

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Head Meets AU Chair, Darfur Armed Movement Leaders

UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, facilitated a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 March 2014 between the Chair of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the Sudan Liberation Army - Minni Minawi and Justice and Equality Movement - Gibril Ibrahim.

“This meeting is a significant opportunity for the movements and the African Union to exchange views and for building a common understanding of the basis for a lasting political settlement for Darfur,” said JSR Chambas.

The leaders of the armed movements present at the

meeting, Minni Minawi and Gibril Ibrahim, affirmed their commitment to peace, a united Sudan with a national identity that reflects its cultural and religious diversity, and the need for a national dialogue to address holistically the problems facing the country. They urged the AU to become fully engaged in the political process and assist Sudanese parties to realize these goals.

The AU Chair welcomed the commitment of the armed movement leaders to peace, the unity of their country, a comprehensive and negotiated solution to Sudan’s issues, and national dialogue. Reflecting on the experience of the African National Congress of South Africa, she advised: “There

will always be problems of mistrust, skepticism and doubts when people have been at war for decades.”

The Head of UNAMID urged the movements to join the national dialogue, which Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir proposed in January 2014, as a workable option toward bringing a comprehensive solution to the problems in Darfur and all of Sudan. Ms. Zuma similarly encouraged the movements to continue to work with UNAMID and other stakeholders to formulate a strategy on how to conduct the national dialogue.

The AU Chair reaffirmed the commitment of the African Union to assist Sudanese parties in the search for lasting peace and economic develop-

ment in Sudan. “The more we can assist Sudan to be united, diverse with a common national identity, the better it is for the AU,” she said.

During his visit to Addis Ababa, JSR Chambas met with envoys of the League of Arab States and briefed them on the situation in Darfur. Mr. Chambas discussed his efforts to facilitate an inclusive and sustainable political process to bring Darfur’s conflict to a successful and acceptable conclusion. He stressed the need for the support and goodwill of the international community, including the Arab League, to make the national dialogue proposed by the Government of Sudan transparent and credible. ■

UNAMID Celebrates International Women’s Day



On 12 March 2014 in El Fasher, North Darfur, a group of women participate in a march to commemorate International Women’s Day. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam.UNAMID.

This year’s International Women’s Day celebrations, held across Darfur and around the world, focused on the theme “Equality for Women, Progress for All.” In El Fasher, North Darfur, hundreds of women, men and children, including internally displaced people, took part in festivities organized by

UNAMID, the United Nations Country Team and the North Darfur Government. The event, held on 12 March 2014, was attended by the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur and other senior officials.

The day began with a solidarity march from the El Fasher Midwifery School to office of

the Ministry of Social Affairs. During the commemoration ceremony, musicians sang traditional songs, a local drama group performed short sketches, and Ms. Aisha Abdullahi, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, delivered UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon’s speech for the day.

“This International Women’s Day, we are highlighting the importance of achieving equality for women and girls, not simply because it is a matter of fairness and fundamental human rights, but because progress in so many other areas depends on it,” she said.

The Secretary - General’s message points out that countries with more gender equality have better economic growth and that companies with more women leaders perform more effectively. “Peace agreements that include women are more durable,” Ms. Abdullahi said, quoting the SG.

“Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues, such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support.” Similar events organized by UNAMID, in collaboration with local authorities and UN agencies, took place in El Geneina, West Darfur; Nyala, South Darfur; and Zalingei, Central Darfur. ■

African Union Delegation Visits UNAMID



On 12 March 2014, Ms. Aisha Abdullahi, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, visits the Zam Zam camp for internally displaced persons to meet with community leaders, young people and women and listen to their concerns. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 12 March 2014, Ms. Aisha Laraba Abdullahi, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs,

visited the Zam Zam camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), located south of El Fasher, North Darfur, as

part of the Commissioner's two-day visit to North Darfur. Ms. Abdullahi met with community leaders, young people and women at the camp to listen to their concerns.

The IDPs called on the AU to motivate the armed movements that have not signed the peace agreement. "Peace and security are key necessities for IDPs across Darfur," said Mr. Ali Mohamed Fadul, a Zam Zam community leader. "We look forward to seeing peace, security and settlement in Darfur soon; we also hope to return to our original villages and resume normal life."

Women at the camp spoke to the Commissioner about the difficulties they face due

to the lack of basic amenities and income-generating opportunities, along with the insecurity of their living conditions, especially while walking large distances from the camp to collect firewood.

At the team site near the Zam Zam area, Ms. Abdullahi received briefings on UNAMID's activities and efforts to protect civilians as per the Mission's mandate.

During the visit, she expressed the AU's concerns about peace in Sudan, and in the Darfur region in particular. "Peace, security and stability are international concerns," she stated. "The African Union and the United Nations are working jointly to restore peace in Darfur." ■

UNAMID DJSR Visits South Darfur to Assess Security Situation

On 8 March 2014, following the South Darfur fighting that led to mass population displacements, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR) Joseph Mutaboba visited Nyala to assess the security situation and meet with the newly displaced. During the visit, the DJSR spoke with community leaders in the Kalma internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp as well as with new IDPs, mainly women and children, who were forced to flee their villages in the areas of Um Gunya and Hajeer.

More than 20,000 people sought refuge in the Kalma and Al Salam camps, located in the outskirts of Nyala, South Darfur. Many others moved to the Sani Deleiba area, the Beleil IDP camp and to Labado. The community leaders briefed Mr. Mutaboba on the challenges the IDPs are facing, including lack of food, security and basic services. The leaders called for more peacekeepers to be deployed to increase the security in the camps.

While they wait for as-



On 9 March 2014, children take shelter in the Kalma camp for internally displaced people in South Darfur, following the looting and destruction of several villages in the areas of Um Gunya and Hajeer. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

sistance from the humanitarian community, these newly displaced are trying to survive in makeshift tents; others have taken refuge under donkey carts. In response to their needs, the World Food Programme has been distributing emergency food rations.

Some of the newly displaced have received support from relatives and other IDPs in the camps. Mr. Saleh Issa, one of the community lead-

ers settled in the Kalma camp, said that the new arrivals have come from more than 40 villages and are suffering without basic amenities. "People are in a critical situation here," said Mr. Issa.

In his remarks, DJSR Mutaboba assured the displaced community of the Mission's commitment to protect civilians as well as provide additional security by increasing the number of patrols in the

area. In addition to meeting with IDP leaders and the newly displaced, the DJSR also met with South Darfur Wali (Governor) Adam Elnabi to discuss the latest developments in the peace process.

Most of the recently displaced in South Darfur are women and children.

Many men remained in their villages to defend them, and have lost contact with their families. ■