



Press Release

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MINURCAT Completes Training of Trainers Programme for Chadian Police

N'Djamena, Chad – The Training of Trainers programme initiated on 4 January 2008 by the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) ended today. A ceremony marking this event was organized this afternoon at the Gendarmerie Academy in N'Djamena in the presence of several Chadian dignitaries, UN officials, and senior members of the diplomatic corps.

A total of 36 officers, including 20 international and 16 national participants, took part in the seven-day training, which consisted of enhancing the capabilities of Chadian police and gendarmes to provide effective police service to the population in eastern Chad, including refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and humanitarian workers, as specified in the Security Council's Resolution 1778 adopted in September 2007. The 16 Chadian officers who received the training will, in turn, train some 200 Chadian police officers monthly for the next four months – a total of 850 officers – to protect refugees and IDPs in Chad.

“The intensive course gave base for the establishment of new police units that will significantly contribute to the normalization of the situation in the region that has been passing through some turbulence in recent times,” said Mr. Abdelkarim Mohammed, who was attending the ceremony on behalf of the Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Chad for MINURCAT and EUFOR. He also noted that “a big task lies ahead to carefully select new officers who will be trained for this serious endeavor to be implemented in co-operation with the EU forces”.

For his part, Mr. Ousseni Compaore, Acting Head of MINURCAT, said the programme was the “first sign of a fruitful co-operation between the Republic of Chad and MINURCAT”.

The Program was supported financially by the European Union and eight donor countries and was conducted in co-operation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the High Commissioner for Refugees and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**For more information, please contact:
Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson**

Email: tourep@un.org – Intermission: 194 6553 – Mobile: +235 690 0034