

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Assists in Airlifting East Darfur Civilians



On 21 August 2013, UNAMID provided logistical support by transporting representatives of the Rezeigat and Ma'alia tribes to Al Tawisha, North Darfur, to participate in the signing of an agreement to cease hostilities in East Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam Hamid, UNAMID.

On 18 August 2013, as part of its ongoing efforts to address the needs of civilians affected in the East Darfur inter-communal clashes, UNAMID airlifted more than 300 civilians from El Daein, East Darfur, to Abu Karinka, located approximately 50 kilometers northeast of El Daein.

In addition, on 21 August, the Mission provided logistical support by transporting representatives of the Rezeigat and Ma'alia tribes to Al Tawisha, North Dar-

fur, to participate in the signing of an agreement to cease hostilities in East Darfur.

The current situation in East Darfur was reportedly triggered earlier this month by unresolved disputes over access to land resources. In response, UNAMID increased its presence and patrolling and airlifted nine wounded civilians on 17 August from Al Dola village, approximately 125 kilometers north of El Daein to El Fasher, North Darfur, for medical treatment. ■

UNAMID Head Expresses Concern over Hostilities in East Darfur, Impact on Civilians

On 14 August 2013, the Joint Special Representative and Head of UNAMID, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, expressed deep concern over the high number of casualties resulting from clashes between the Rezeigat and Ma'alia in and around El Daein and Adila, East Darfur.

"The violence must stop for the sake of everyone caught in this terrible ordeal," said Mr. Chambas, who met to discuss the situation with the Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority, Dr. Elti-jani Seisi. "Fighting is not the answer, and I urge all parties to resolve their differences through dialogue."

Tensions between the Rezeigat and Ma'alia were reportedly triggered earlier this month by unresolved disputes concerning access to land resources. During the previous week, the se-

curity situation deteriorated in the area as clashes broke out, leading to an increase in criminality that had adversely affected the civilian population.

In response, UNAMID increased its presence and patrolling in the area, and transported officials from the Darfur Regional Authority to the locality to support mediation to cease hostilities. In addition, the Mission sent senior personnel to the field to provide technical advice in the mediation activities. Government-led mediation efforts to defuse tensions and restore stability have been ongoing, supported by the Mission.

In connection with the unrest, on 12 August, a UNAMID patrol was attacked by a mob in El Daein. The patrol was able to extract itself and return safely to the Mission's base. ■

UNAMID Force Commander Visits South Darfur

UNAMID Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Paul Ignace Mella, undertook a series of field visits from 4 to 7 August in South Darfur to assess the security situation in the area and to meet the troops deployed there. During the visit, he met community leaders and Government officials.

Force Commander Mella visited troops stationed in Nyala, Graidia and Ed Fursan in South Darfur and El Daein in East Darfur. The Force Commander received briefing on the current security situation, on ongoing operations and on current challenges faced by the peacekeepers working in those areas.

The Force Commander also visited the Tanzanian Battalion, stationed in Khor Abeche, to express his condolences for the loss of the seven soldiers killed during an ambush on 13 July. He said that the seven peacekeepers will be remembered for their hard work, dedication and loyalty in their service and contribution to global peace. The Force Commander expressed his wishes that those wounded in the attack would be able to recover quickly.



UNAMID's Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Paul Ignace Mella, who was appointed on 4 June 2013 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, arrived in Darfur on 1 August 2013. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

UNAMID's Force Commander, who was appointed on 4 June 2013 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, arrived in Darfur on 1 August 2013. He succeeds Lt. Gen. Patrick Nyamvumba of Rwanda. Following his arrival, the Force Commander has taken similar trips to El Geneina, West Darfur, and Zalingei, Central Darfur. ■

UNAMID Launches Radio Serial Drama, Celebrates Youth Day

On 18 August 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID hosted an event to announce the launch of a new Radio Serial Drama, “Rakuba Aba Salih,” and to commemorate International Youth Day. A series of activities, including a march through El Fasher, theatrical performances and music concerts, were part of the day’s festivities. The events, which were held in and around the Al Zubeir Stadium in El Fasher, were organized by UNAMID in collaboration with the North Darfur National Youth Association.

UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR), Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, read the UN Secretary-General’s Youth Day message at the event. This year’s International Youth Day theme focused on urging youth-led organizations and other stakeholders to promote the rights of all young migrants and maximize the development potential of young people.

“Poverty, crowded and unsanitary living conditions and the challenges of finding decent employment are regular features of the migrant experi-

ence,” the DJSR said, quoting the Secretary-General’s message for the day. “These challenges are exacerbated by the current global economic and financial crisis. Migrants are also often accused by communities and politicians of taking jobs from local people, exposing them to further risk of discrimination. In other cases, young people left behind by migrating parents face psychological and social challenges and greater vulnerability.”

Mr. Mutaboba went on to emphasize that it is important to recognize the positive contribution young migrants make economically, socially and culturally. “Most work hard to earn a living and improve their circumstances,” he said. “The remittances they send to support families in their home countries are a major contributor to economies worldwide.”

Also addressing those attending the event was Mr. Salih Ahmed El-Sheikh, Head of North Darfur’s National Youth Association. “Such an event provides an opportunity where a strong youth initiative can be



On 18 August 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, Ms. Majdah Elbasia, a Sudanese performer, sings during the celebration that marked International Youth Day and that launched UNAMID’s new Radio Serial Drama, “Rakuba Aba Salih.” Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

created to address peace, security and development issues,” he said, calling for additional advocacy related to youth issues.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Hafiz Tarjouk, representative of the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur, called attention to the importance of working together with UNAMID and civil society organizations, especially the National Youth Association, to address the needs of youth people and ensure a bright future for them.

Similar celebration events were conducted across Darfur to commemorate International Youth Day and to launch UNAMID’s new Radio Serial Drama, which depicts Darfuris interacting and discussing issues of common concern. The new Radio Serial Drama is broadcast on Al-Salam Radio on frequency 98.0 MHz in Khartoum, and on frequency 7.2 MHz (41 metre on short-wave) in Darfur every Sunday. ■



UNAMID Chief Hosts Ramadan Iftar with Peace Partners

On 5 August 2013, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas hosted a Ramadan Iftar dinner in El Fasher, North Darfur. The dinner was attended by local authorities and representative from the Darfur Regional Authority. During speeches delivered at the dinner, the JSR congratulated the Muslim community on the occasion, and called on the holdout rebel factions who have not yet joined the peace process to come together under peace and coexistence in the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.