

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Reaches Out to Tina Community



On 10 December 2014, members of Massalit tribe perform a traditional dance during an event organized by the UNAMID in Tina, North Darfur, to disseminate the culture of peace. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 10 December 2014, some 700 people attended a cultural event organized by the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in Tina, North Darfur, to disseminate the culture of peace.

The event, held under the theme “Darfur: Talk Peace Now,” brought together school students, internally displaced persons and many Darfuri refugees living in Chad.

Due to the close proximity to the border with Chad, the

movement of people between the Sudanese Tina locality and Chadian locality with the same name is frequent. The Darfuri students who live in Chad take an hour-walk back and forth to attend school in their hometown, Tina Sudan. In addition to this, other people, especially traders, move on a daily-basis between the two border areas. Despite the majority of the Darfuri population of Tina have remained in the Chadian Tina since 2003, few families have permanently returned.

The ceremony, which was marked by folk dances, theatre and cultural shows, presented an opportunity for the audience to recall the spirit of peaceful coexistence prevalent in the past.

“I have really yearned for the past where we were all together,” stated Hawa Hamid, a 55-year woman. While Ms. Hamid is among those who fled to Chad ten years ago due to fighting in Tina, she hopes that peace will prevail in Darfur.

Meanwhile, speakers to the event highlighted the pivotal role of culture in bringing people together and enhancing the fabric of the society.

“It is good to come together,” said Jafar Bushara, the Commissioner of Tina Locality, commending the role of culture in enhancing peace and ensuring the coherence of the society. “Such event ushers in peace and stability and the return of refugees and the internally displaced people,” he said. Mr. Bushara called on the gathering to care about culture for the sake of a unified and peaceful society.

Anwar Abdalla, a representative of youth in Tina, stated that such cultural event is effective in enhancing the spirit of solidarity and togetherness among people. “The event will allow us to maintain values such as solidarity through coming together,” he added, calling for further similar events to make more impact in this community.

On behalf of UNAMID, Albert Malou, Commander of Tina Team Site, reaffirmed the need for raising peace issue. “We are here today to talk about peace and I call on you to maintain peace,” said the Commander.

Mr. Malou briefed the gathering on the UNAMID mandate priorities which include protection of civilians, providing support for the tribal reconciliations and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

UNAMID, through its Community Outreach Unit, has regularly been organizing events in different communities across Darfur in an attempt to consolidate peace and foster peaceful coexistence among the local communities. ■

UNAMID Commemorates Human Rights Day in Darfur

Cultural performances, traditional dances and drama presentations were among the activities conducted by Aja-weed group and University students during the commemoration of Human Rights Days. Held on 10 December 2014 under the theme Human Rights 365, the event was organized by UNAMID in collaboration with the University of Zalingie in El Geneina, West Darfur.

The ceremony, which took place at the campus of the University, was attended by senior local authorities, UNAMID staff, representatives from UN entities and international non-govern-

mental organizations as well as officials from the University.

UNAMID’s Acting Head of Office, in El Geneina, West Darfur, Mr. Abdoul Sow, read the United Nations Secretary General’s message on the occasion. In his message, Secretary-General said the United Nations protects human rights because that is our proud mission – and because when people enjoy their rights, economies flourish and countries are at peace. Violations of human rights are more than personal tragedies. They are alarm bells that may warn of a much bigger crisis.



On 10 December 2014, a local musical group performs during the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day in El Geneina, West Darfur. Photo by Muntasir Sharafadin, UNAMID.

“We declare that human rights are for all of us, all the time: whoever we are and where-

ever we are from; no matter our class, our opinions, our sexual orientation. This is a matter of

individual justice, social stability and global progress,” the message said.

In her remarks, the Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Sports, Ms. Suda Salih Abdullah, thanked the Mission for its efforts and the role in the region and reaffirmed and reiterated the Government’s commitment to work together with UNAMID and all other partners to promote human rights principles as well as international resolutions.

The Vice Chancellor of University, Dr. Eltayib Ali Ahmed, expressed commitment to work closely with UNAMID in order to maintain and promote human rights principles, calling upon all people to renounce violence and respect human rights.

Similar events were held in Zalingei and Mukjar in Central Darfur and Um Baru in North Darfur to mark the occasion. ■

UNAMID Launches “No Child Soldiers - Protect Darfur” Campaign in El Fasher

As part of its Darfur-wide campaign “No Child soldiers- Protect Darfur”, on 9 December 2014, UNAMID together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Sudan DDR Commission and UNICEF, visited a centre for former child soldiers near El Fasher town in North Darfur.

During the occasion, the Mission distributed vests with messages that promote the protection of children and against the use of child soldiers.

The North Darfur Director for Social Welfare, Omda Mohammed Abakar, pointed out that El Nasri centre is one of five centres in North Darfur that accommodates former child soldiers while reintegrating them into the community. Since 2009, more

than 200 former child soldiers have received support during the reintegration process. “Most of these children have now been enrolled in secondary schools and University as well as received vocational training,” he added.

Other speakers including the North Darfur Minister of Social Affairs, Fatima Ibrahim Ahmed, and the Director of the Centre, Abdullah Muktar Habis, expressed appreciation to UNAMID and UNICEF for its efforts aimed at the protection of children. They also requested for more support in the provision of additional classrooms. On her part, the Minister of Social Affairs also disclosed that the Ministry will implement a plan on the protection of children in the region for

the period 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

On behalf of the former child soldiers, Mohammad Hassab El Kareem Zarq explained that he received vocational training through the centre, and he thanked UNAMID, UNICEF and the Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission for their support.

“Concerted efforts to eradicate child soldiering in Darfur have gone a long way thanks to the overwhelming support received from communities, authorities and genuine cooperation by all parties to the conflict. The protection of children is at the heart of peace in every society,” said Boubacar Dieng, UNAMID Head of Child Protection. ■

Darfur Youth Enroll in UNAMID-Funded Training Programme



On 10 December 2014, students sitting in the opening ceremony of a three-month vocational training programme funded by UNAMID’s Community Based-Labour Intensive Program (CLIPs). The programme was given to 120 youth including women and persons with disabilities. Photo by Mohamed Mahady, UNAMID.

On 10 December 2014, a three-month vocational training for 120 youth including women and persons with disabilities, funded by UNAMID’s Disarmament, Demo-

bilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section, started in El Fasher, North Darfur. The programme being held at El Fasher Technical School is part of the Mission’s Commu-

nity-based Labour-Intensive Projects (CLIPs) designed to address the needs of youth and other vulnerable groups at risk of being mobilized into armed movements and criminal groups due to lack of education, employment and basic life skills.

The opening session was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education, the school headmaster, youth representatives and UNAMID officials.

Addressing the opening, UNAMID’s DDR representative Joseph Ekwale stressed on the importance of such a programme for the youth in particular. He urged them to put in all their efforts in the training adding that when they complete the programme, they will be part of a productive so-

ciety. “There is no future development without the youth and there can be no development without peace,” he said.

In his remarks, the Head of the School, Adam Khalifa, explained that the objective of the programme is to enable the youth to join the labour market, build capacity and contribute to poverty reduction in the society. Mr. Khalifa thanked UNAMID DDR Section for their efforts to support the youth in Darfur.

On behalf of the youth, Saleh El Sheikh Agabaldour, emphasized the importance of skills development among youth who represent about 48 per cent of the population. He called for more collaborative efforts to empower them in the state to be able to contribute to the community. ■