

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Commemorates Peacekeepers Day, Remembers Those Fallen



Peacekeepers from UNAMID's Military component stand in formation during the commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers at UNAMID headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran UNAMID.

On 29 May 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) joined the UN worldwide in the commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The day, which was marked in Darfur's five states, provided an opportunity

to raise awareness about new developments in the field of peacekeeping while honouring those who lost their lives over the past year serving under the blue flag.

The programme in El Fasher, North Darfur, opened with a military and police parade and a solemn wreath-laying cere-

mony. It also included cultural activities by UNAMID's contingents and local groups.

Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas used the occasion to convey a message by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "To meet emerging threats and rise to new challenges, United

Nations peacekeeping is adapting its policies to better fulfill its mandates to bring lasting peace to war-torn countries."

"On this International Day, let us pay solemn tribute to those who have fallen, support the more than 111,000 serving soldiers and police from 116 countries, and continue adapting our operations to better help civilians who need protection and support," read Mr. Chambas.

The event was attended by North Darfur Governor Osman Kibir, representatives from the local community and non-governmental organizations, as well as UNAMID staff.

Governor Kibir expressed his condolences "for those who lost their lives serving peace in Darfur."

Since the inception of UNAMID in December 2007, 44 peacekeepers have lost their lives in the line of duty. UNAMID's peacekeepers, totaling 24,441 military, police and civilians staff come from more than 130 nations.

These peacekeepers continue to contribute to the peace and stability of Darfur. ■

UNAMID Promotes Women's Participation in Traditional Mediation

Promoting women's representation in traditional mediation mechanisms, implementing international instruments on women's rights, and developing strategic plans on women's participation in the peace and security process was the focus of a two-day workshop which concluded on 28 May in El Fasher, North Darfur. The event, organized by the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), brought together more than 40 participants representing the North Darfur State Mediation Council (Ajaweed) and the North Darfur State

Committee on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women in an effort to raise awareness on the importance of women's participation in communities.

"Currently, Darfur tribal traditions do not allow for women to be at the same level as men when it comes to traditional mediation," said Eltigani Mohamad Salih, Rapporteur of North Darfur State Executive Council of Civil Administration. "Women's contribution will only be achieved gradually," he added.

Among recommendations made by those in attendance were the strengthening of

the civil administration system and raising awareness on women's participation in the mediation process.

Similar workshops are be-

ing planned for other parts of Darfur as part of the Mission's effort to integrate a gender perspective within the peace process. ■

African Union Donates Funds to Darfur for Development, Peace-building

The African Union (AU) Commission and the joint AU-UN Mission in Darfur on 25 May signed an agreement under which the AU will provide nearly US \$3 million for a variety of humanitarian, development and peace-building projects in Dar-

fur. These funds were originally part of a US \$10 million donation from the Government of Japan for this purpose.

According to the agreement, the funds shall be administered by the Trust Fund for the Support of Peace in Darfur. ■

Inmates in North Darfur Receive Medical Attention

More than 200 inmates in North Darfur have received medical examinations as part of a two-day medical campaign which began on 27 May.

The medical check-up, held at El Fasher's men and women prisons and juvenile home, aimed at controlling common diseases and infections often caused due to a lack of water sanitation and poor hygiene in the prisons.

The campaign was organized by the State Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and facilitated by African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). A similar activity was conducted last year at these facilities.



A nurse examines an inmate at Al Shallah prison in El Fasher as part of a two-day medical campaign. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID

El Fasher, North Darfur



On 22 May 2013, Children welcome Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, at the Zam Zam camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in North Darfur. The one day visit, which included meetings with local authorities, community leaders, and officials from the United Nations Country Team and African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur, was aimed at reviewing the humanitarian operations and strengthening partnerships between the Government and humanitarian organizations. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

UNAMID Delivers Medical Supplies to North Darfur Population

The African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) airlifted on 21 May more than 1.5 tons of critically needed medical supplies to thousands of civilians in El Sereif and Saraf Omra localities, North Darfur.

The supplies, which included pharmaceuticals, laboratory supplies and other related items, were immediately transferred to medical facilities in these locations. This joint effort came after more than 170 cases of Hepatitis "E" were reported in the areas, where, apart from the permanent population, more than 60,000 internally displaced persons have taken refuge.