate, UNAMID works on issues related to women, peace and security, guided by UN Security Council resolutions to protect and promote women's rights, create an enabling environment in Darfur for the promotion of gender justice, respond to and mitigate gender-based violence and enhance women's participation in the peace process and decision-making.

Since 2008, the Mission has undertaken more than 240 capacity-building workshops to raise awareness of gender equality in communities across Darfur. ■

### Zalingei, Central Darfur



On 1 February 2013, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Zalingei Equestrian Club, organized a horse racing competition in Zalingei, Central Darfur, as part of the Mission's outreach activities to promote peace in the region. A total of 39 horses and their riders took part in the competition, which was attended by thousands of people. Photo by Reuben Inaju, UNAMID.

## Promoting Juvenile Restorative Justice

On 30 January 2013, UNAMID concluded a two-day workshop on restorative justice for juvenile offenders in Zalingei, Central Darfur. The workshop, attended by more than 32 teachers, police officers, civil servants and members of civil society, represents the latest effort of UNAMID's Human Rights Section to support the Government in strengthening the juvenile justice system.

Restorative justice refers to a process for resolving crime by focusing on redressing the harm done to the victims, holding offenders accountable

for their actions and, often, engaging the community in the resolution of the conflict. The participation of the parties is an essential part of the process, which emphasizes relationship-building, reconciliation and the development of agreements focused on a desired outcome between victims and offenders.

Workshop participants discussed issues related to the overuse of detention, particularly pretrial detention, and lack of community-based alternatives to the formal justice system. Also, participants

deliberated about the lack of appropriate rehabilitation facilities.

"It is important to note that Sudan has taken some measures to improve the national juvenile justice system, including the ratification of the Child Act 2010," said Mr. Badar Farrukh, Team Leader of UNAMID's Human Rights Section in Zalingei, during the opening session of the workshop. "The establishment of the family and child protection units, as well as the Child Court, can be considered in this context." ■