

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Chief Pays Tribute to Fallen Senegalese Peacekeepers



On 15 October 2013, UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas visited the Mission's regional headquarters in El Geneina, West Darfur, following a 13 October ambush that led to the death of three UNAMID peacekeepers from the Senegalese Formed Police Unit. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 15 October 2013, UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas visited the Mission's regional headquarters in El Geneina, West Darfur, following a 13 October ambush that led to the death of three UNAMID peacekeepers from the Senegalese Formed Police Unit.

During the commemoration ceremony, the JSR commended the bravery of Mission personnel who died while trying to bring peace to Darfur. "We are here to remember these brave peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifice while helping the vulnerable people of Dar-

fur," the JSR said. "Their sad loss is painful to all of us, but we are here to remember them on this holy day, the first day of Eid al-Adha."

The JSR noted that he is carrying a personal message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and his Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous. "They both asked me to convey their deepest sympathies and encourage you to continue to resolutely discharge the noble duty you came to perform of protecting the vulnerable populations and working for peace in Darfur," he said. ■

Statement by UNAMID Chief on African Human Rights Day

The African Human Rights Day is an annual opportunity to celebrate and advocate the full enjoyment of all human rights by everyone across the African continent. The success of this quest is the collective responsibility of all: African men and women, governments, institutions, non-governmental organisations and the entire civil society.

The presence of UNAMID and other international partners in Darfur is testimony to this endeavour. Different components and individuals of UNAMID are engaged, on a daily basis, in myriad activities; providing services in camps for internally displaced persons (IDP) and communities that are ameliorating the human and infrastructural capacity of various stakeholders. They work toward creating a more humane Darfur and to instill deeper awareness of human rights in the region.

Be it IDP leaders, women's representatives, youth mobilisers, native administrators, lead-

ers of faith groups, NGO members or officials of the state (the judiciary, police, penitentiary, military and intelligence services), the awareness and obligation to uphold human rights is an indispensable test to their individual and collective responsibility.

The fight against impunity and the timely rendering of justice remain veritable measures to indicate how successful we all are in ensuring that awareness and observance of human rights are gaining grounds in Darfur.

This year, our central theme is "the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights is our collective responsibility."

Over the past decade, Darfur has encountered considerable challenges. No doubt, the level of the conflict, which gravely impacted the human rights of the populace, has relatively declined. Yet far too many people, nevertheless, still face challenges to their rights.

The promotion and protec-



On 21 October 2013, UNAMID celebrated African Human Rights Day with more than 100 men and women from the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced people in North Darfur. The event, organized by UNAMID's Human Rights Section and Tigo Charitable Association, was designed not only to celebrate African Human Rights Day but also to raise awareness about female genital mutilation. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

tion of these rights—the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, to peaceful assembly and association, and to take part in government, fair trial, education, health care, peace and security are guaranteed by Article 25 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

If all Darfuris—women, men, youths, persons with dis-

abilities, IDPs, refugees, host communities, the poor and marginalised—have their fundamental rights adhered to, this would translate into a significant contribution to the peace and development of Darfur.

It is therefore our collective responsibility to ascertain the promotion and protection of these rights. ■

Women Discuss Doha Peace Document



On 8 October 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, women civil society representatives attend a UNAMID workshop to deliberate on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 8 October 2013, UNAMID brought together women representatives of civil society organizations from North Darfur to discuss those provisions in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) that are related to women. The objective of the workshop, organized by the Mission's Gender Advisory Unit, was not only to facilitate discussion but also to develop a unified position on issues related to women in the DDPD's implementation, establishing a framework for future dialogue on the peace process and strengthening relations among women groups.

Workshop participants highlighted the need for training along with the construction of new women's centres to create space to continue the peace dialogue. In addition, they called for more meetings between women's groups and the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), more representation of women in peace negotiations and more participation in the dialogue and reconciliation efforts of the Ajaweed (community leaders) council.

Addressing the workshop participants, the Chief of UNAMID's Gender Advisory Unit, Ms. Yegerawork Anga-

gaw, noted that the DDPD addresses the security, political, social and economic issues that are fundamental aspects of a sustainable peace process. These goals, she noted, can be achieved through continuous dialogue among different groups.

"UNAMID personnel recognize that women's civil society groups in Darfur have played a significant role in the Darfur peace process, particularly in terms of reconciliation and delivery of services to victims," she said. "I urge you all to come together for better coordination." ■

UNAMID Chief Condemns Murder of Peacekeeper in North Darfur

A UNAMID Military Observer from the Republic of Zambia died on 11 October 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, following an attack by armed men, who stabbed him and hijacked his vehicle. The incident occurred in the afternoon when the officer was parking a UNAMID vehicle in his private accommodation. The victim was immediately transferred to a UNAMID medical facility where he passed away later the same day.

"I condemn in the strongest terms this criminal and ruthless act," said UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas. "An attack on a peacekeeper is a war crime. UNAMID personnel are here in the service of peace and to protect the people of Darfur."

The JSR called on the Government of Sudan to apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice and extended condolences to the family and friends of the late peacekeeper and commended the sacrifices that UNAMID peacekeepers make in their constant effort to bring peace to Darfur. ■



EL FASHER, NORTH DARFUR

On 20 October 2013, in El Fasher, North Darfur, members of UNAMID's Police component load a coffin containing a fallen Senegalese peacekeeper to be flown to Khartoum and then repatriated to Senegal. Three Senegalese peacekeepers lost their lives in an ambush in West Darfur on the morning of 13 October, while escorting a water convoy from El Geneina to UNAMID's regional headquarters in West Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.