

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID continues to support local mediation in North Darfur conflict situations

More than 250 representatives of the Beni Hussein and Abbala tribes gathered in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, for a two-day reconciliation meeting which commenced on 5 June 2014. The meeting aimed at addressing outstanding issues between the tribes in attendance and diffusing tensions in the area. A reconciliation committee consisting of tribal representatives, native administration leaders, members of the security management committee, officials from the Government of Sudan and Sheikh Musa Hilal initiated the proceedings.

The King and Shartai of the Fur, the Nazir, sheikhs and umdas of the Reizegat, the Nazir of the Beni Hussein, the Amir of the Tama, other significant tribal leaders from Kabkabiya, Saraf Umra and El Sereif as well as government, military and police personnel participated in the conference.

The gathering follows an escalation of conflict which resulted in the blockading of



On 5 June 2014, more than 250 representatives of the Beni Hussein and Abbala tribes gathered in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, for a two-day reconciliation meeting. UNAMID provided logistic support for the meeting. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

roads thereby preventing supplies, including food, medicine and fuel, from entering the El Sereif locality of North Darfur.

UNAMID, which played a significant role in organizing the event and supporting it logistically, has been assisting reconciliation efforts since the inception of the conflict.

Addressing the participants, UNAMID's Head of

Office, Sector North, Mr. Mohamed El-Amine Souef, reaffirmed the Mission's commitment to carrying out its core mandate of protecting civilians, supporting local-level mediation and facilitating humanitarian assistance. Stressing UNAMID's commitment to help Darfuris bring about durable peace and stability, he urged everyone present to sup-

port ongoing mediation efforts. "Without peace, there cannot be development; and without peace in Darfur, there cannot be stability in Sudan," he said.

On 7 June 2014, the reconciliation conference concluded with the resolution of pending issues between the Beni Hussein and Abbala tribes and the agreement to re-open the roads leading to El Sereif. ■

Abducted UNAMID contractor released in North Darfur



On 13 June 2014, Mr. Irfan Jaffery (centre), a contractor working with UNAMID, was released in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, after 94 days in captivity. On 11 March, Mr. Jaffery was walking with a colleague in a residential neighbourhood in El Fasher, North Darfur, when he was abducted by a group of armed men. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

On 13 June 2014, an international contractor working at UNAMID, Mr. Irfan Jaffery, abducted in El Fasher, North Darfur, on 11 March, was freed in Kabka-

biya, after 94 days in captivity. Mr. Jaffery was walking with a colleague in a residential area in El Fasher when he was taken by a group of armed men.

Mr. Jaffery, a national of India, was immediately taken to the Mission's hospital in El Fasher for medical checks. He was flown to Khartoum the next day en route to his home country where he was received by UNAMID representatives, National Intelligence and Security Services officials and the Indian Ambassador to Sudan, in addition to some reporters and Sudan TV.

Mr. Jaffery looked to be

in good health and thanked all parties responsible for securing his safe release, especially the Sudanese government, UNAMID and the rescue team. He said the abductors generally treated him well because he obeyed their orders.

The African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, expressed the Mission's gratitude to the Government of Sudan, Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services, the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur, and the Government of India for their valuable assistance in the safe release of Mr. Jaffery. ■

World Environment Day: Toward a Greener Darfur



On 5 June 2014, UNAMID JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas plants a tree to mark World Environment Day. UNAMID has initiated a tree planting scheme in Darfur as part of the UN's tree planting campaign. Photo by Owies Elfaki, UNAMID.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, celebrated every year on June 5, the North Darfur Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), organized a photo exhibition highlighting the impact of waste management and

promoting planting of more trees for a greener Sudan. The event, hosted at the University of El Fasher, was held under the theme 'Sudan raises its voice for the environment' and included a cultural programme with traditional songs, drama performances, poetry recitals and community dialogue.

On its part, UNAMID has initiated a tree planting scheme in Dar-

fur as part of the UN's tree planting campaign. "Trees help offset carbon dioxide emissions from other sources such as diesel generators and vehicles," said Emmanuel Mollel, Head of UNAMID's Water and Environmental Section. Since the Mission's inception, a total of 270,000 trees have been planted in its compounds and bases across the region. This year, UNAMID peacekeepers have planted 4,000 trees at its headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Similar activities have taken place at UNAMID bases in all Darfur states. The Mission is also working with both local and international partners to promote and raise awareness on environmental challenges and achievements in the region.

In addition to tree planting, UNAMID is employing other environmental greening initiatives to reduce harmful emissions such as using renewable sources of energy and waste reduction. UNAMID has installed 216 solar-powered water heaters, 10 solar-powered borehole pumps

and 340 solar street lighting. Segregation of food and recyclable waste from the solid waste stream is another step being implemented in all UNAMID bases. Food waste is being used to produce compost, an organic fertilizer, and recyclable waste—juice boxes and plastic bottles—are being recycled to help cultivate saplings. Such measures reduce the final volume of food waste disposed in landfills, which, in turn, reduces methane emissions responsible for global warming and causing climate change.

On this date each year the United Nations seeks to promote worldwide awareness on environmental issues and encourages political action for the environment. This year's theme—"Raise your voice, not the sea level"—seeks to raise awareness of unique development challenges and successes regarding a range of environmental problems such as climate change, waste management, non-sustainable consumption, degradation of natural resources and extreme natural disasters. ■

Darfuri Cultural Heritage Event Begins in South Darfur

Hundreds of people from Nyala and surrounding towns in South Darfur are participating in a month-long cultural heritage event which began on 1 June. The event aims at showcasing traditional cultures across Darfur as well as promoting tourism and fostering community efforts toward peace and harmony.

The opening session was attended by Dr. El Tigani Seisi, Chairman of the Darfur Regional Authority, the Wali (Governor) of South Darfur, Lt. General Adam

Mahmoud Jaral-Nabi, UNAMID and government officials, native administration leaders, representatives from UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations and members of the local media.

The programme opened with the Sudanese national anthem and included a joint parade by UNAMID and Sudanese uniformed personnel. Traditional songs were performed by different Darfuri communities while UNAMID peacekeepers from Pakistan and Tanzania put up a cultural show. ■



On 1 June 2014, Darfuri women perform at the inauguration of a month-long cultural heritage event in Nyala, South Darfur. The event aims at showcasing traditional cultures across Darfur as well as promoting tourism and fostering community efforts toward peace and harmony. UNAMID Photo.

Newly Displaced Populations in North Darfur Seek Assistance

Thousands of people, mostly women, children and the elderly, have sought refuge in the Zam Zam camp for displaced persons near El Fasher, North Darfur, following an armed militia attack on

their villages more than three months ago. Many of the recently displaced hail from different villages around Tawila, Korma and Tina in North Darfur as well as Khor Abeche in South Darfur.

The displaced community continues to request for basic services such as water, food, healthcare services and shelter.

As part of efforts to support the community, UNAMID's Child Protection Unit, on 11

June, distributed 100 water rollers to aid those living at the camp in collecting water. UN agencies in the area have been working together with local authorities to provide the displaced with basic services. ■