

UNAMID BULLETIN

Security Paramount to IDP Returns in North Darfur



On 9 August 2012, women from the Kassab camp for displaced persons in Kutum, North Darfur, wait to be assisted by a doctor at a temporary medical clinic set up to assist those injured during the violent clashes in the area. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Security concerns were among several issues discussed on 12 August during a meeting between UNAMID Force Commander Patrick Nyamvumba and leaders from the Kassab camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kutum, North Darfur.

Lt. Gen. Nyamvumba met with community leaders from the camp to express his condolences for the lives lost in the violent clashes that began on 1 August and to assure the IDP representatives of the Mission's commitment to work with everyone to ensure full protection of civilians in the camp. "As commander of the forces, I have requested that permanent forces are stationed in Kassab camp," he said. "They have instructions to protect and defend the civilians on the ground."

The Force Commander urged the community leaders to share information with the Mission. "The best way to

avoid this kind of violence is to deter it," he noted. "But without information, there is little we can do."

Speaking on behalf of IDP leaders, Yousif Musa Ali said protection is the camp's main concern. "That is why we agreed to meet and work together with UNAMID," he said. "Without protection on the ground, it is very difficult to tell our people to go back."

Lt. Gen. Nyamvumba also met Kutum Rural Hospital's medical manager, Dr. Noureddine Abdul Shafi, and the Locality's Deputy Commissioner, Mustafa Bakhit Abdalla, to present them with medical supplies for the hospital and for temporary clinics set up to treat the camp residents injured during the clashes.

Following the incidents on 1 August, Kassab camp residents initially sought refuge among the host population in Kutum town, and were forced to live

in open areas without basic services. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, the North Darfur Ministry of Health and the Kutum Rural Hospital, a UNAMID medical team established a temporary clinic at the secondary school in Kutum to provide assistance.

Patients at the clinic were treated for various diseases, including respiratory infection, stomach pain, chronic sickness, trauma and malaria, as well as injuries suffered during the incidents in and around the camp. The temporary medical clinic operated for several days.

The Mission is continuing to work not only with humanitarian agencies to find ways to provide relief to the affected population, but also with the Kassab camp community to secure the area. Following the incidents in Kassab, the Mission has placed additional forces in and around the camp to protect civilians there.

UNAMID Peacekeeper Killed in Line of Duty in South Darfur

A UNAMID peacekeeper was killed on 12 August, and another was injured, while performing their duty of protecting civilians in Nyala, South Darfur.

The peacekeeper, from Bangladesh's Formed Police Unit, lost his life at approximately 3:15 a.m., when a gang surrounded and fired at the staff in the Mission's community policing centre inside the Otash camp for internally displaced persons.

The armed men fled after the police unit returned fire.

Acting Joint Special Representative (JSR) Aichatou Mindaoudou strongly condemned the attack which, she stressed, constitutes a war crime under international law.

"The attack on our peacekeepers is cowardly and deplorable, and our thoughts go to the families and friends of the fallen and the injured," said the acting JSR. Also, she called on the Government of Sudan to continue to make serious efforts to apprehend the culprits and bring them to justice. ■

US Delegation Assesses Situation in North Darfur

A delegation from the US Embassy in Khartoum, led by Ambassador Joseph D. Stafford, visited El Fasher on 7 August to be briefed by UNAMID leadership on the security, political and humanitarian situation in Darfur. ■

UNAMID Helps Mend Local Community Ties

Following a series of meetings between UNAMID and the leadership from the Hamadiya camp for displaced persons, representatives from the Fur and Rezeigat tribes signed a reconciliation agreement on 4 August to ease tensions that led to the killing of two Rezeigat tribesmen and the alleged abduction of nine displaced persons on 8 July.

Following the incidents between the Fur and Rezeigat tribes in Hamadiya camp, UNAMID's Civil Affairs section facilitated a series of meetings with representatives from Hamadiya camp, where the members of the tribes reside, to find a peaceful resolu-

tion to the situation. UNAMID urged the council leaders and displaced persons to engage in genuine and transparent dialogue to build trust and understanding between the tribes.

Following the meetings, reconciliation efforts resulted in a successful resolution to the conflict. The Wali (Governor) of Central Darfur, Dr. Yousuf Tibbin, and representatives from both tribes attended the reconciliation event. Dr. Tibbin commended UNAMID for facilitating the reconciliation process and expressed readiness to meet with representatives from Hamadiya camp to address any remaining concerns. ■

Heavy Rains Cause Damage and Flooding

On 31 July and 1 August, relentless rains submerged parts of Bindisi town and the general area around Wadi Salih. The flooding, which damaged houses, schools and farms, led to the deaths of four people and an estimated 25,000 in need of emergency assistance.

UNAMID and UN agencies

facilitated travel for officials from Sudan's Ministry of Health to assess the affected areas. On 5 August, UNAMID participated in an emergency meeting convened by the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission and other humanitarian actors in Zalingei to develop a coordinated response to the situation. ■

Darfur Movement Pledges to End Use of Child Soldiers



On 5 August 2009, 53 child soldiers gather during a Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programme in Mahla, North Darfur. Photo by Olivier Chassot, UNAMID.

The Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), a signatory of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), on 31 July 2012, began to implement its agreement to prohibit the use of child soldiers. Earlier this year, on 10 May 2012, LJM submitted its action plan to the UN to bring the movement into compliance with Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict.

At that time, LJM committed to end any recruitment and use of child soldiers; release all children found within its ranks; fully cooperate with the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commis-

sion; take measures to prevent the recruitment of children; designate a senior-level focal point to interact with the UN; and grant full access to UN teams to monitor compliance.

"UNAMID is here to assist the parties to the conflict and local communities to guarantee effective protection of the children of Darfur," said Boubacar Dieng, head of UNAMID's Child Protection Unit.

LJM is the fifth armed movement in Darfur to have submitted an action plan. The Mission is in discussion with other armed movements, as well as with Sudan, on pending submissions of similar action plans. ■



El Fasher, North Darfur

On 5 August 2012, in a show of solidarity for those suffering with HIV/AIDS in Darfur and to do his part in helping to abolish the stigma associated not only with the disease itself but also with routine testing, Dysane Dorani, Acting Director of UNAMID's Communications and Public Information Division, gets tested for HIV at UNAMID headquarters.