

UNAMID BULLETIN

Three Peacekeepers Attacked, Killed in Korma, North Darfur



On 19 October 2014, UNAMID paid its last respects to the three Ethiopian peacekeepers who lost their lives in an attack by an unidentified group near Korma, North Darfur, on 16 October. The memorial ceremony took place at Mission headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, and was led by the UNAMID Force Commander, Lt. General Paul Mella, and attended by outgoing Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Acting JSR Abiodun Bashua and other senior Mission personnel. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 16 October 2014, two UNAMID peacekeepers were killed and one seriously injured by a group of unidentified armed men in Korma, North Darfur. The injured soldier later succumbed to his wounds and died in Khartoum. The incident occurred when a patrol of Ethiopian peacekeepers guarding a water borehole

came under sudden attack. The perpetrators seized a patrol vehicle and fled the scene. Acting Joint Special Representative Abiodun Bashua, *a.i.* expressed his deep sadness. “I strongly condemn this heinous crime against our peacekeepers,” he said. “This reminds us of the great price everyone pays for the absence of peace. UNA-

MID personnel, as many others before them, lost their lives while attempting to bring peace to the people of Darfur.”

The unfortunate incident was reported to the Sudanese Foreign Minister. The Acting JSR called on the Government of Sudan to act swiftly in bringing the perpetrators to justice. “An attack on peace-

keepers constitutes a war crime is punishable under international criminal law,” he added. Mr. Bashua extended the Mission’s and his own deepest condolences to the family and colleagues of the late peacekeepers, and to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. This incident brings the number of peacekeepers who lost their lives in hostile action in Darfur to 61 since the inception of the Mission in December 2007.

The members of the UN Security Council condemned, in the strongest terms, the attack on UNAMID peacekeepers while expressing their condolences to the bereaved families of those killed, as well as to the Government of Ethiopia and to UNAMID. They called on the Government of Sudan to swiftly to investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice. The Council also reiterated its support for UNAMID and called on all parties in Darfur to cooperate fully with the Mission. ■

UNAMID Celebrates UN Day

UNAMID, UN agencies, Government of Sudan officials and hundreds of Darfuris gathered on 22 October 2014 at Al Zubier Stadium in El Fasher, North Darfur, to celebrate United Nations Day.

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 symbolize.

“The United Nations is needed more than ever at this time of multiple crises. Poverty, disease, terrorism, discrimination and climate change are exacting a heavy toll. Millions of people continue to suffer deplorable exploitation through bonded labour, human trafficking, sexual slavery or unsafe conditions in

factories, fields and mines. The global economy remains an uneven playing field,” said Mr. Abdul Kamara, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR), while reading out the UN Secretary General’s message at the event.

“At this critical moment, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering the marginalized and vulnerable. On United Nations Day, I call on Governments and individuals to work in common cause for the common good.” he added, quoting the Secretary General.

The DJSR further underlined the significance of realising peace in Darfur region and the Mission’s efforts toward achieving this goal. “UNAMID is relentless in its support to



On 22 October 2014, UNAMID and UN agencies organized a photo exhibition marking United Nations Day in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Mohamad Almahady, UNAMID.

peace efforts and reconciliation, with commendable action on the ground. It is important that we look beyond the conflicts of the past, and build formidable social ties that will build the foundation for consolidating peace,” said Mr. Kamara.

The celebration included cultural dances, peace songs, a military parade and exhibitions to promote the principles of the UN organizations working in Darfur. Similar celebrations were held across Darfur to mark the event. ■

UNAMID Welcomes North Darfur Tribal Leaders' Commitment to End Use of Child Soldiers

UNAMID welcomed a community-based strategic plan to end the use of children as fighters in inter- and intra-ethnic clashes initiated by Sheikh Musa Hilal and endorsed by leaders from the Ab-bala, Beni Hussein, Fur, Tamma, Gimir and Awalad Janoub tribes in Kabkabiya, El Sereif, Saraf Umra, Al Waha and Jebel Si localities in North Darfur.

Sheikh Hilal previously issued a command order on 26 July 2013 to the members of the communities under his leadership to prohibit the use of children as fighters. In the order, apart from the recruitment and use of child soldiers,

he condemned sexual violence against children, abduction, killing and maiming of children and attacks against schools and hospitals. He assured his full commitment and adherence to international norms and standards protecting children in situations of armed conflict.

The strategic plan establishes an implementation follow-up committee not only to raise awareness about the negative impact of using children as soldiers but also to identify children who have served as fighters in past ethnic conflicts and to work with relevant organizations to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society includ-

ing through access to education and vocational training skills.

UNAMID expects that the successful implementation of the plan will serve as a platform to foster relations between communities, contribute to ending tribal clashes and enhance the protection of children. The Mission applauds the progress made in Darfur through promoting the local ownership of the protection of children agenda.

"We are glad to witness that communities are taking the lead role in protecting children who are the future of Sudan. UNAMID will continue to support on-going efforts

to rid Darfur of child soldiering and other grave violations against children," said UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator *a.i.*, Abiodun Bashua. Since 2009, six parties to the conflict in Darfur have established action plans to end recruitment and use of child soldiers, and nine have issued command orders prohibiting the practice. Meanwhile, more than 1,200 former child soldiers have been registered to benefit from reintegration programs with the support of Sudan's Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission, UNICEF and UNAMID. ■

UNAMID Organizes Concert under the Theme "Darfur, talk peace now" in Khartoum

On 25 October 2014, more than 200 people in Khartoum, Sudan, attended a musical concert organized by UNAMID's Community Outreach Unit. The event, held under the theme "Darfur, talk peace now," took place at the Sudan National Theatre.

The concert featured renowned musicians Mohammed El Ameen, Omar Ih-sas, Shumoos, Hawa Ra-

madan and Ahmad Bass. A photo exhibition highlighting the Mission's key activities in Darfur was also displayed and widely appreciated by all the attendees.

The photographs highlighted the work of UNAMID's military, police and civilian personnel as well as their efforts to help bring sustainable peace to this conflict-affected region. ■



On 25 October 2014, renowned musicians perform on stage at a UNAMID-sponsored outreach event in Khartoum, Sudan. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.



On 23 October 2014, to help rebuild confidence in conflict-affected communities across Darfur, UNAMID's Police component hosted the final round of a volleyball tournament for secondary school girls at the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Mohamad Almahady, UNAMID.