

# UNAMID BULLETIN

## All Parties Urged to Join Darfur Peace Effort



On 23 January 2014 in Khartoum, Sudan, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas briefs national and international media during a conference at the Mission's Khartoum offices. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

The security situation in Darfur deteriorated over the course of 2013 and remains volatile, a senior United Nations official told the Security Council on 23 January 2014, while calling on all sides to join negotiations aimed at achieving a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive peace for the people of the strife-torn region of Sudan. Recent months have also been marked by a significant worsening of the humanitarian situation, continued attacks on UN and relief personnel and limited progress in the implementation by the signatories of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous said in his briefing.

He said that while the signatories achieved some limited progress with the Doha Document—which forms the basis for a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive peace agreement to end the fighting that began in 2003—these successes did not yield direct and significant benefits to the general population of Darfur. “The parties must accelerate the imple-

mentation of outstanding provisions of the agreement, with an increased focus on tangible benefits to local communities, including the close to two million displaced,” he stated.

So far, the Government of Sudan and two major armed movements have committed to the Document: the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The Joint Special Representative of the African Union and the UN for Darfur, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, told the press in Khartoum, Sudan, on the same day that he will scale up efforts to pave the way for serious talks between the Government and those groups that have not yet signed the Document.

“The Mediation will explore every means possible—national, regional and international partners—to influence all sides to join the negotiating table to achieve the true comprehensive peace that the people of Darfur deserve,” said Dr. Chambas. “While overall peace and security is critical, the actual needs of the people on the ground can only be addressed by instituting a strong develop-

ment agenda that improves the socio-economic conditions in Darfur and encourages the return of the vast internally displaced and refugee populations languishing for over a decade in camps scattered across Darfur and neighbouring countries,” he added.

The total number of internally displaced people has increased to almost two million, with an estimated 400,000 people having been forced to flee new outbreaks of conflict last year, Mr. Ladsous noted in his briefing. “Protracted displacement, food insecurity and

a lack of basic services drive chronic vulnerability in the region,” he stated, adding that malnutrition rates are above emergency thresholds in all five of Darfur’s states and less than 10 per cent of the population has access to both clean water and improved sanitation.

Mr. Ladsous added that humanitarian needs are expected to remain high this year in Darfur, where an estimated 300,000 people have died since fighting between armed movements and Government forces and their allies began in 2003. A total of 3.5 million people, approximately 30 per cent of Darfur’s population, currently receive humanitarian assistance from the international community.

Highlighting the significant threats to UN and humanitarian personnel in the region, Mr. Ladsous reported that 16 peacekeepers were killed as a result of hostile acts in Darfur throughout 2013—a 50 per cent increase compared to the previous year. This brings to 57 the number of personnel killed since UNAMID was deployed in 2008. “The Government of Sudan must investigate and expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators,” he stressed. ■



On 23 January 2014, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous briefs the UN Security Council on Darfur, Sudan, at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Photo by Paulo Filgueiras, UN Photo.



## Training Programme Commences for North Darfur Prisons



On 27 January 2014, UNAMID, in collaboration with UNDP and the North Darfur Prisons Administration, launched a three-week training programme for more than 60 newly recruited prison staff. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

On 27 January 2014, UNAMID, in collaboration with UNDP and the North Darfur Prisons Administration, launched a three-week training programme for more than 60 newly recruited prison staff. The training, which is sched-

uled to conclude on 13 February, focuses on a human rights approach to prisons management and basic prison duties.

The programme is designed to furnish participants with practical knowledge so they can contribute to the rehabilitation

and reformation of offenders as a preparation for effective community reintegration. During the sessions, participants are scheduled to learn about standards for treatment of prisoners, prison systems management and other relevant issues.

Addressing the trainees, Mr. Jarius Omondi, UNAMID's Rule of Law Senior Corrections Officer, explained that the training will be useful to both employers and employees because it is designed to ensure efficiency and productivity. "The work of a prison officer deals primarily with corrections, which, in turn, entails rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration," he explained.

Colonel Ahmed Al-Bashir Juma, Director-General, North Darfur Prisons Administra-

tion, also addressed the trainees during the inaugural session. "Such a well-packaged training module will enable you to become fully competent prison officers," he said, encouraging the participants to learn as much as possible from the sessions.

The workshop is part of a strategic plan UNAMID and its partners have set up to protect Darfuri society by keeping criminal offenders in secure custody while rehabilitating and reforming them so that they can successfully reintegrate into their communities upon their release. The plan not only involves support for training activities, but also includes development and infrastructural aspects, such as projects to refurbish detention centres and provide technical support. ■

## UNAMID Head Emphasizes Peace, Reconciliation in West Darfur

On 25 January 2014, UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas concluded a two-day visit to El Geneina, West Darfur, where he met with local authorities and participated in the Social Peace Conference organized by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA).

Addressing the opening ceremony of the three-day conference, which was attended by diverse participants, JSR Chambas underlined the significance of peace and reconciliation among all tribes of Darfur. "I would like to reaffirm today UNAMID's support for social peace and reconciliation initiatives in Darfur, within the scope of our mandate and capacity," he said.

The head of UNAMID emphasized that signing peace agreements is not enough. "The real work begins only after that, while putting to prac-



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tice what we have pledged," he stated. "Out of war, trust must be rebuilt, both among the different communities that have been in conflict, and among people and their Government institutions."

The JSR noted that such

conferences presented a platform for discussing how conflicts started and what would be needed to build trust. During a meeting with the Governor (Wali) of West Darfur, Haidar Mohammed Adam Atim, JSR Chambas assured him of the

Mission's commitment and cooperation with the State Government to provide better services to the people. He mentioned that the time had come to build Darfur and provide infrastructure projects after 10 years of conflict. ■