

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID's Head Meets Darfuri Armed Movements in Kampala



On 10 February 2014 in Kampala, Uganda, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas met in Kampala, Uganda, with the leadership of the Darfuri non-signatory movements during a three-day visit to the country. Photo by Luce Remy, UNAMID.

Beginning on 10 February 2014 in Kampala, Uganda, UNAMID Joint Special Representative and AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator Mohamed Ibn Chambas met with the leadership of the Darfuri non-signatory movements during a three-day visit to the country.

The Joint Chief Mediator met with the leaders of the non-

signatory armed movements Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW), Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) and the Justice and Equality Movement-Gibril Ibrahim (JEM-Gibril) to follow up on the outcomes of the technical workshop on peace and security in Darfur held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

from 9 to 11 December 2013.

"I am encouraged by my discussions with the movements and their positive but cautious consideration of the Government's calls for reconciliation and national dialogue," said Dr. Chambas. "As the mediation, we will engage with all the parties to turn these hopeful signs into con-

crete steps toward peace for Darfur and Sudan."

Earlier, in the December 2013 meeting, Dr. Chambas met with representatives from SLA-MM and the JEM-Gibril. At that meeting, Dr. Chambas said he welcomed the willingness of the participants to move forward into a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict.

"We are ready to continue engaging with all the non-signatory movements to bring them on board the peace process and find a durable solution for the Darfur conflict," he said. "The only way forward is through dialogue, not violence."

In a press statement following the Addis meeting, JEM-Gibril and SLA-MM emphasized the importance of paving the way to a comprehensive, inclusive, just and durable peace. In their jointly released statement, the two movements expressed their commitment to respect and promote the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights. ■

UNAMID Organises South Darfur Gender Workshop

On 10 February 2014, UNAMID, in collaboration with nongovernmental organization Aid Charity, organised a workshop on gender-based violence (GBV) for the students of Abdul Hamid Secondary School for Girls in the Alimam area of South Darfur, near Nyala. The event included a theatrical performance along with student poems and songs.

During the event, a representative from Aid Charity, Mr. Mutwakkil Hassan, explained that the workshop was designed to raise awareness about GBV issues and provide students with practical knowledge, including how to deal with abuse. During his presen-

tation, Mr. Hassan urged students to play an active role in their communities by spreading the word about GBV and gender issues.

In his remarks, Mr. Easa Elnour, a UNAMID Gender Officer, said that the Mission's Gender Advisory component is continuing to work with local organisations to address and identify key gender issues in the area to raise awareness about GBV problems and support Darfur's most vulnerable.

On behalf of the students, Ms. Intisar Musa, a student at the school, thanked Aid Charity and UNAMID for organising the workshop and said that such endeavours go a long way



On 6 February 2014 in Alimam, South Darfur, UNAMID and Aid Charity jointly conducted a workshop on gender-based violence for the students of Abdul Hamid Secondary School for Girls. Photo by Saeed Salim, UNAMID.

toward raising awareness on women but also the community matters that concern not only as a whole. ■

Better Understanding of Darfur Tribal Conflicts Aim of Conference



On 6 February 2014 at UNAMID headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas speaks to Mission staff in a town hall meeting to outline his operational objectives for the year ahead. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 9 February 2014 in Khartoum, Sudan, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute of the University of Khartoum, opened a two-day conference on Understanding Tribal Conflicts in Darfur. The forum, held in Khartoum and attended by nearly 100 professors, academics and Darfuri activists, focussed on key issues related to the causes and consequences of the tribal violence in Darfur, as well as reconciliation. The participants provided practical recommendations on how best to resolve these conflicts.

In his opening remarks, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas noted that, last year, there was an unforeseen and unprecedented number of tribal clashes throughout Darfur. “This sudden uptick of virulently violent tribal conflicts had complicated the already daunting prospect of finding a lasting peace and stability for the protracted conflict in Darfur by exacerbating insecurity, creating more displacements and distracting attention from the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and impeding much-needed internal dialogue,” he said.

The Head of UNAMID highlighted the Mission’s provision of logistical support to the efforts of the Government of Sudan and the Darfur Regional Authority to end fighting and to facilitate peace agreements between warring tribes.

“UNAMID has launched major conferences in Khartoum and the Darfur States, bringing together Darfuris from all walks of life, tribal affiliations and political persuasions to promote the culture of peace and peaceful coexistence among the communities,” he added.

Darfur Regional Authority Chair Eltigani Seisi, said tribal conflicts were not new, but they have escalated due to acute ethnic polarization.

He noted that some ascribe the eruption of tribal conflicts to clashes over resources and land ownership, but also said that the problems lay in mismanagement of Darfur’s rich resources.

The solution, said Dr. Seisi, is to focus on collecting arms from tribes, imposing State authority and strengthening regular forces along with implementing all conference and workshop recommendations and restructuring the federal governance. ■

Tripartite Meeting Focuses on Troop Deployment, Equipment

On 2 February 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, concerns over delays in deployment of personnel and equipment to UNAMID were the primary focus of discussion of the seventeenth meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism on UNAMID. The forum was held at the African Union’s headquarters on the margins of the African Union Summit.

The Tripartite Mechanism, consisting of representatives of the Government of Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations, is an instrument designed to address challenges in the effective implementation of the UNAMID mandate.

At the meeting, participants discussed the current deployment of uniformed personnel in UNAMID and associated clearance of contingent-owned equipment. Delegates agreed that the Government would work

with the Mission to facilitate the speedy deployment of troops to UNAMID to avoid operational gaps in Darfur.

Other topics of concern included the lack of freedom of movement and the deterioration in the security situation in Darfur during 2013, largely due to tribal conflicts and the serious consequences they have had on the protection of civilians and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The participants welcomed the Government of Sudan and UNAMID technical cooperation that has led to the resolution of outstanding issues, such as pending visas, customs clearances and land leasing. “The tripartite meetings at both the high level and the technical level have improved the Mission’s effectiveness in delivering on its mandate,” said UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mo-



On 10 February 2014 in El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID troops escort a convoy of World Food Programme (WFP) trucks traveling to Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, to deliver much-needed assistance to internally displaced people in the area. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

hamed Ibn Chambas. “We hope to continue to work closely with the Government and welcome their cooperation in all areas of operations.”

The delegations were headed by Ambassador Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman, Sudan Undersecretary for the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs; Ambassador Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security; Mr. Hervé Ladsous, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; and, Ms. Ameerah Haq, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Field Support. ■