

VOICES

of Darfur

OCTOBER 2014

Multiple Unities

An Interview with
Ahmed Jamaleldin

**A Conversation with
UNAMID's Outgoing JSR**

*Mohamed Ibn Chambas on the
way forward*

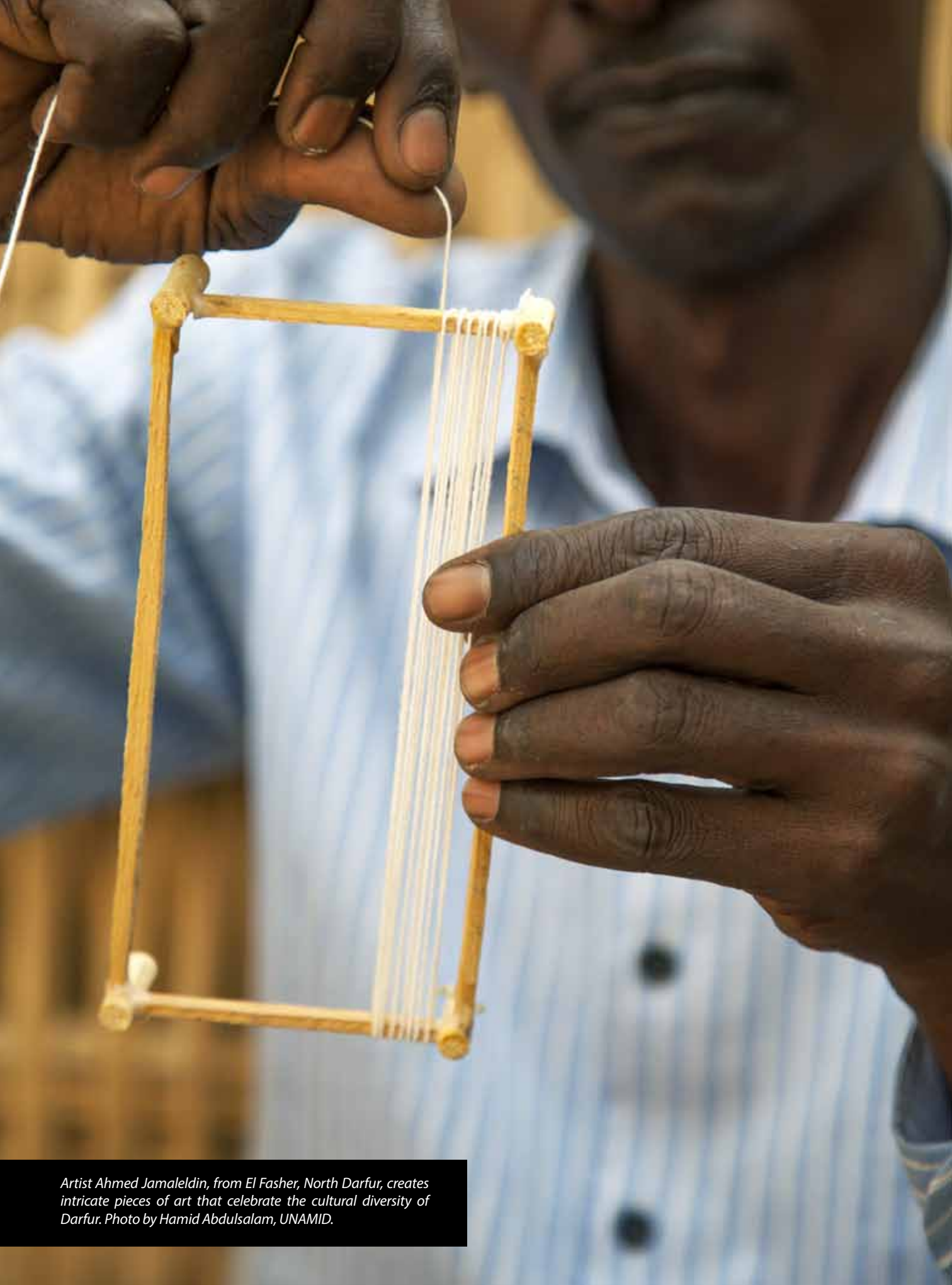
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Sport in Darfur**

*Sport-based events as a
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*Police Advisers establish trust,
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Artist Ahmed Jameleldin, from El Fasher, North Darfur, creates intricate pieces of art that celebrate the cultural diversity of Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm pleased to introduce the October 2014 issue of *Voices of Darfur*, which, like other issues of *Voices*, contains news, features and interviews not only about unique aspects of life in Darfur but also about UNAMID's ongoing efforts to facilitate lasting peace in the region.

This issue includes two interviews, first an exclusive with UNAMID's outgoing Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator. In the interview, JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas provides insight into his strategic perspective on the challenges faced by the Mission as well as an inside look at some of the transformative developments he has worked to achieve. Mr. Emadeldin Rijal conducted the second interview, our cover feature, with Ahmed Al Mustafa Jamaeldin. In the interview, Mr. Jamaeldin talks with *Voices* about the essentially Darfuri nature of his craft and shares his thoughts on the impact of the arts on Darfur's social fabric.

In "Enhancing Rule of Law, Justice Mechanisms in Darfur," Mr. Emadeldin Rijal describes how strengthening and restoring rule of law institutions, including traditional justice mechanisms and prison facilities, constitute a core aspect of UNAMID's work in Darfur. Mr. Rijal explores how the Mission, through its Rule of Law Section and Prisons Advisory Unit, has made consistent efforts toward ensuring timely access to justice for conflict-affected communities by collaborating with local institutions including the judiciary, prisons, the Bar Association and other relevant stakeholders.

In "Police Patrols Ensure Safety, Security for Darfur's Communities," Ms. Sharon Lukunka de-

scribes how UNAMID's Police Advisers continue to reinforce safety of innocent civilians by patrolling communities; advising local police services; ensuring compliance with international human rights standards and restoring and promoting public safety as well as the rule of law. The Mission has deployed police personnel in 14 team sites who are tasked with establishing trust and building confidence among the local populations, while enabling them to lead a secure life.

In "Playing for Peace: Sport in Darfur," Mr. Rijal describes how, in a bid to foster bonds of kinship, mutual respect and a culture of peace among Darfuris, UNAMID, in collaboration with international nongovernmental organizations, UN agencies and the Ministries of Culture, Youth and Sports, has launched various sport-based initiatives. As Mr. Rijal illustrates, many of these initiatives target Darfuri youth and create a neutral platform for young people to participate in events that promote teamwork, cutting across existing barriers and divisions.

Finally, in "The Culture of Tea in Darfur," Mr. Hamid Abdulsalam presents a photo essay designed to highlight the special position tea drinking holds in Darfuri culture. A great deal of prestige is attached to the taking of tea by Darfuris, to the extent that people here have coined the phrase *Haflat Shai*, which, when translated into English, signifies a "tea ceremony."

As *Voices of Darfur* continues to evolve as a news magazine, we welcome your feedback. To send comments by email, please put "Letters to the Editor/*Voices of Darfur*" in the subject line and send the email to: unamid-publicinformation@un.org.

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ON THE COVER



Artist Ahmed Jamaeldin, from El Fasher, North Darfur, is pictured in his studio showing an example of his work. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.



A young Darfuri girl is pictured in the Zam Zam camp for internally displaced people in North Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.



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UNAMID JSR Meets Senior Sudanese Officials Regarding National Dialogue, Briefs AU Peace and Security Council



UNAMID JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas is pictured in a recent meeting. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 11 September 2014, UNAMID's Joint Special Representative (JSR), Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, met with Dr. Eltigani Seisi, Chair-

person, Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) and Dr. Amin Hassan Omer, Head, Darfur Peace Follow-up Office, and briefed them on the positive

outcomes of the tripartite meeting between himself, the Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) which took place in Doha on 9 September. The UNAMID Head mentioned particularly the ongoing efforts to bring non-signatory movements together in order to facilitate the proposed National Dialogue.

Following these meetings, JSR Chambas, on 12 September, briefed the African Union Peace and Security Council on Darfur in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he outlined recent mediation efforts undertaken by him in collaboration with AUHIP, the UN Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan (SESSS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and

the Arab League. He focused on ways of integrating the Darfur peace process into the broader opportunity presented by the National Dialogue Initiative announced by President Al-Bashir earlier this year. He reiterated the imperative for finding a political solution to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Darfur while addressing existing security challenges.

He also recommended to the Council the integration of mediation efforts in Darfur, in particular, and Sudan, in general, into one robust mechanism, under the leadership of President Thabo Mbeki, the Chairperson of the AUHIP, in order to harness the respective strengths of the AUHIP, UNAMID, SESSS, IGAD, Qatar and the Arab League into a synchronized, coherent and programmatic mediation structure. ■

UNAMID Celebrates International Day of Peace

On 21 September 2014, UNAMID celebrated the International Day of Peace, commemorated worldwide on this date every year, at the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in El Fasher, North Darfur.

The event, which included drama performances and the singing of peace songs, was attended by thousands of students, community members, Government representatives, representatives of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) and UNAMID staff.

UNAMID representative, Mr. Aderemi Adekoya, Chief,

UNAMID's DDR Section, read the UN Secretary-General's message on the occasion where he urged all Darfuris to work toward peace, stability and development across the region.

Mr. Adekoya reaffirmed the Mission's commitment toward its mandated aims of aiding the ongoing peace process, protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian assistance in Darfur.

He also mentioned that UNAMID will continue its efforts toward inducting non-signatory armed movements into the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). ■



On 21 September 2014, members of a drama group perform a play in Abu Shouk IDP camp, El Fasher, North Darfur, during the International Day of Peace celebrations. Photo by Mohamad Almahady, UNAMID.

UNAMID Meets Local Leaders, Urges Reconciliation between Feuding Tribes across Darfur



On 16 September, UNAMID, WFP, OCHA and UNICEF met with community leaders, youth and women's groups as well as representatives of NGOs and INGOs operating in Adila locality, East Darfur. Photo by Abdulrasheed Yakubu, UNAMID.

On 16 September 2014, as part of ongoing efforts to diffuse tension between the Ma'alia and Reizeigat tribes, UNAMID, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and OCHA conducted an assessment visit to Adila locality in East Darfur to evaluate the security situation in the area. This is the first time that such a mission has been undertaken since clashes erupted between these two tribes in 2013.

During the visit, the team met with community and administrative leaders as well as with representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) operating in the area. The local leaders requested for humanitarian assistance and basic services including education, health, food and non-food items.

Addressing the community, UNAMID Head of Office in East Darfur, Mr. Landing

Badjie, reiterated the Mission's commitment to support the peace process and appealed to the tribal leaders, youth and women's groups to embrace peace efforts as well as reconcile their differences.

Earlier this year, on 28 August 2014, following a recent rift between the Reizeigat and Ma'alia tribes, tribal leaders of South, East and Central Darfur met with Mr. Badjie, and representatives of the Civil Affairs and Public Information sec-

tions in El Daein, East Darfur. The visiting delegation was led by the Shartai (leader) of the Fur tribe and the Federal Minister for Education, Dr. Farah.

During the meeting, attending groups agreed to a cessation of hostilities and discussed the possibility of a reconciliation conference.

In another similar initiative, on 21 August 2014, the UNAMID JSR, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, visited Nyala, South Darfur, to defuse tension in the area following recent security operations carried out by State authorities in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and to coordinate with local authorities on tribal reconciliation and community development. During the two-day visit, Mr. Chambas met with Government authorities, IDP leaders and representatives of UN agencies operating in the state.

The Head of UNAMID urged the IDPs with whom he spoke to participate in Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation process and to impress upon leaders of the non-signatory movements to participate in the national dialogue as a means to achieve comprehensive peace. ■

UNAMID Continues to Take Preventive Medical Measures against Ebola

On 21 September 2014, UNAMID reiterated in an official announcement its ongoing preventive efforts to safeguard against Ebola.

On 9 September, UNAMID advised its contractors to restrict travel of their staff to countries declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as Ebola-affected (Guinea, Sierra Leone,

Liberia and Nigeria). This is part of the Mission's efforts to preclude even the remote possibility of the disease entering Sudan.

A team from the Federal Ministry of Health visited UNAMID's Medical Section and inspected the facilities and level of preparedness of the Mission to prevent and combat the disease. Fol-

lowing the visit, UNAMID received a letter from the North Darfur State Ministry of Health expressing satisfaction with the measures and facilities the Mission has in place and appreciating the active role UNAMID plays in the collective effort to support the state in preparedness and prevention controls.

All UNAMID personnel travelling to and from West Africa have to undergo strict medical procedures with UN-certified medical staff before their departure to West Africa, prior to their return to Sudan and yet again upon their return to the Mission. There have not been any recorded or suspected cases of Ebola among UNAMID's personnel. ■

UN Chief Welcomes Steps toward Holding of Sudanese National Dialogue

On 5 September 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the initiative of holding a comprehensive national dialogue in Sudan to achieve sustainable peace as well as the progress being made by Sudanese stakeholders to prepare for this process.

Mr. Ban, in a statement issued by his spokesperson, welcomed, in particular, the signing of an agreement between representatives of the G7+7 Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue and the Paris Declaration Group, comprising the National Umma Party and the armed movements.

“The Secretary-General encourages all stakeholders,

particularly the Government, to ensure the creation of a conducive environment for an inclusive, transparent and credible dialogue, as envisaged in the agreement signed today,” said his spokesperson.

Mr. Ban stressed that a fully-inclusive, free and transparent dialogue is critical to address the root causes of the recurrent crises in Sudan and achieve sustainable peace.

He commended the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by President Thabo Mbeki, for its tireless efforts in helping the Sudanese find a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Sudan, and reiterated the continued support of the United Nations to this process. ■



The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the initiative of holding a comprehensive national dialogue in Sudan to achieve sustainable peace in Darfur. Photo by UN Photo (file photo).

UNAMID Force Commander attends final security arrangements for JEM-Sudan combatants



On 3 September, UNAMID Force Commander, Lt. General Paul Mella, attends the final security arrangements for JEM-Sudan, in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 3 September 2014, the UNAMID Force Commander, Lt. General Paul Mella, attended the final security arrangements exercise for Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)-Sudan combatants

which took place in Gadeed Al-sail in El Fasher, North Darfur. The combatants went through assessment and registration processes; these processes are aimed at registering combatants, inspecting equipment and

other assets of the movement. They also involve reintegration into the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) as well as disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants who are not suitable to join the SAF.

“This is a significant step in the implementation of the final security arrangements as stipulated in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) in particular and the peace process in general,” said the Force Commander, on the occasion.

On 1 September, 2014, the Sudan Final Security Arrangements Commission began the second phase of implementing the final security arrangements for JEM-Sudan combatants as stipulated in the DDPD.

JEM-Sudan is the second armed movement to renounce violence and sign a peace agreement on 6 April 2013 in Doha with the Government of Sudan on the basis of the DDPD. The Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) was the first armed movement to conclude a peace deal on 14 July 2011. ■

UNAMID Chief Updates Media on Darfur Situation

On 11 August 2014, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohammed Ibn Chambas addressed members of the media in a Khartoum press conference designed to offer an update about his recent consultations with the Security Council in New York, where he briefed Council members regarding the current situation in Darfur. The JSR described the increase in tribal conflicts, the humanitarian situation on the ground and UNAMID's technical, logistics and programmatic support to Government institutions and civil society groups.

During the press conference, Mr. Chambas outlined the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) progress, which included the formal launching of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) mechanism and the formation of a 17-member Implementation Committee to lead the process. In addition, he detailed the release by the State of Qatar of US\$10 million out of the pledged US\$88 million to finance the Darfur Development Strategy's projects, and highlighted the additional steps taken toward the verification and integration of Liberation and Justice Movement and Justice and Equality Movement (Sudan) combatants under the DDPD security arrangements.



On 11 August 2014, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohammed Ibn Chambas addressed members of the media in a Khartoum press conference. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

The UNAMID Chief highlighted his efforts as Joint Chief Mediator and also indicated that the Mission's work has been refocused around three strategic priorities defined by the Security Council: protection of civilians; facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and mediation between the Government of Sudan and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the DDPD, while taking into account ongoing democratic transformation at the national level and necessary support for the mediation of communities in conflict.

The UNAMID Head said that the members of the Security Council were supportive of UNAMID's efforts to assist in the implementation of the DDPD and stressed the importance for the parties to fulfill their commitments if the DDPD and its supporting structures are to have a lasting impact.

Mr. Chambas noted that the Security Council noted with concern the upsurge in inter-communal conflict and urged UNAMID to continue with its robust protection strategy.

Finally, Mr. Chambas said he has intensified coordination with the Af-

rican Union High-level Implementation Panel and the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General to Sudan and South Sudan, as called for by both the African Union Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council. A proposed meeting, he said, would involve the representatives of the armed groups and the Government of Sudan. He concluded by expressing his belief that the proposed national dialogue is an initiative that deserves support and engagement by all Sudanese and the international community. ▀

Mission Leaders Welcome Movement's Commitment to End Use of Child Soldiers

UNAMID leadership welcomed the new steps taken by the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) to prohibit the recruitment and use of child soldiers in its ranks.

The movement previously issued a command decree

to adhere to international norms and standards protecting children and the Sudan Child Act of 2010, and on 6 August 2014, outlined a formal operational mechanism that establishes an implementation committee not only to raise awareness about

the movement's prohibition of child soldiers but also to work with relevant organisations to reintegrate child soldiers into society.

This step comes after the command order was issued by SLA/MM leader Minni Minawi on 17 De-

cember 2013, following his participation in a workshop on peace and security in Darfur held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and co-organized by the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. ▀

UNAMID Head briefs AU Peace and Security Council on Darfur

On 9 July 2014, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas briefed the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) on the recent developments in Darfur, the mediation efforts and the implementation of the strategic review of UNAMID.

Mr. Chambas said that although there has been a pause in fighting between the main factions in recent weeks, the proliferation of militia groups and attendant criminality and banditry continue to be a source of major concern.

The Head of UNAMID explained that inter-communal violence in Darfur continued mainly with renewed fighting between tribes competing for

resources and retaliating for acts of criminality. He added that insecurity and intermittent restrictions of movement by Government forces, armed movements and militia groups continued to present sporadic challenges to effective and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians.

Mr. Chambas said he is working with the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan to develop a framework for harmonization of the mediation efforts as mandated by the AUPSC and the United Nations. "I have urged both the Government of Sudan and the armed move-



On 27 May 2014 at UNAMID headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas speaks during a meeting of the Mission's senior management. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

ments to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the proposed national dialogue to resume political and peaceful negotiations, bring an end to the fighting and usher in lasting peace in Darfur," he noted.

The JSR further explained that in accordance with the

new strategic priorities of the Mission recommended in the comprehensive review of UNAMID, the Mission has undertaken concrete measures to refocus its activities and resources to achieve greater effectiveness and cost-efficiency. ■

Three Humanitarian Workers Released in North Darfur



On 19 July 2014, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas welcomes UNICEF worker Mustafa Abdalla Adarge, one of the three Sudanese humanitarian workers abducted in Kutum on 18 June 2014. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 19 July 2014, three Sudanese humanitarian workers abducted on 18 June 2014 in Kutum, North Darfur, were freed in the same locality after 32 days in captivity.

Mustafa Abdalla Adarge, working with UNICEF, and Mohamed Abu Elgassem and Ahmed Elsayed, working with the international NGO, Goal, were immediately taken to the Mission's

hospital in Kutum, for medical checks.

UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas expressed the Mission's gratitude to the Government of Sudan, Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services and the Governor of North Darfur for their valuable assistance in the safe release of the humanitarian workers. ■

Peacekeepers Commemorate Nelson Mandela Day

On 17 July peacekeepers from UNAMID commemorated Nelson Mandela Day at a primary school in Al Salaam camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near El Fasher, North Darfur.

The occasion was marked by a Darfuri music performance, cultural presentations by UNAMID's South African and Rwandese contingents and a tree-planting ceremony. Also, in the spirit of giving consistent with Mandela Day, the Mission's

peacekeepers are renovating one of the classroom buildings at one of Al Salaam's schools.

Addressing the participants, the Director of the IDP camp, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Nourain, said Nelson Mandela Day represents justice, democracy and freedom. "With stability, we can be able to return to our original villages; if we manage to return, we can contribute to the welfare of the community as well as the economy," he said. ■



UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative, Mr. Abiodun Bashua, delivers a speech during the Nelson Mandela Day celebrations in Al Salam IDP camp, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

INTERVIEW

Mohamed Ibn Chambas: “UNAMID’s successes are often overlooked...”

Mohamed Ibn Chambas, outgoing Joint Special Representative for UNAMID, speaks about the Mission’s mandate, his role as Joint Chief Mediator and his hope that Darfuris will be able to enjoy the benefits of sustainable peace.

BY JUMBE OMARI JUMBE



Outgoing UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas is pictured working in his office at the UNAMID Headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

In October 2014, the outgoing Head of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, speaks about UNAMID’s significant achievements in the implementation of a key aspect of the Mission’s core mandate: the protection of civilians in Darfur.

In a 30-minute interview with UNAMID’s Public Information staff, Mr. Chambas says he believes, judged by its mandated aims, UNAMID has performed “credibly.” He reveals that some two million displaced civilians in Darfur lead a relatively secure

life on account of UNAMID’s military and police component which patrol displaced persons’ camps and provide a secure environment to humanitarian workers.

Mr. Chambas leaves UNAMID after serving for one year and six months as the African Union and United Nations’ Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator in Darfur. Here, he provides an insight into his strategic perspective on the challenges faced by the Mission as well as an inside look at some of the transformative developments he has worked to achieve.

VoD: Why are you leaving the Mission, particularly at this time when your efforts toward bringing non-signatory movements together have started to bear fruit?

JSR Chambas: The mediation efforts that I engaged in here at UNAMID have been undertaken in collaboration with my colleagues and the Joint Mediation Support Team. My senior management has provided advice and guidance. I came to the Mission and met capable and committed staff—people who knew Darfur and Sudan

more than I could claim to have known. I am very appreciative of the support that I received from everyone at UNAMID, especially in terms of the political and mediation aspects as also the senior advisers who worked with me.

We are motivated by a mandate to try and bring the Sudanese together on a path of peace, to enable them to put several years of conflict behind them; our role is to facilitate peace. I hope that whatever has been achieved during my stay here will be built upon by my successors, much in the same way that I came to build on foundations laid by previous Joint AU-UN Chief Mediators.

VoD: How do you expect your successor to take forward the rapport you have established with the non-signatory movements?

JSR Chambas: I hope that the non-signatory movements will understand the need to explore possibilities for negotiated ceasefire and a cessation of hostilities. And, on the part of the Government, I hope there will be an inclination to put the conflict behind them and truly work toward achieving a cessation of hostilities. This would create a conducive environment for pursuing a national dialogue which, I believe, is the way forward for Sudan. A genuinely inclusive national dialogue will bring the Sudanese together in discussions regarding the future of their country. It will enable them to work together to build their country.

VoD: Could you sum up your accomplishments during your time as Head of the Mission with regard to the implementation of UNAMID's mandate?

JSR Chambas: The Mission's core mandate has been protection of civilians. If you measure the performance of the Mission against this key issue, the conclusion you will draw is that UNAMID has performed credibly. The men and women who constitute UNAMID's military, police and civilian components need to be commended for delivering on this core mandate.

In Darfur we have at least two million displaced civilians currently. It is UNAMID's duty to ensure that the displaced are



On 10 February 2014, the AU-UN JSR/JCM Mohamed Ibn Chambas met with the leaders of Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid, Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement-Gibril Ibrahim to follow up on the outcomes of the technical workshop on peace and security in Darfur held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2013. The meeting took place during a three-day visit to Kampala, Uganda. Photo by Luce Remy, UNAMID.

able to live their lives and go about their normal duties without harm or intimidation.

If you look at the casualty rates within the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, they are relatively less in number because UNAMID troops are patrolling these camps on a daily basis. UNAMID police are present in these camps; our civilian personnel are there engaged in human rights, civil affairs and humanitarian activities. UNAMID regularly provides security to humanitarian convoys and humanitarian workers in these camps to ensure the displaced get their food rations.

These successes are often overlooked when pitted against, maybe, an occasional, unfortunate incident.

By and large, UNAMID is fulfilling its mandate in providing protection to the vulnerable. In one particular instance, we opened our gates for more than 4,000 IDPs, ensured their safety and then, once the violence had subsided, we constructed a new camp for them, where they live now.

Let me cite another example. Earlier this year, there was heightened violence

and the international attention was once again focused on Darfur. I am proud to say that many civilians who were unfortunately displaced turned to UNAMID team sites.

On many other occasions, thousands came to live around the perimeter of the Mission's team sites. We accommodated the displaced and arranged for humanitarian services to be provided—food, water, medication, and so forth—until they felt secure enough to move to the IDP camps and, in some cases, even back to their communities. UNAMID has amply demonstrated its capacity, ability and determination to meet the mandate of protection of civilians, especially when we were really tested during February up to early May 2014.

VoD: We are now operating on a revised mandate, revised priorities. How do you think the streamlined Mission structure will impact UNAMID's ability to protect civilians effectively?

JSR Chambas: Well, here I want to commend the Force Commander, the Police Commissioner, all senior officers and forces on the ground. They have taken into



On 16 December 2013, (left to right), the Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar, Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, and UNAMID JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas address the media at a press conference held after the seventh meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC), established by the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), at the UNAMID Headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

“A genuinely inclusive national dialogue will bring the Sudanese together in discussions regarding the future of their country.”

account the reduced numbers, restructured their operations and come up with new standard operating procedures that give them more flexibility in terms of deployment of their men and women in the field. This has been very helpful.

Yes, UNAMID, at this point, is short by few battalions. Some battalions that were reduced have not been replaced because of delays in approvals from the Government of Sudan. I want to appeal to the Government to accelerate these approvals so that we can have the full component of troops that have been approved for the Mission.

VoD: Your time as JSR has been described as a very successful period for UNAMID. What were some major challenges you faced on the ground?

JSR Chambas: The challenges of working in Darfur are known. First of all, this is a remote part of Sudan with a harsh geographic environment. Secondly, there is poor infrastructure; it almost impossible to move around by road during certain times of the year. We also often face administrative challenges from the Government’s

side. There are delays in approvals of visas for UNAMID personnel or procurement of contingent-owned equipment for the Mission. These challenges often hinder our capacity and ability to operate within the Mission area.

VoD: Could you tell us a bit about important issues faced by the Mission while interacting with the host government?

JSR Chambas: There are more of perception issues. There is an expectation that UNAMID or the UN would be more involved in development activities. This is an issue that has often been raised. I say this is a misunderstanding because the Mission’s mandate is not about engaging in development, it is about protecting the civilian populations of Darfur within a context where these civilian populations are caught in a conflict between rebels, Government authorities and numerous militia groups.

This is the principal context in which UNAMID was deployed and it also includes, of course, working to improve human rights, the rule of law and addressing some of the fundamental issues of marginalization in Darfur.

The UN does engage in development activities in Darfur, but through a different component—the UN Country Team which includes UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and other UN agencies. Many of these are deployed in Sudan and they wish they could have the access and the ability to move freely in Darfur and contribute to developmental activities here. However, this is not UNAMID’s mandate.

Even the Mission’s revised mandate brings on board UNAMID’s efforts in mediating local conflicts. Since the time that I have been in Darfur, ethnic conflicts, particularly inter-Arab conflicts, have been a primary cause of insecurity, leading to the displacement of many. Because of this, both the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council revised UNAMID’s mandate giving us the additional responsibility to mediate in these inter-communal conflicts by working with local- and state-level authorities, the DRA and the Government of Sudan.

VoD: Another important aspect of your work here is bringing non-signatory movements to the peace process. How would you rate your success on this front?

JSR Chambas: I think we have come a long way. When I arrived, many non-signatory movements did not want to deal with UNAMID and harbored misconceptions about UNAMID’s role in Darfur. Therefore, it was our duty to apprise them that UNAMID is here to facilitate dialogue between the movements—the non-signatories—and the Government in an objective, honest and transparent manner. We informed the Government about our intentions and reached out to the non-signatories to assure them that, in our estimation, the time has come to put conflict behind us and to move toward a negotiated political resolution of the crisis in Darfur.

I came to Darfur after a decade of ongoing conflict and kept reminding all involved parties that, according to me, no side can really claim a military victory. In this context, it is prudent to seek a negotiated solution for the sake of the suffering people of Darfur who have been victims of these clashes.

VoD: UNAMID is a unique mission on account of its hybrid, collaborative nature. What are the lessons learned from this partnership?

JSR Chambas: I think the partnership needs to be strengthened. The cooperation between regional organizations and the UN was foreseen even by the drafters of the UN Charter some 60 years ago, long before regional organizations became a prominent feature within international communities, as is the norm today.

UNAMID, in my view, is a good example of the UN working with regional organizations, in this case, the African Union (AU), to tackle a common problem. It is a good model that, I believe, needs to be explored more.

The AU brings its strengths to the table, especially its good relationship with Sudan. It is, in my opinion, trusted more by the Government of Sudan and this needs to be harnessed in the efforts to bring the Sudanese government together with the rebels in the interest of sustainable peace. Meanwhile, the UN has tremendous resources that it has brought to play in terms of the deployment of the Mission.

There is a need to see how harmonization of efforts by these two organizations in Darfur. Additionally, I hope they work together in the future in tackling other African conflicts. This would then become a global model.

VoD: Is it because of the AU's relationship with Sudan that, when you briefed the AU and the UN Security Council, you proposed that mediation work should be conjoined with the AU High Level Implementation Panel?

JSR Chambas: This one reason. The other is that in mediation it is good to seek harmonization of different tracks to avoid overlap and, what is called, "forum shopping." Once the AU has taken the lead in appointing a High Level Implementation Panel of three former Heads of States, I think it is prudent to find a way to work within this umbrella.

Each side adds value and capacity. For instance, if you take the case of UNAMID, we have had longstanding contacts with the non-signatory movements and have built trust with them. So, we can play a role in bringing them into the mediation process while relying on the strength of former Presidents Thabo Mbeki (South Africa), Abdulsalami Abubaker (Nigeria) and Pierre Buyoya (Burundi), who have also been looking at the comprehensive, global context of the mediation efforts here.



On 24 June 2013, UNAMID Joint Special Representative, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, presents awards to football players during the closing ceremony of a community football competition in the Zam Zam camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), near El Fasher town, in North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

“UNAMID has amply demonstrated its capacity, ability and determination to meet the mandate of protection of civilians.”

Ultimately to have peace and security in Darfur, one should aim for all-inclusive, comprehensive peace and security across Sudan. If there is conflict in one part of the country, then, in a way, none of Sudan is really at peace. We want peace in all regions of Sudan so that it can be like any other country which seeks to consolidate unity, build democracy and prosperity for its people.

VoD: Do you believe that peace will come to Darfur?

JSR Chambas: I cannot imagine condemning the people of Darfur to perpetual conflict and instability. They have suffered long enough—from the short period I have been here, what I see cannot be a sustainable option. For this reason I would urge the Government of Sudan and the rebel movements to rethink their approach and find the political will and courage to use dialogue as the way out of the current conflict. I urge them to return to negotiations under the AU High Level Panel working with UNAMID and others to bring peace to Darfur.

There is great potential in this region and its people can do better in an environment of

concord and security. The international community, as I know, is also willing and able to support the cause of peace in Darfur.

In this regard, the Donor Conference, which was hosted by Qatar, has played an effective role in the quest for peace in Darfur. We got very positive responses and Qatar itself has made strong commitments for post-conflict reconstruction. But we must have peace to enable the Darfur Development Strategy (DDS) to be implemented for the benefit of the people of Darfur.

As I leave, my hope and my expectation is that peace will come to Darfur and that the people of Darfur will be able to enjoy the same amity and security as many other Africans across our continent.

VoD: Do you have a message for the people of Darfur, the parties to the conflict and to UNAMID?

JSR Chambas: I would urge everyone to strive hard to return Darfur to its former days when it was known as a land of peace and prosperity for everyone. Darfuris will have to learn to live together in harmony, and it is my hope that this will happen sooner, rather than later. ■

Enhancing Rule of Law, Justice Mechanisms in Darfur

Strengthening and restoring rule of law institutions, including traditional justice mechanisms and prison facilities, constitute a core aspect of UNAMID's work in Darfur and contribute toward establishing sustainable peace in the region.

BY EMADELDIN RIJAL



On 27 January 2014, a Sudanese police officer is pictured facilitating a lecture during a training session for newly recruited police officers, organized at the Police Headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, by UNAMID's Rule of Law Section and Prisons Advisory Unit, in collaboration with the Government of Sudan Prisons Administration and UNDP. Such training workshops are aimed at establishing and sustaining safe, secure and humane prison systems across Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

The ongoing conflict in Darfur, which has led to the displacement of thousands, has severely affected existing state institutions across the region. Jurisprudence, the police apparatus and prison facilities are key areas directly impacted by the prevailing insecurity in most parts of the region. In terms of judicial systems, very few formal courts in urban zones and rural courthouses in remote areas remain functional. Additionally, police stations and prisons are mostly dilapidated or completely destroyed. This

has resulted in grave delays in the dispensation of justice; many have to travel large distances to seek proper redress for their grievances or, in the event of a complicated legal situation, have to wait for protracted periods before cases are resolved.

Since 1999, strengthening and restoring rule of law institutions, in collaboration with host governments, constitute a core aspect of major United Nations peacekeeping operations and some special political missions as well. "Whenever rule of law mechanisms

fail or are absent or weak, people usually resort to violence to resolve issues and disputes. Also, when conflict breaks out, rule of law is usually the first casualty," says Ms. Francoise Simard, Chief, UNAMID Rule of Law (RoL) Section.

In this context, the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), through its RoL Section and Prisons Advisory Unit (PAU), continues to work toward ensuring timely access to justice for conflict-affected communities by collaborating with

the local institutions including the judiciary, prisons, the Bar Association and other relevant stakeholders. The objective is to strengthen key institutions so that they can play their role in the reinforcement of law and justice for all in Darfur, promote gender equality and human rights in general.

To this end, the construction of courthouses and rehabilitation of prison facilities in all five states remains a high priority for UNAMID RoL; this is facilitated through the Mission's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) programme. In Malha, North Darfur, for example, UNAMID's RoL Section partnered with Jibal Midoub Development Organization to build a new rural courthouse and bring judicial services closer to the people living here. The new courthouse was inaugurated by UNAMID's Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas on 1 May 2014.

In his speech at the event, JSR Chambas commended the partnership between UNAMID and the North Darfur judicial authorities. "Facilitating access to justice for remote and rural communities is the main purpose of this project," he said. "Today, we hand over this project to you to provide the opportunity for every man, woman and child to receive judicial services under Sudanese Law,"

he added. The JSR called the new courthouse "a significant step toward achieving peace, security and stability in Darfur," and noted that easy access to justice services promotes and reinforces the principles of rule of law, ensuring that ordinary individuals have readily available methods of addressing their grievances through peaceful and legal means.

In another instance, on 21 September 2014, UNAMID RoL sponsored the rehabilitation of rural court facilities in Zalingei, Central Darfur, and the construction of a perimeter wall. The project was designed to create a conducive working environment that will assist in resolving disputes and problems faced by the rural population in the area.

UNAMID has also extended its support to improve the prison system across Darfur. Prisons, in particular, suffer from overcrowding, lack of food, inadequate



On 1 May 2014, UNAMID JSR, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, is pictured at the inauguration of a new rural courthouse in Malha, North Darfur. UNAMID's RoL Section partnered with Jibal Midoub Development Organization to build the new courthouse and bring judicial services closer to the people living here. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

“Whenever rule of law mechanisms fail or are absent or weak, people usually resort to violence to resolve issues and disputes. Also, when conflict breaks out, rule of law is usually the first casualty.”

—Francoise Simard

medical amenities and poor sanitation. Such conditions place inmates at physical and psychological risk. UNAMID RoL has, therefore, undertaken strategic partnerships with local authorities which enable the Mission to engage with prisoners across Darfur, with a view to promoting human rights within the existing prison system. Moreover, such partnerships attempt to equip inmates with vocational skills to ensure their successful reintegration into society post incarceration and enhance their sense of wellbeing through various activities.

Most prison-oriented activities led by UNAMID RoL, such as cultural open days, training sessions and sport events, are designed to promote social reform and values of peaceful coexistence while, at the same

time, reduce stress among inmates, improve their general health and increase self-esteem. This constructive aspect was highlighted by Mr. Khalil Adam, Minister, Social Affairs, North Darfur, during his address to inmates of the Al Shala Federal Prison in El Fasher, North Darfur, at a week-long event organized by UNAMID in September 2013. In his speech, Mr. Adam urged inmates to view prison as a reformative institution rather than a punitive body, while exhorting the entire prison community—inmates and authorities—to assist in the social reintegration of the incarcerated.

In a bid to underscore the reformatory aspect of Darfur's prisons system, the RoL Section has conducted numerous training sessions designed to develop the capacity of



On 30 April 2013, UNAMID Corrections Officer, Ms. Mariam Gamous, is pictured with UN staff and national corrections officers outside the Juvenile Correction Home in El Fasher, North Darfur. UNAMID, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, works to strengthen key rule of law institutions so that they can play their role in the reinforcement of law and justice for all, promote gender equality and a human rights approach toward corrections. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

prison staff and police personnel and enable them to play a more effective role within their areas of responsibility.

During one such training session, newly recruited prison staff in El Fasher, North Darfur, was engaged in a three-week training programme on incorporating a human rights approach to prisons management and basic prison duties. The event took place from 27 January 2014-13 February 2014. The training session was designed to furnish participants with practical knowledge—standard minimum rule for the treatment of prisoners, key systems, management and control mechanisms, prison property management, and so forth—thereby enabling them to contribute to the rehabilitation and reformation of offenders in preparation for effective community reintegration.

“Such training initiatives are beneficial for everyone within the prison systems as they ensure efficiency and productivity,” said Mr. Jarius Omondi, Senior Corrections Officer, UNAMID RoL, speaking at the opening day of the training programme. He went on to explain that a prison officer’s duties involve corrections which, in turn, is a composite of rehabilitation, reformation

“Development of human resources is the surest way of professionalizing a workforce and sustaining the reformatory momentum of an institution to carry out its obligations in accordance with stipulated national and international standards.”

—Hassan Adam

and reintegration of the legally interned. The objective is to create conditions under which inmates can become productive citizens upon release, thereby reducing overall crime rates in society. “This sort of intensively packaged training is a necessary prerequisite to enable freshly recruited prison officers to become fully competent in the execution of their duties,” added Colonel Ahmed Juma, Director General, North Darfur Prisons Administration, while addressing the participants.

A similar event took place on 23 March 2014, in El Fasher, North Darfur, involving more than 30 prison officers from the five states of Darfur. The workshop, organized jointly by UNAMID PAU, the North Darfur States Administration and the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP), aimed at building the capacity of prison officers.

“Development of human resources is the surest way of professionalizing a workforce and sustaining the reformatory momentum of an institution to carry out its obligations in accordance with stipulated national and international standards,” says Mr. Hassan Adam, Senior Officer, UNAMID RoL, pointing out that such training workshops are the fulcrum for establishing and sustaining safe, secure and humane prison systems across Darfur.

Commenting on the need for such workshops and training endeavors, Colonel Ahmed Al-Bashir, Head, North Darfur Prisons Administration, states that, “We, as prison administration, count on such training workshops for rehabilitation of inmates

and for the overall development of the prisons system in Darfur.”

In a bid to highlight the reformative aspect of rule of law, UNAMID RoL also facilitated a training workshop entitled “Police Custody within State of Emergency,” on 23 September 2013, in Zalingei, Central Darfur. The workshop included police officers as well as lawyers, bringing together concepts of corrections and the legal framework within which prison systems operate. The objective was to examine the tangible threat to individual safety posed by illegal police custody and the need to strictly enforce the provisions of the criminal code in order to protect civilian populations against detention, torture and misconduct by uniformed personnel.

Apart from rehabilitation and reconstruction of courts and prison facilities and training endeavors for rule of law personnel, the RoL Section, along with its partners, continues its efforts to promote and revitalize traditional justice mechanisms. This also

falls within the revised Mission priorities which highlight UNAMID’s role as mediator in local-level disputes. “In order to have more impact, we have decided to concentrate more on empowering rural courts and judges,” says Ms. Simard. “We are working very closely with traditional justice systems and rural courts; such courts constitute the foundation of the judicial system in Darfur,” she adds.

According to Ms. Simard, while UNAMID RoL will continue to support the Special Court and the prosecution of crimes in Darfur, this bottoms-up approach will ensure necessary attention is given to community-based mechanisms of reconciliation and mediation in times of conflict. She also says she believes traditional systems of justice in Darfur are critical tools in the negotiation of disputes.

The Mission, in conjunction with its partners, has therefore conducted several capacity-building programmes to enable those employed by rural courts to act in

accordance with internationally accepted legal and human rights standards. Many rural courts have reopened across Darfur as a result of these attempts. “We have been engaging with the judicial system to reopen those courts that had shut down on account of the ongoing conflict here,” reveals Ms. Simard, while pointing out that the RoL Section has also supported the mobile court modality and the prosecution of criminals in an attempt to reduce impunity.

In addition to this, the RoL Section plays an active role in the ongoing peace process in Darfur. The Section has conducted a series of intensive training workshops geared toward disseminating the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) to a cross-section of participants including prison officers, law students and law enforcement officials from different localities of Darfur. These workshops and training sessions, which took place from February to July 2013, highlighted the role played by prison officers with respect to the justice and reconciliation aspect of the DDPD.

These training sessions are aimed at clarifying the role of the police in the implementation of the DDPD and strengthening the investigative skills of police officers to improve the services they provide in support of the office of the Special Prosecutor and the Special Court for Darfur Crimes. The main purpose of supporting these bodies is to ensure that those who have committed serious crimes are held accountable, while others are discouraged from doing the same. Furthermore, these workshops help introduce participants to contemporary issues of gender and juvenile justice, which are critical for peace building. At the same time, they underscore the invaluable role of the DDPD in working to bring about sustainable peace in Darfur.

Despite these efforts, judicial and legal systems in Darfur continue to face challenges; much remains to be done to ensure innocent civilians across this conflict-affected region can seek recourse within an impartial law and order framework. The Mission’s RoL Section, working in tandem with civil society organizations; international nongovernmental organizations; UN agencies; lawyers’ associations; and the Government of Sudan, therefore remains committed toward helping establish enhanced, stable justice systems throughout Darfur. ■

“We are working very closely with the traditional justice systems and rural courts; such courts constitute the foundation of the judicial system in Darfur.”

—Francoise Simard

On 1 September 2013, inmates and police officers of the Al Shala Federal Prison in El Fasher, North Darfur, dance to traditional music during the opening ceremony of the “Prison Social Week,” a five-day initiative designed to promote awareness on the role of prisons in facilitating the rehabilitation of inmates and preparing them for community reintegration into society through recreational activities. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.



Playing for Peace: Sport in Darfur

While the conflict in Darfur continues, sport-based initiatives are bringing together community members from across the region in a spirit of camaraderie and friendship.

BY EMADELDIN RIJAL



On 19 May 2014, young football players from El Sereif, North Darfur, celebrate the results of the final match of a football tournament organized by UNAMID as part of the “We need peace now” campaign. Choosing El Sereif as the venue for this event is significant as the locality recently witnessed violent clashes between community members regarding the Jebel Amir gold mines. This event acted as a bridge for opening channels of communication between community members. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Sport has been universally acknowledged as a valuable tool in settling differences between communities and promoting a spirit of peaceful coexistence. In Darfur, sport has taken on a special significance in recent times. The ongoing conflict in the region has displaced thousands and created rifts in the social fabric that run deep. In a bid to foster bonds of kinship, mutual respect and a culture of peace among Darfuris, the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), in collaboration with international non-

governmental organizations (INGOs), UN agencies and the Ministries of Culture, Youth and Sports, has launched various sport-based initiatives.

Many of these initiatives target Darfuri youth and create a neutral platform for young people to participate in events that promote teamwork, cutting across existing barriers and divisions. On 10 June 2014, one such event took place in Zalingei, Central Darfur, where more than 150 youth from different tribes in the area ran a marathon. The event was organized by UNAMID in partnership

with the Central Darfur Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. “It is good to get together in the spirit of friendly competition,” says Mr. Ashraf Abbaker, a 23-year-old participant who won a medal at the marathon. He reveals that the youth in the area had a positive, enthusiastic response when they heard of the event. “We resolved to take part in the marathon and contribute to its success,” he says, adding that he hopes young Darfuris will recognize the potential of sport to transcend political, social, economic and cultural differences.

“In most countries across the world, sport acts as a unifying factor helping bring people together despite the problems they face,” says Mr. Abdalla Khamis, Director General, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Central Darfur. “In Central Darfur, sport has proved to be effective in increasing interaction between members of different local communities and promoting a sense of solidarity among them, as demonstrated by the success of the marathon,” he adds. Additionally, Mr. Khamis says he believes that sport-centric events are a pivotal tool for driving the peace process forward and encouraging community development in Darfur, as they engage youth who may be at risk

of resorting to criminality or joining armed groups, in a positive fashion.

Another significant event that highlights this relationship between sport and community development took place in El Sereif, North Darfur, under the theme “Sports for Peace.” The event, organized by UNAMID in partnership with local sports authorities, included a football match, a volleyball tournament as well as horse racing, a popular Darfuri pastime, along with cultural programmes, concerts and traditional dance performances. It was aimed at strengthening social bonds at the grassroots level, and thousands of people from El Sereif and surrounding areas—women, men, children—attended this unique occasion.

Eight football teams participated in the tournament, with the team from Al Otash being crowned champion. “We are happy to have won the competition and this victory is dedicated to each and every citizen of El Sereif,” says Mr. Abdalla Abdurrahman, captain of the winning team, adding that every team that participated in the event, did so in the spirit of promoting peace and camaraderie.

Choosing El Sereif as the venue for this event is significant as the locality recently witnessed violent clashes between community members regarding the Jebel Amir gold mines. This led to mass displacements, destruction of property and infrastructure and loss of civilian lives. “The event allowed all of us to feel uplifted after the recent violence and acted as a catalyst for opening channels of communication between community members,” says Ms. Thuryia Ismail, a women’s representative from El Sereif.

Mr. Abdusamad Marji, Secretary for Culture, Youth and Sports in El Fasher, North Darfur echoes Ms. Ismail’s statement and says he believes that such events “inspire harmony among members of the community.” Similarly, Mr. Hussein Adam, Executive Manager, El Sereif locality, avers that such culture and sport-based events “continue to help support peace and stability.”

In continuation of its efforts to draw attention to the role of sport in peace building, UNAMID’s Community Outreach Unit (COU) also recently organized the Ramadan Football Tournament in different parts of Darfur during the month of July 2014. The tournament brought together teams from different communities across the region and celebrated peaceful coexistence during the holy month of Ramadan. The month-long event was targeted at enhancing the role of sport in disseminating the culture of peace across the region.

Young Darfuris, irrespective of their tribal affiliations or community leanings, have demonstrated a passion for sport in general and the Ramadan Cup in particular. “Despite

“In most countries across the world, sport acts as a unifying factor helping bring people together despite the problems they face.”
—Abdalla Khamis

On 19 May 2014, young football players from El Sereif, North Darfur, are pictured playing the final match of a football tournament organized by UNAMID as part of the “We need peace now” campaign. The event was sponsored by the Mission in partnership with local sports authorities. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.





On 24 July 2014, participating teams stand in line during the prize distribution ceremony of the Ramadan Football Tournament organized by UNAMID's Community Outreach Unit in the Tombassi area, El Fasher, North Darfur. The activities organized by the Outreach Unit during the month of Ramadan, including football tournaments, are designed to tap into the spirit of the moment to spread messages of peace and peaceful cohabitation. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

“Sport helps us in spreading messages of peace, driving social change and meeting the Millennium Development Goals.”

—Ban Ki-moon

the inherent competitiveness in any organized sport, the Ramadan Cup brought together participating teams and the spectators alike, in the spirit of peace, solidarity and tolerance,” says Mr. Mohammed Abdulhameed, the captain of the Balayil team. On a similar note, Mr. Ammar Yousif, captain of the Real Um Sweigo team says he believes that “such events help inculcate a sense of closeness and harmony among participating teams.”

While the winning teams were honored with cups and medals, the focus of the matches has been to enhance the spirit of peaceful coexistence among local communities. “Ramadan is a period of sober reflections; it is a time when people demonstrate love and peace toward each other,” says Mr. Reuben Inaju, Head, COU, UNAMID. The activities organized by UNAMID

COU during this time, including football tournaments, are designed to tap into the spirit of the moment to spread message of peace and peaceful cohabitation. “We also take advantage of the season to raise awareness on the Mission’s mandated tasks— protecting civilians, supporting the work of humanitarian actors and safeguarding their lives and supporting mediation efforts,” he adds.

Mr. Inaju also mentions the challenges faced in organizing outreach or sport-based events in Darfur on account of the volatile security situation. “One of the biggest trials we face is our inability to access all parts of the region and engage youth in such activities,” he reveals. However, Mr. Inaju says he believes in the power of sport to unite people. “The spirit of sportsmanship is the one spirit that, if imbibed by all, would

make our world a better place,” he avers. UNAMID also handed over sport kits and equipment to the participating teams during the tournament in a bid to highlight the significance of sport as a tool for promoting peace.

UNAMID’s Joint Special Representative (JSR), Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, commended those who participated in the event. “Let me thank the young people who have been engaged in this healthy competition, trying to see who will be the champion,” said UNAMID’s Head. “It is not important who wins; it is the spirit in which you have been playing together and enjoying yourselves that we have come to celebrate.”

It is this sense of solidarity and oneness, a unique feature of sport-based events, that UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, addresses in his message on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. “Sport helps us in spreading messages of peace, driving social change and meeting the Millennium Development Goals,” said Mr. Ban, urging people around the world to harness the potential of sport to build a better world for all. ■

Police Advisers Ensure Safety, Security for Darfur's Communities

UNAMID's Police component focuses on direct cooperation and coordination with Darfur's communities as well as the local policing framework to safeguard innocent civilians caught in the ongoing conflict in the region.

BY SHARON LUKUNKA



On 18 September 2014, UNAMID Police Advisers interact with Darfuris living in the Abu Shouk camp for displaced persons, El Fasher, North Darfur, during a morning patrol. The Mission's Formed Police Units (FPUs) conduct regular patrols in disturbed areas across the region to reinforce civilian safety. Photo by Sharon Lukunka, UNAMID.

The security situation in Darfur, while always a cause of concern, has witnessed a sharp increase in criminality in recent times. Innocent civilians have become victims of armed attacks and conflicts which have led to mass displacements. Additionally, frequent carjackings, kidnappings and attacks on United Nations (UN) personnel have created challenging circumstances for UNAMID and the humanitarian actors it facilitates.

One of the key actors in helping stabilize the volatile situation on the ground is the Mission's Police component. The UN has been deploying police officers for service in peace operations since the 1960s. Traditionally, the mandate of police components in peace operations was limited to monitoring, observing and reporting. From the early 1990s, advisory, mentoring and training functions were integrated into the monitoring activities. This

was to allow peacekeeping operations to act as a corrective mechanism with domestic police and other law enforcement agencies.

Over the years, the need for police personnel to help implement Security Council mandates has increased enormously. The number of UN police officers authorized for deployment in peacekeeping operations and special political missions has risen from 5,840 in 1995 to more than 13,500 in 2012.

In Darfur, a total of 1,302 Police



On 23 February 2014, a UNAMID patrol aimed at ensuring the safety and security of civilians in remote areas of Nyala, South Darfur, is pictured here. A total of 1,302 Police Advisers and 13 FPU, composed of 140 personnel each, from more than 30 different countries serve with UNAMID and are working round-the-clock to implement a core aspect of the Mission’s overall mandate—protection of civilians. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

“As Police Advisers, our job is to assist the local police, who hold the primary responsibility for implementing security measures across Darfur, and work with them work with them in a collaborative spirit to protect communities.”

—Mohammed Baki

Advisers and 13 FPU, composed of 140 personnel each, from more than 30 different countries serve with UNAMID and are working round-the-clock to implement a core aspect of the Mission’s overall mandate—protection of civilians.

UNAMID’s Police component has extended its support to Government of Sudan (GoS) police by assisting in providing security in and around displaced persons’ camps, towns and villages. The Mission’s Police Advisers conduct regular patrols in disturbed areas across the region to reinforce civilian safety. Additionally, peacekeepers are mandated to advise and train local police services and

work toward ensuring compliance with international human rights standards. The objective is to help restore and promote public safety and the rule of law in Darfur.

In this context, Mr. Mohammed Baki, Police Commander, Sector North, UNAMID, reveals that the Mission has deployed police personnel in bases across Darfur. These Police Advisers are tasked with establishing trust and building confidence among the local populations. Additionally, they are responsible for patrolling 18 localities around North Darfur. Police peacekeepers undertake many different kinds of patrols—night patrols, market patrols, firewood patrols, and so forth.

In El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur and home to UNAMID’s Headquarters, patrols are undertaken daily; the first morning patrol leaves the base at 8:00 a.m. , followed by others at equal intervals until 6:00 a.m. the next day. Patrol members are briefed by the team leader regarding approved routes as well as precautionary measures while on the road.

As has become customary, all patrols are required to stop at checkpoints guarded by GoS police officers, not only to request safe passage but also to interact with their local counterparts, discuss the security situation in the area as well as follow up on any particular security incident that might have occurred. As Commander Baki says, “As Police Advisers, our job is to assist the local police, who hold the primary responsibility for implementing security measures across Darfur, and work with them in a collaborative spirit to protect communities and ensure untoward incidents, especially when it comes to vulnerable groups such as women and children, are minimized.”

By and large, Darfuris, especially those living in the camps for the internally displaced, are familiar with the Mission's patrols. Most peacekeepers interact closely with the residents of these camps and community members going about their business—men who run small shops, women who work in the fields and children.

During a routine patrol around the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in El Fasher, North Darfur, Ms. Theresia Bir Che, a Police Adviser working with the Police component's Family and Child Protection Unit, approaches residents with a greeting of peace and enquires about the security situation in and around the camp during the last 24 hours.

On being informed that all has been calm, she moves on to the next order of the day—requests for assistance from the IDPs. Such requests mostly involve appeals for humanitarian assistance. In her role as Police Adviser, Ms. Che gives everyone a patient hearing and takes note of all requirements. "We listen to them and report their concerns to the relevant humanitarian agencies," she explains.

She encourages the women in the camp to keep their surroundings clean and free of stagnant water or flies in order to help prevent diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and so forth. Similarly, her colleague, Mr. Bakari Bojang, a community policing officer, speaks to the camp's residents regarding the importance of community policing and its contribution to increasing security for those living in the camp, underscoring the need for regular consultations with the local police to reduce criminality. Other officers on patrol guide and mentor Darfuris living in the camp regarding issues such as human rights, sexual and gender-based violence as well as the importance of education.

According to Ms. Che initially most people at these camps wanted UNAMID police personnel to hand over essential supplies such as food, medicine and so forth. "As Police Advisers interacting daily with local populations, we have tried our best to explain to them that the Mission's principal role here is to ensure their safety and security," she reveals.

However, Ms. Che says she believes that, with time, Darfuris have become more aware of UNAMID's mandated

tasks. "Now, local communities talk to us more freely and share any concern or issue that affects them," she reveals.

This ease of interaction can also be attributed to the community sensitization activities undertaken by UNAMID's Police component in IDP camps across Darfur. Each day during patrols, Police Advisers attempt to raise awareness on important issues, including health, education, family, law and order and human rights.

More importantly, female Police Advisers have had a positive impact on some of the most vulnerable members of Darfuri society—women and children. On account of their ongoing interaction with the Mission's women officers, many displaced women have participated in training sessions aimed at educating them on different issues including health, importance of education and prevention of harmful practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation.

Additionally, many Darfuri women residing in IDP camps have also

benefited from income-generating skills imparted by UNAMID's female Police Advisers. For example, on 12 September 2014, UNAMID's Police component organized an activity in the Zam Zam camp for IDPs where displaced women were taught how to cook different food and make drinks to sell in marketplaces.

The security patrols conducted by UNAMID police personnel across the region, thus, have become an essential part of the lives of the displaced community as they enable civilians to move freely and conduct their normal activities. As the Mission continues its efforts to secure lasting peace in the region, provision of security to innocent civilians caught in the ongoing conflict remains an overarching priority. As Mr. Sherif Tahiru, a Police Adviser, says, "Our presence is aimed at reinforcing the security situation in Darfur and contributing to a stable and secure environment. It is a difficult, complex task, but we are dedicated to the people living here." ■

"As Police Advisers interacting daily with local populations, we have tried our best to explain to them that the Mission's principal role here is to ensure their safety and security."

—Theresia Che

On 18 September 2014, a UNAMID Police Adviser is pictured while conducting a routine morning patrol to Abu Shouk and Al Salaam camps for displaced persons located in the outskirts of El Fasher town in North Darfur. Photo by Sharon Lukunka, UNAMID.



The Culture of Tea in Darfur

Tea, whether prepared at home or in one of the many tea stalls scattered across, is an essential component of life in Darfur. In this region of Sudan, as in other parts of the world, tea is a regular fixture at almost every meal.

BY HAMID ABDULSALAM

Tea is a national drink in Sudan, and holds a special position in the customs and tradition of the Sudanese. As Sudanese, the people of Darfur cherish tea drinking as an essential part of their daily lives. Usually most Darfuris say that one cannot function without a morning cup of tea. In the afternoon, tea is considered to be both refreshment and a relief to the body.

According to historians, tea, which is widely known in Arabic as *Shai*, was first introduced to Sudan by the Arabs through trading and also by the British, who ruled the country during the colonial era. As a result of these and other influences, tea has become an essential aspect of Sudanese culture, and is widely taken at every meal or special occasion.

A great deal of prestige is attached to the drinking of tea by Darfuris, to the extent that people here have coined the phrase *Haflat Shai*, which, when translated into English, signifies a “tea ceremony.” Such ceremonies are organized for special occasions, such as to celebrate a newly wedded couple. In a tea ceremony for newlyweds, for example, friends and family contribute money and give gifts.

It is common for people to serve a cup of tea to visitors or to anybody who has just dropped in. Tea is served at most workplaces in Darfur, and tea breaks in the morning and afternoon are considered to be important moments for socializing and discussing family issues or politics.

Restaurants, too, have various brands of tea listed on their menus. And it is common to see tea stands on the street corners in Darfur’s towns and villages. The tea business is thriving here, especially the small shops that are mostly run by women, who are called tea ladies, or *sit al shai*.

Tea ladies are found in all parts of Darfur, inside cultural centres and universities, and in all marketplaces. They

provide tea at relatively low prices, typically one Sudanese pound (15 U.S. cents) for a small cup of tea. “To be a good tea-seller, you need to keep an eye out for cleanliness and hygiene, keep your kettle constantly on the boil, serve good quality teas and understand your customers’ preferences,” says Ms. Leila Ahmed, who runs a small tea stall near UNAMID’s base in El Fasher, North Darfur.

Another popular tea lady in El Fasher, Ms. Amira Ibrahim, says she started her business more than eight years ago, selling different kinds of tea, including black, red (known as Hibiscus tea in English) and green. She flavours her tea with spices, such as mint, ginger and garlic.

Ms. Ibrahim is a widow and has five children. She uses proceeds from her small business to support her family. “I make about 150 to 200 Sudanese pounds per day, but my daily profit depends on the turnout of my customers,” she says. Among her frequent customers are local civil servants, traders, drivers, students and UNAMID personnel. She says she hopes that one day she will be able to expand her business and serve local Sudanese delicacies to her clients.

Another significant feature of the tea culture in Darfur is the tradition of holding tea sessions with family members or community elders. This is done with the sole purpose of the session serving as a platform to discuss solutions to family, community and national problems.

With tea occupying such a special place in Darfuri culture, it could well be that around the tables of the tea ladies and in the thousands of tea sessions and ceremonies held across Darfur each day, a lasting solution to the many problems plaguing the region will be found. ■



- 1 *A Darfuri drinks tea in the morning in El Fasher, North Darfur. In Darfur, tea is considered to be an important beverage that has health benefits. It is customary for Darfuris to drink tea at regular intervals, especially in the morning and afternoon, to refresh the body and socialize with friends and family.*
- 2 *Pictured here is tea served on a platter in traditional Darfuri style in El Fasher, North Darfur. A great deal of prestige is attached to the taking of tea by Darfuris, to the extent that people here have coined the phrase Haflat Shai, which, when translated into English, signifies a “tea ceremony.”*
- 3 *In El Fasher, North Darfur, Ms. Leila Ahmed prepares tea for her customers. Ms. Ahmed, who works as a “tea lady,” says she sells different kinds of tea to many customers throughout the day.*





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4 *Tea is served at most workplaces in Darfur, and tea breaks in the morning and afternoon are considered to be important moments for socializing and discussing family issues or politics.*

5 *Pictured here is Ms. Leila Ahmed, a tea stall owner who runs a small shop near the UNAMID base in El Fasher, North Darfur. Tea ladies are found in all parts of Darfur, inside cultural centres and universities, and in all marketplaces. They provide tea at relatively low prices, typically one Sudanese pound (15 U.S. cents) for a small cup of tea.*

6 *In Darfur, tea is the beverage of choice that is served to visitors. Tea is also served at most workplaces in Darfur, and tea breaks in the morning and afternoon are considered to be important moments for socializing and discussing family issues or politics.*

7 *In Darfur, the small tea businesses are mostly run by women, who are called tea ladies, or sit al shai. They are typically found on street corners, mostly under the shade of trees, or near offices and marketplaces.*

8 *Different kinds of teas are prepared in Darfur, including black, red (known as Hibiscus tea in English) and green tea. These are often flavoured with spices, such as mint, ginger and garlic.*



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Multiple Unities: An Interview with Artist Ahmed Jamaleldin

Noted shadowbox artist Ahmed Jamaleldin speaks to *Voices of Darfur* about the essentially Darfuri nature of his craft, the challenges he faces and the impact of the arts on the lives of people across this conflict-affected region.

BY EMADELDIN RIJAL



Noted shadowbox artist Ahmed Jamaleldin is pictured crafting a piece in his studio in El Fasher, North Darfur. He is one of the few Darfuri artists creating this intricate form of art. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

Popular shadowbox artist, Mr. Ahmed Al Mustafa Jamaleldin, has made his mark with intricately crafted pieces that depict the cultural diversity of Darfuri communities. Detailed miniatures imbued with traditional symbolism come together in his art to convey what, he says, is an expression of his hope for peaceful coexistence across this conflict-ridden land.

Born in 1975, Mr. Jamaleldin lives in El Fasher, North Darfur, and has received no formal education in the arts. His creative expression, according to him, stems from innate talent as well as a

desire to make Darfuri culture easily accessible to others.

In an interview with *Voices of Darfur*, Mr. Jamaleldin talks about his artistic process, what inspires him and the challenges he faces in the path to ensuring his work is an accurate record of the historical moments he seeks to illustrate.

VOD: Tell us a bit about how you started your journey in art.

Jamaleldin: From a very early age, I was drawn toward sketching and painting. I started participating in art competitions held at school and in other similar spac-

es, where I discovered that I had a knack for drawing; I always excelled in most of these platforms. In some time, I began copying great artists such as Leonardo da Vinci while also developing my skills through books designed to teach the basics of painting. Additionally, I regularly visited art exhibitions. My craft is essentially self-taught but all these early experiences helped shape my own creative vision and become ambitious enough to develop a signature mode of artistic expression.

VOD: Why is Darfur such a consistent focal point in your work?

Jamaleldin: I believe that the cultural heritage of Darfur lends itself to artistic interpretation. It is a rich resource encompassing many different aspects and never ceases to inspire me. Therefore, I gravitated toward shadowboxes. As an art form, the shadow box unites multiplicity within a single frame. It allows disparate elements to exist individually while also enabling them to come together in a harmonious whole. The shadowboxes I create are immersed in the customs and traditions of Darfur. Moreover, I mostly use locally available materials such as wood, clay, and so forth, to highlight ideas pertaining to real events. It is this essentially Darfuri flavor in my work that has led to its popularity among people within Darfur and also in other parts of Sudan.

VOD: How did you initially achieve recognition for this unique form of art?

Jamaleldin: I have worked extremely hard to perfect my craft. Additionally, I have been proactive and participated in numerous cultural events across Sudan. In 1997, I participated in the fourth National Cultural Festival, organized by the Federal Ministry of Culture in Khartoum. This was the first significant cultural forum where I displayed my work and I had to clear a qualifying competition at the local level for the opportunity; I was singled out as one of the best candidates. Since then, I have regularly showcased my work in art exhibitions across Darfur; most of these depict the heritage of Darfur. I have also been closely involved in the exhibitions held at El Fasher Cultural Complex in North Darfur. Participating in such exhibitions is a key factor in achieving a certain amount of recognition as an artist.

VOD: What tools do you use and how do they affect the final look of a piece?

Jamaleldin: I use many different kinds of tools—a saw, scissors, razors... Each imparts a unique feel and finish to a piece and has a pivotal role to play while creating the final product. They are all equally important in putting together a perfect shadowbox.

VOD: And what about colour? How do you use colours in expressing a subject?



Darfuri artist Ahmed Jamaleldin is known for his detailed shadowboxes depicting Darfuri culture. However, he also dabbles in different art forms such as sculpture, paintings, sketches and creating sundry decorative objects. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

“Peace is not merely a matter of making concessions; we must extend our hands to each other and wipe out past hurts through true forgiveness.”

Jamaleldin: Colours are very important, especially when I use them to paint miniature parts of a shadowbox. Colours have meanings; for example, yellow symbolizes ambition and development. I often use colours to convey specific artistic messages and enhance the audience’s understanding of a particular subject.

VOD: If we compare the fine arts in Khartoum with those in Darfur, will we find stark differences between the two?

Jamaleldin: There isn’t any major difference between fine arts in Khartoum and Darfuri fine arts. Artists, regardless of their whereabouts, are united through the common denominator of talent. However, artists from Darfur often focus their work on the local heritage and folklore. In this, they are different from those who create art in Khartoum.

Many Darfuri artists also live and work in Khartoum and they manage to assimilate their Darfuri heritage with influences from other parts of Sudan.

VOD: Are there relatively few shadowbox artists in Darfur?

Jamaleldin: Yes, shadowbox artists are relatively few in number. I came to realize this during the various art exhibitions I have participated in. Shadowbox art has rarely been represented in such gatherings. It also could be that most shadowbox artists merely work on a commercial basis for financial remuneration and are, therefore, not very well-known.

VOD: Has your active involvement in exhibitions and cultural exhibitions enhanced you as an artist?

Jamaleldin: Definitely. Being part of such events provides me the chance to learn about different cultural and artistic perspectives. Additionally, I have met and interacted with artists across Sudan. The work displayed in such a forum creates spaces where every artist can communicate with different audiences as well. Art always inspires dialogues at many different levels. I feel I have been enriched as an artist through such avenues and have also been influenced by other artists.

VOD: How does it make you feel when your craft receives appreciation?

Jamaleldin: Appreciation makes any artist happy; I feel encouraged to produce quality work. Knowing that I have a captive audience for my creations makes me inclined to develop innovative approaches and ideate extensively. I have also increasingly started to take into consideration the consumers' taste and requirements while designing shadowboxes. My audience, the people who buy my products not only stimulate me at the creative level, but also propagate my work. They are my ultimate motivation as an artist.

VOD: Are you convinced that you will be able to sustain yourself as a professional artist in the future?

Jamaleldin: The most important part for any professional is to love what they do and be good at it. For me, the art I create is fulfilling and I rely on it completely to earn a living. I have children and to give them a happy life, I have to be financially solvent. Art, for me, is one of the best options to achieve stability at this current time.

VOD: Do you have a lot of customers on a day-to-day basis? Or has the economic downturn on account of the ongoing conflict impacted sales?

Jamaleldin: The kind of art I practice is not typically mainstream. It is usually showcased best at public events and that is where many people buy my pieces. Therefore, there are times when my work is in high demand.

However, generally speaking, the harsh economic conditions faced by the people of Darfur have resulted in a situation where few have money to opt for luxuries such as artwork. The ongoing conflict, therefore, has impacted my work in a manner of speaking.

VOD: Tell us a bit about your other interests apart from creating intricate shadowboxes?

Jamaleldin: I collect Darfuri proverbs. I believe that collecting and preserving local proverbs is important; they are a part of the history of our land and a reflection of our value system. These proverbs are repositories of deep wisdom and contain valuable life lessons for all.

I also dabble a bit in different art forms such as sculpture, paintings, sketches and creating sundry decorative objects.



Shadowbox artist Ahmed Jamaleldin is essentially self-taught and uses varied techniques to showcase the heritage of Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

VOD: What are the major challenges you have faced as an artist?

Jamaleldin: The scarcity of work-related materials constitutes a major problem for most artists in Darfur. Most of us lack necessary supplies required to make our work perfect and have to resort to substitute measures.

The ongoing conflict has led to exceptionally difficult circumstances for everyone living here. In addition to this, younger generations lack interest in traditions, folklore and their local heritage. These are some of the challenges that every artist faces.

VOD: What key messages do you seek to convey through your work?

Jamaleldin: One of the vital messages I try to convey through each piece I create is that the beauty of life lies in cultural diversity. Different cultures, when coexisting harmoniously, can usher in a sense of togetherness and equality. I also always try and depict people's life experiences so that people from any corner of the world will connect with my craft and learn about Darfur.

VOD: Do you think that the arts can play a substantive role in unifying communities?

Jamaleldin: Yes, I do. The work of artists can exert a powerful impact on the popular imagination. A single artist can appeal to a wide cross-section of people, cutting through geographic and cultural barriers. Therefore, the arts, as a whole, can be an effective tool in unifying disparate communities, bringing everyone to-

gether on a common platform and paving the way for a better society.

VOD: What are your views on the peace process in Darfur?

Jamaleldin: I am hopeful when it comes to the ongoing peace process here. Peace is the only option for Darfuris to end the long years of insecurity. Peace is not merely a matter of making concessions; we must extend our hands to each other and wipe out past hurts through true forgiveness. It is the people of Darfur who can actually bring about peace. My art and the inclusiveness that runs through it represent my personal commitment to the cause of peace and a unified, stable Darfur.

VOD: If peace is achieved in Darfur, what will be the next priority for artists?

If peace does come to Darfur, I hope that I will be able to visit and spread word about my art in areas of Darfur I have not had a chance to access due to the prevailing insecurity. The same goes for all other artists—we will gain newer audiences and have more opportunities to create more and better art.

VOD: Lastly, is there anything you would like to say to the people of Darfur?


Jamaleldin: I would like to tell the people of Darfur that peace requires concentrated efforts from every last one of us. Forgiveness is an essential quality all Darfuris must inculcate if we are to have peace here. Unity will prevail if people listen to the voice of reason.



Artist Ahmed Jamaeldin, from El Fasher, North Darfur, is pictured in his studio showing an example of his work. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.



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