



MINURCAT Police Herald

United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
Mission des Nations Unies en Republique centrafricaine et au Tchad



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Dear colleagues,

United Nations mission to the Central African Republic and Chad reached another milestone when on 15 March 2009 in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 1861 United Nations forces took over the military and security responsibilities of European forces (EUFOR). The ceremony took place in Abeche and our team was there.

It takes (at least) two parties for a successful peacekeeping missions and there would be no success for MINURCAT without cooperation with the host governments. Herald's editorial team had a rare privilege to meet with Dr. Moctar Moussa, special representative of the President of the Republic to the International Forces in Chad, who cordially accepted to answer to our questions on the current state of co-operation with the Mission.

As I said on many occasions people are the one who make mission, and in this issue we would like to present to you two high ranking officials of the MINURCAT Police, my deputy, Mr. Frederik Bjerkeborn and Colonel Elhadj Mamadou Dia, commandant of the UNPol.

Women of MINURCAT joined forces with their female colleagues from United Nations agencies active in Chad in celebrating International Day of Women. Apart from other festivities a roundtable was organized on the topic "Women problems linked with the gender, HIV/AIDS and the human rights and the perspective on national level".



In this edition our "Country and Peacekeepers" file is devoted to Burkina Faso, "country of humble people" in Western Africa.

I would also like to draw your attention to an interesting article on a workshop devoted to mine awareness as well as to the reports from medal parades that were honoring our Malagasies and Burundian colleagues.

Enjoy your reading!

Sincerely yours,
Gerardo **CHAUMONT**
Police Commissioner

Interview with Dr. Moussa Moctar, special representative of the President of the Republic to the International Forces in Chad

Common goal – more secure East of Chad

The editorial team of the MINURCAT Police Herald had the rare privilege recently to meet **Dr. Moussa Moctar**, special representative of the President of the Republic to the International Forces in Chad and he accepted with great pleasure to respond to few questions for our publication.



Dr. Moussa Moctar is an agronomic zoo-technician by education, and he has a specialization in psychology of animal nutrition. He is a veteran civil servant and during his long career in Chad, which started in 1979, he worked as a researcher at the National Institute for zoo-technical research and veterinarian in Farcha, where he was in charge of the Department for animal biology. After the war of 1980 he was responsible for the Center for modernization of animal production at the SONAPA in N'Djamena and he was the manager of the National School of technical agents for livestock farms. He was also general manager of the

Development Society for the Lake Chad, which was an agricultural developing society, and after that he was a member of the Government of Chad as the minister of agriculture, minister of mining, energy and petroleum. After the period in the Government, he was the governor of Chari Baguirmi, the governor of the region Ouadi Fira and the governor of the region Mayo Kebbi Est. He joined again the Government for a brief period as the minister of farming and after that as deputy Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic. Today he is a special representative of the President of the Republic to the International forces in the East of Chad.

Herald/L'Echo (Q): On 26 February 2009 in Abeche took part a double ceremony that marked the end of training of DIS and the launch of the activities of DIS in the East where you were present. Can you tell us your impressions on one side about the training of DIS and on the other hand about the first results in the field?

Dr. Moctar (A): As you know the creation of the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS) was an innovation of the MINURCAT and the Republic of Chad, as there was a task to organize and train Chadian component coming from the national Police and Gendarmerie to provide security for the refuge camps and for displaced persons. This training was performed by MINURCAT, the trainers were Chadian and also from UNPol of MINURCAT. After the training these elements were deployed to the East of Chad following the ceremony on 26 February 2009 in Abeche.

It is too early to make an assessment from my side, but I can tell you that the impression that we got, and not only me, or people from DIS, but the international community and all the stakeholders in the East of Chad, that DIS is really a clever innovation and it really performs the job that we entrust on it. Obviously, there are always strong and weak points. There are many parameters that influence the efficiency of particular actions in the field - logistics, personnel, but also the environment in which DIS is deployed and works. And, in the light of first results, we can rightfully say that we are satisfied. But it doesn't mean that we do not strive to see the best, which means be even better in order to give confidence to this part of the vulnerable population, which are the displaced and refugees, and to give them confidence in the security and in the normal life in their camps.



Q: How do you assess the cooperation with the United Nations and MINURCAT?

A: Listen, it's almost a year now that we've been working together. We've been working in very good conditions and we've been collaborating closely on almost daily bases up to now and we don't see difficulties in our partnership, in our cooperation.

Q: What do you think, what the biggest achievement is since the inauguration of DIS?

A: Well, I ask myself what means bigger realization. The DIS mission is well known. You all know, from the very beginning of our contacts, we wanted that DIS secure the interior of the refugee camps and areas around the camps and displaced persons. And that mission, if we can observe it as a goal, is performed in a good manner. As we know there is no zero insecurity. However there were few regrettable cases that happened since the deployment of DIS. The most flagrant case that is still shocking us was the case in Goz Beida where there was robbery, injuries, rape that we regret and we told them that this was not a way to say: it's always someone else and not us. We think that this kind of acts is not appropriate to the Chadian culture.

Q: The population in the East in general, the refugees, displaced persons and the humanitarians in particular, care a lot about security issues. According to your opinion, what do you expect from MINURCAT and the silent partners? And what do you think that could be done more? Either by the Chadian authorities or by MINURCAT?

A: The question concerns the security issue and when there will be permanent security. There are few stakeholders, let's say that there are three subjects. There is the Chadian Government that provided to the disposal of MINURCAT forces of the Police and Gendarmerie. There is MINURCAT who should organize,



establish and technically support DIS. And there are also generous silent partners who should bring the means necessary so that the actions are more efficient and more consistent.

Now, if we have these three actors on mind, we said at the very beginning of training that if you want the ration of DIS officers per refugees/displaced population should be 1 per 1000 or even more. We think that the number in reality is below the number that could bring us to a security level, not permanent, but let's say security appropriate to our activities. That's why we asked for the doubling of the number of DIS from 850 to 1700. But the Government understood that the financial reasons were limiting factor for this action so we stayed at the number of 850 members of DIS who are today deployed in the field and who do the best that they can to create secure conditions in this zone. It remains on the two partners – MINURCAT and the Government of Chad - to make an appeal for new funding for the enlargement of police and gendarme officers so that they could be more present in the refugee camps and displaced persons areas and in the immediate surrounding of the refugees.

If I take the example of robberies that took place in Goz Beida, if we had had a necessary number that could have focused on protection of the houses and all the humanitarians and all NGOs and that could have provided security, that kind of actions, this villainous acts would not have happened in the city of Goz Beida. But as DIS is focused on camps of refugees and displaced, the city of Goz Beida was left in a certain way to itself because the Government withdrew gendarmerie and police in favor of international forces and DIS. That is in general my opinion to your question.

Q: What is your opinion on the performance of the MINURCAT and

UNPol in particular? Do you think that MINURCAT has fulfilled the expectations of the Chadian people and of the refugees?

A: Cooperation between the mission of MINURCAT and Chad has been going on for a year, and without glorifying Chadian Government and MINURCAT, we did well our job. Give us time and maybe ask others to evaluate us as we can not auto-evaluate ourselves. The Mission of the United Nations and the Government of Chad has done everything to fulfill the ultimate goal of this mission, and that is securing of the zones in the East, making a feeling of security in which humanitarian actions, NGOs are freely moving. Our goal is still valid and we do together, the Mission of the United Nations and the Government of Chad, whatever we can to achieve this goal in the shortest possible time. It's just a year, and we've managed to deploy, and the United Nation forces are deploying progressively. Give us time before judging our actions.

Q: Dr. Moctar, what is your biggest wish regarding DIS and MINURCAT in general?

A: There is no wish, there is one goal. The government of Chad by accepting the creation of Détachement Intégré de Sécurité had one goal. The goal to secure the East of Chad trough the establishment and organization of this unit. But now, when we are in the field, it is absolutely necessary to identify all the weaknesses that we noticed during our activities in the field. Is it logistical support, are those the means at our disposal, is it the number of deployed DIS. So at this moment we could undertake an evaluation and concretely see what are the actions that should be undertaken to be more efficient and responsible to our ambition, ours ambition and that is to make secure all the East of Chad.

A: Thank you Dr. Moctar.

Milestones

Blue helmets take over from European force in Chad, Central African Republic

United Nations peacekeepers in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) on 15 March 2009 took over the military and security responsibilities of European forces in the two strife-torn nations.

The transfer, which took place at midnight local time, was marked by a ceremony, attended by Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy, held in the Chadian city of Abéché, where MINURCAT's headquarters are located.

In January 2009, the Security Council approved the deployment of over 5,500 blue helmets - 300 police officers, 25 military liaison officers and 5,200 military personnel – with the UN mission (MINURCAT) to replace the European troops (EUFOR), which has been in place since March 2008.



In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended EUFOR for the key role it has played in bolstering security for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and other vulnerable groups in eastern Chad and north-eastern CAR.



“As MINURCAT assumes its new responsibilities, the Secretary-General is confident that the force will build upon and strengthen EUFOR's military achievements while continuing to execute the full range of its mandated tasks, including to contribute to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law and to support the development of the Chadian community police (Détachement Intégré de Sécurité) deployed in eastern Chad,” the statement added.

Eastern Chad faces an acute humanitarian challenge with over 290,000 Sudanese refugees from the Darfur war, more than 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and a further 700,000 individuals among host communities in need of food, water and health care. Northern CAR has also been affected by a spill-over from the Darfur conflict as well as by other armed groups.

In its January resolution, the Security Council stressed that the multidimensional presence in Chad and military presence in the CAR is intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, by boosting security protection, facilitating

the provision of humanitarian aid, and promoting reconstruction and economic and social development.

The resolution empowers MINURCAT to “take all necessary measures, within its capabilities” to contribute to protecting civilians in danger, particularly refugees and IDPs, facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel, and protect UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment.

Mr. Ban also said that he is “grateful” for several EUFOR contributors' and new troop contributing countries' commitments to the UN force, and encouraged Member States to continue filling remaining gaps to ensure that MINURCAT is equipped to execute its mandate. “In order to succeed, MINURCAT will need the active support of the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic,” the Secretary-General said, adding that he is grateful to both Governments for “their cooperation during the transition period and looks forward to working with them in the implementation of MINURCAT's mandate.”

In September 2007, the Security Council approved the establishment in Chad and CAR, in concert with the European Union (EU), of a UN-mandated, multidimensional presence, including European Union (EU) military forces, in Chad and CAR to help protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian aid to thousands of people uprooted due to insecurity in the two countries and neighboring Sudan.

The Security Council on 17 March 2009 welcomed successful transfer of authority from European forces to United Nations peacekeepers in the war-torn nations of Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR).



In a press statement the 15-member body commended the European Union (EU) for its support to UN activities in eastern Chad and north-eastern CAR.

The statement also lauded the EU's contribution “to the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and the security and stability in its area of operation.”

During the event, EUFOR Force Commander General Philippe Ganasia handed over command to MINURCAT General Elhadji Mouhamadou Kandji. Troops from countries such as Albania, Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, and Russia were re-hatted, while troops from Togo and Ghana have recently arrived to take up their duties. Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Norway and Uruguay, among other nations, have committed to sending troops to MINURCAT.

Council statement welcomed contributions made by UN Member States to MINURCAT's military and police personnel, and also expressed its satisfaction for the completion of the deployment of the MINURCAT-trained Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), a special unit composed of Chadian police and gendarmes responsible for the protection of refugees and IDPs in eastern Chad. It also stressed “the importance a further improvement of regional relations, in particular between Sudan and Chad.”

Interview with the Deputy Police Commissioner Mr. Frederik Bjerkeborn

Together we are stronger



Mr. Frederik Bjerkeborn is the deputy Police Commissioner of MINURCAT. He's a 52 years old Swede, married and father of a son and a daughter. He had a distinguished career with the Swedish National police for over 20 years before joining our Mission. We kindly asked him to answer few questions for our readers in between numerous meetings and travels that he has to perform.

Q: Sir, can you tell us something about your education and professional development?

A: I graduated high school and then applied for the Swedish Police Academy. After graduation I attended numerous courses at the University and also at the Swedish Police training facilities. I performed different jobs for my National Police since joining it in 1977 and the last post that I held before coming to Chad was the post of the chief of the Rapid intervention unit.

Q: You've been involved with international police co-operation and peacekeeping for some time, can you tell us something about that?

A: On joining UN I spent 2 years in the Democratic Republic of Congo with MONUC, between 2002 and 2005 and I have also served for 1 year on behalf of the Swedish Government in Rwanda, where I was coordinating a police assistance program.

Q: How can you compare the mission in the DRC with this one?

A: I think that the mission in Chad is more difficult. The challenges we are facing here are many, but you have to have on mind that when I first came to MONUC, the mission had already been established for three years. The mandate of MINURCAT is also different from the mandate of MONUC. Nevertheless the challenges and difficulties in MINURCAT make it even more interesting.

Q: In you New Year's message you highlighted the reinforcement of cooperation with DIS. Can you tell us something about the state of that cooperation as of today?

A: The establishment and training of DIS are the most important things in this mission. That is the core of our mandate. In order to succeed, we must work very close with our colleagues in DIS, otherwise we will never reach the objectives entrusted to us. All available sources must be used to support DIS.

Q: According to your opinion what could be done to improve the relations between UNPol and Chadian population?

A: We all need to understand that we are guests in this country. We have to follow



the rules and their traditions and of course treat them as our friends, brothers and sisters. It is also important, when we meet the Chadians, to always be humble and correct.

Q: Do you have a particular message for your co-workers?

A: I'm here to help you and to assist you. It is important to have a daily communication in order to solve problems and to develop the work. Together we are stronger.

Q: And for the end one easier question. What do you do in your free time?

A: I like to be with my family, reading books, listening music and of course all kind of sports. I prefer playing tennis, I am Rwandian National Police champion, and I like to spend time with my friends.

Medal Parade of the Burundian Contingent

Ten members of the Burundian contingent were decorated with the Peacekeeping Medal this 31 January 2009.

It was at the Novotel hotel in N'Djamena where this ceremony took place that brought together many officials of the Mission and among them the highest ranking, Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Central African Republic and Chad, Mr. Victor Angelo.

In his intervention, Mr. Angelo expressed his gratitude to the Burundian UNPols for the excellent work they've been performing in the Mission. The speaker, who knows very well the country of the medal honorees, revealed that the Burundian Police had completely been



restructured in 2005 and today represents an example that should be followed everywhere.

On behalf of honorees Mr. Pascal Otedero, congratulated his countrymen and thanked to the officials of the United Nations Mission for the medals. He also extended his thankfulness to his other colleagues from the UN who came to the ceremony. Finishing his comments, he added that Burundi, which left from a long period of crisis during which it had received a lot from other countries, is today in the phase of helping others.

The movie that followed gave us an opportunity to discover in details the country of the famous African drummers.



Gender

A Day in the Week of Women

Women working in MINURCAT, in the United Nations agencies, like UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and WFP celebrated on Thursday 5 March 2009 Day of Women. It was at the Hotel Kempinski where the manifestations started marking the International Day of Women who did not want to stay forever on the margins of this celebration honoring women.



In accordance with the resolutions 1325 and 1820 and their articles relevant to the role of women in peacebuilding, women of the Mission of the United Nations in the Central African republic and Chad and their sisters from the UN agencies, wanted to mark this day by the cultural manifestations made by speeches, sketches and poems. Everything was brightened up with dances of the Ballet Irife and the group Kadja Kossi.

It was Mr. Cheik Tidjane Cissé, representative of UNFPA and host of the ceremony, who gave opening notes on the day that was rounded on the topic: “Women problems linked with the gender, HIV/AIDS and the human rights and the perspectives on the national level”.

The Human Rights Section of MINURCAT presented legal texts (treaties, conventions) on human rights in general and on the rights of women and children in particular.

A representative of the civil society defined the concept of the civil society, before describing the situation of women and the actions leading hitherto through to female associations. She highlighted the lack of the joint global vision and economic problem that is at the base of the current state of women. Namely, difficulties in the access to land, violence against women, illiteracy, lack of autonomy in the management of credits and many other things.

Theme “Family and fight against stigmatization towards HIV/AIDS” was presented by the HIV/AIDS Section. This gave an opportunity to the audience to inform itself about other modes of contamination with HIV/AIDS as well as about other forms of stigmatization.

The Gender Section talked about “Women and the conflict situations” which was an opportunity to recall the resolutions 1325 and 1820 before presenting actions undertaken in favor of women, like the community policing, inter-community dialogs and others.



In the interlude, slogans were delivered such as: “Woman, strong link in the chain; Woman, beautiful creature, calm force, pulled by men for men; Woman is endowed by a great heart, full of love; Woman bearer of life, mother and

guardian of the tradition and of the man to whom she gave life.”



Women recognized that the deficit of information in the female organizations and in the families constitute the weakness of women to undertake easily the stage in front of a tide of men or to better organize themselves to defend them. Because of that they often suffer the misdemeanors of the economic and social crisis.

With the above mentioned concern they organized themselves to appeal to the civil society in general and to MINURCAT in particular to engage themselves in actions in favor of women to say stop to discrimination and stigmatization having on mind that women are often victims in times of war but also in times of peace. They want to see parents encourage communication in open discussions on the level of family cell.

With the mood Good women Good celebration participants closed their manifestation with a poem presented by a member of WFP who roused applause from women and the rest of audience.

After these intellectual exercises the audience avail itself of a cocktail offered in their honor by MINURCAT.

Peacekeeping Medals for the Malagasies

On 27 February 2009 at the hotel Shanghai in N'Djamena took place the ceremony of the medal presentation to the 18 members



of the Malagasy contingent of MINURCAT. The celebration was performed in the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Victor Angelo, of the Secretary General of CONAFIT (Coordination Nationale des Forces Internationales au Tchad), Police Commissioner – Major General Gerardo Chaumont, Main Commander of DIS, Colonel Chanane

Issak Acheck and Malagasy community living in Chad.

Addressing the gathering, Special Representative of the Secretary General said that the work performed by the members of the Malagasy contingent is so much appreciated and he added that the Chief of civilian police of MINURCAT is so full of praise of this contingent, before wishing a happy ending to the crisis trough



which this country, otherwise very rich in resources, was passing at the moment.

In his intervention chief of the contingent, UNPol Diogène Maka, gave a political, economic, social and cultural presentation of his country. Highlighting that his countrymen and himself are on their first mission, he wanted to express his gratitude and the gratitude of his brothers in arms to the officials and all national and international staff of MINURCAT for the benevolent attention and feeling of sympathy that they'd been receiving.

After the speeches small gifts were offered to all the present and with the steps of

traditional Malagasy dances the evening ended in a very positive mood.



Facts and figures

MINURCAT - United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Current authorization:	Established for a period of one year (Security Council resolution 1778 of 25/09/2007) Mandate extended until 14 March 2009 (Security Council resolution 1834 of 24/09/2008) Mandate extended until 15 March 2010 (Security Council Resolution 1861 of 14/01/2009)
Special Representative of the Secretary General	Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo (Portugal)
D/SRSG	Ms. Rima Salah (Jordan)
Police Commissioner	Major General Gerardo Christian Chaumont (Argentina)
Chief Military Liaison Officer	François N'Diaye (Senegal)
Chief of Staff	Elike Segbor (Togo)
Chief of Logistics Support	Gui Siri (France)
Authorized strength (UNSCR 1861 of 14-01-09):	Maximum of 300 police, 25 military liaison officers and 5.200 military personnel and an appropriate number of civilian personnel
Strength (on 31-03-09):	282 total uniformed personnel, including 46 military observers and 282 police officers, supported by 75 international civilian personnel, 33 local civilian staff and 35 United Nations Volunteers
Contributors of military personnel:	Bangladesh, Bolivia, Denmark, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sweden and Yemen
Contributors of police personnel:	See chart on page 20.

Country and peacekeepers

Burkina Faso



Situated in the Western part of the African continent, Burkina Faso is a Saharan landlocked country with an area of 274.200 km². It has borders with Mali, Niger, Benin, Ghana, Togo and Cote D'Ivoire.

“The country of upright people” that doesn’t have coast (landlocked) reaches sea, for its import and export needs, through the autonomous ports in the neighboring countries which are: port of Abidjan (in Cote D’Ivoire), port of Lome (Togo), port of Cotonou (Benin) and ports of Takoradi and Tema (Ghana).

Colony of France since 1st March 1919, Burkina Faso (former Upper Volta), laic and democratic state, has obtained its independence in 1960 after numerous twists and turns that could be summarized as follows:

- 1 March 1919 – formation of the colony of Upper Volta by the establishment of an Administrative Council of this colony.
- 5 September 1932 – dismantlement and split-up of the colony of Upper Volta by reattachment of different parts to Cote D’Ivoire, Mali and Niger,
- 4 September 1947 – reestablishment of Upper Volta within its former borders with an autonomous administration and financing.



Actual name of the country, BURKINA FASO, comes from 4 August 1984, from the period of the revolution (1983 to 1987). It means “Homeland of upright

people” in the local languages of Moré (Burkina means “men of integrity”) and in Bamanakan (“Faso” is translated as “father’s house”). It is a combination of the two main languages of the country, Moré, which is spoken by Mossi, ethnic majority, and Bamanankan or the language of Bambaras or Dioula that is spoken in the sub region of West Africa.

Burkinabé are its inhabitants (man or woman) in Foulfoulde, language spoken by the Peuls, people from the nomad tribes, who are also present in numerous countries in Western Africa.

In French, the name of Burkina Faso or Burkina is used in everyday life and Burkina Faso in the official use. Its capital Ouagadougou is located in the center of the country. Burkina is a member of the African Union, of the United Nations, of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) and of the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (EMUWA).

In January 2008, Burkina Faso assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2008-09 term.

The flag of Burkina is red and green - two horizontal fields, capped in the middle by a five-point yellow star. Its motto is “Unity-Progress-Justice” and its anthem is called Ditanie.

On the constitutional plan, Burkina has a presidential pluralist system. The president of the Republic is elected by general direct elections for a term of five years. Current president Mr. Blaise Compaore is the

person who gives the main guidelines of the state policy. He is the supreme chief of the Army, president of the Supreme Council of Magistracy and president of the Council of Ministers. On the other hand, his Government is accountable to the National Assembly.

Administrative organization and demography

On the administrative plan, Burkina is divided on 13 regions, each headed by a governor. These regions are composed of provinces (there are 45 of them), and each is headed by an appointed high commissioner. The provinces are subdivided to 351 districts and each is managed by an appointed prefect. It should be also noted, that within these districts there are 49 urban municipalities and 309 rural municipalities and they are leaded by elected mayors. In Burkina there are about 8.000 villages.

With a population of slightly above 15 million people, Burkina is one of the most densely populated countries in Western Africa, with 53,9 inhabitants per square kilometer. In the population there are more women than men. The population is composed by more than 70 different ethnic groups that live in perfect harmony. These are the groups that have mixed during the ages up to a level of mixed groups. That is the case of Silmi-Mossi that represents a mixture of Peul and Mossi. The group of Bobo-Dioula is a mixture of Bobo and Dioula.

This unity has contributed to the consolidation of the spirit of pacific cohesion that established the ethnos of Burkina whose characteristics are: hospitality, humble nature, honesty, politeness, love towards homeland,

enormous working energy as well as courage in adversity.

In Burkina there are more than 70 languages and dialects. The principal ones are – Moré, spoken by Mossi (who are ethnic majority), Dioula, a language common to many countries in the Western Africa, Fulfulde, language spoken by the second biggest ethnic group Peuls, San is the language of Samos who are related to Mossis and many other languages.

Burkina Faso, like many other countries in the Western Africa, has French as the official language. English is taught in all the secondary schools, so it is understood by great number of intellectuals, although they don't use it very often.

It must be said that this multi-ethnic country owes its stability and its development to the role of social regulator to play down the conflict or tense situations played by kinship to joke in Burkinabe society. Indeed, kinship to joke is a source of distraction and amusement that plays a fundamental role in society in Burkina Faso. It is actually a specific mode of behavior among certain groups that is reflected in the verbal exchanges by a tone, words, attitudes, sometimes aggressive, that the protagonists could not afford to use with others that don't share this particular link that is kinship to joke or dakiré, in Moore.

Climate and Economy

Burkina Faso has the climate of Sudanian type characterized by 2 seasons:

- Dry season between October and April or May. It is characterized by



dry winds which blow from north-east to south-west. April is a bridge month which announces the arrival of wet winds that bring monsoons.

- Rain season or winter season, which is characterized by humid winds and runs between May or June and September.

There are three different climate zones:

1. Sahel zone which lies on the North of the country. It is characterized by modest precipitation (less than 600 mm per year), high temperatures of the air and with the thorny shrubs. It's an excellent zone for farming.
2. South Sahel zone – which is located in the central North and where there is a slightly higher precipitation (750 mm).
3. South Guinean zone – is located in the South and is characterized with relatively generous precipitation and more or less lower temperatures.



Burkina Faso is a developing country. That position is explained partially by the modesty of its natural resources but also by their price on the world market.

Agriculture and farming represent 32% of the gross national product and it engages 80% of the active population. Main cultures are sorghum, millet, maize, groundnuts, cowpeas, rice, tubers, fruits and vegetables.



As the biggest producer of cotton in Africa, with more than 700.000 tons produced in 2007 destined for export, the economy of Burkina Faso greatly depends on the fluctuations of the prices on the world commodities market. Apart from the cotton that represents an important source of hard currency, it is worth noting some mining products such as copper, iron, zinc and gold. Fruits and vegetables, farm products and oleaginous plants are other great exporting things.

Cultural activities

In Burkina, culture is performed through an infrastructure and activities both public and private. The festive activities such as music and dance before, during or after rural activities or traditional or religious ceremonies, like birth, death, initiation, swearing in ceremonies of the traditional chiefs and others are happening on a daily basis. In 8.000 villages of Burkina lives about 90% of the populations, composed of peasants and farmers, as well as in the cities of lesser importance, a very intensive cultural life is going on.

In addition, one has to pay tribute to the initiatives of the Authorities in organizing cultural activities that are attracting visitors from all over the world. We can mention:

- ☀ Biannual Pan African Cinema and television festival in Ouagadougou, FESPACO, the biggest film festival on the continent that's

organized in February every odd year.

- ☀ Biannual International Arts and Crafts Festival in Ouagadougou, in even years at the end of October and beginning of November. This is the biggest promotion fair of the African handicrafts.



- ☀ Week of National Culture (SNC) lasts for a whole week every other year in Bobo-Dioulasso. It is a springboard of the national, sub-regional, but also of the culture of Diaspora.
- ☀ Granit sculpture symposium in Laongo, a village at 35 km from Ouagadougou.

The private sector is also organizing great cultural manifestations that also have great national and international audience. These are:

- “Free Rights” film festival that is devoted to human rights and freedom of press,
- Urban Culture International Festival – WAGA HIP HOP that has been organized annually since year 2000,



- Theater and marionette International festival (FITMO) organized by professor Jean Pierre Guingane,

- Jazz festival in Ouaga,
- Atypical nights in Koudougou (NAK),
- International Festival of Theater for development (FITD)
- Festival of masques of Sissili and Sanguie (dance of the fiber costumed masks representing animals) in Pouni, a place 150 km from Ouagadougou,
- Carnival festival of Dodo (animal shaped masks dances), that is held every year in Ouagadougou,
- Finals of the festival of Salou that is also held annually in Ouaga,
- Finals of the Festival of Kigba (female dances), which is also organized every year in Ouaga,
- Visual arts and graphics exhibition Ouag’art that is organized every year,
- Sculpture and painting symposium in Roche de Leguema, village just 15 km from Bobo-Dioulasso.

It’s worth noting that the culture press has very privileged status on all these cultural events. We can note here “L’observateur dimanche”, “Star hebdo” and “Evasion”. As well as an association of young cultural journalists called “Planet Culture” that has been covering the main festivals for the last two years.

The State also manages 5 museums that are worth visiting - National Museum in Ouagadougou, Provincial Museum of Houet in Bobo-Dioulasso, Museum of south-west civilization of Poni in Gaoua, Provincial museum of Sanmentenga in Kaya, Geological museum of the Mining and Geology Administration of Burkina (BUMIGEB). In the private sector there are: Museum of bendrologie (drum arts) in Manéga and Masks museum in Boromo.

Burkina and world peace

Burkina Faso who understood very early that there is no nobler mission than to assist in resolution of conflicts in a peaceful way, has been deeply involved in the solution of different conflicts throughout the World. Notably, this country has mediated in the solution of few crises in the sub region of West Africa and elsewhere.

Its devotion to the cause of peace and international stability has been commended by its election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations. Here we have to add the appointment of one of its sons, Mr. Djibril Bassolé to the post of chief joint mediator of United Nations and of the African Union for Darfur.

This explains why different civilian and military forces from Burkina have been participating for a long time in numerous peacekeeping missions of the UN and of the AU.

Also, officials of the National Police and of the National Gendarmerie, of all ranks,

participated and continue to participate in numerous peacekeeping missions in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in Burundi, in Haiti, in Rwanda, in Sudan, and as of recently in Chad.

Burkina Faso contingent of MINURCAT UNPOs has 18 members who come from the National Police (14) and Gendarmerie (4) and who arrived in Chad between May and October 2008. They are: Louis Yéguenoma KAFANDO (contingent commander), Abdoulaye SANOU, Issa OUEDRAOGO, Apollinaire SAWADOGO, Jean SAWADOGO, Epiéboye KANDO, Aminata OUEDRAOGO, Ragomégoudoubo OUEDRAOGO, Paul Roger TAITA, Joachim NONGUIERMA, Lespène KAM, Jean Pierre ZONGO, Robert BOUDA, Mariame KARAGA - SOW, Abdoulaye NAGABILA, Abdoulaye BORO, Bernard SAWADOGO and Dominique Florent KONATE.

It is important to note the presence of three female officers from the National Police who are in their first mission.



Wholeheartedly devoted to the Mission



Colonel Elhadj Mamadou Dia,
Chief of UNPol Administration

Q: Hello Colonel. Would you be so kind to present yourself to your co-workers and our readers?

A: I was born on 22 June 1958 in Dakar (Senegal). I'm married and I'm a father of four kids. This year I'm reaching my 31st year in the Gendarmerie. And I was promoted to the rank of colonel on 1st January 2004.

Q: How was your education and professional training?

A: After the primary education, I joined Military high school of St.Louis. After graduation in 1978 I attended Officers College of Gendarmerie in Senegal and also enroll myself at the Faculty of legal and economic sciences in Dakar. After I graduated private law, I left for Melun (France) with the rank of second lieutenant to enroll in the Officers School of Gendarmerie. I returned to Senegal in

1982 and completed my education by obtaining masters degree.

Q: What were the positions that you held in your country, Senegal, and what kind of expertise you gained there?

A: After finishing my education I had following posts: deputy commander of a company (Public order), company deputy commander (Juridical investigations), general resources section commandant (Administration), Judiciary investigation legion commander (a legion groups two or more regions), deputy commander of the gendarmerie (groups all units of intervention gendarmerie in the judiciary field on the national territory).

I was also Director of control of studies and legislations in the Ministry of Armed forces and at the same time member of the General Consultative Assembly of the State Council. I attended few professional trainings abroad, like in Lome (Republic of Togo), and in Baton Rouge (Louisiana, USA) at the School of Administration where I attended the training in the police role in crisis management.

Q: Can you tell us something on your United Nations career?

A: I had my first international experience in 1993 in Rwanda where I worked within the mission of the former African Unity Organization. I joined the United Nations in 1998 when I served in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) like the human rights investigations officer and I also served in 2001 as deputy commissioner in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Q: How can you compare other missions where you had served with MINURCAT?

A: The other missions were already well established and functional, contrary to MINURCAT that is still in start-up phase.

Q: In the light of few months that you've been here in Chad, what are the difficulties that MINURCAT is facing?

A: Difficulties are connected with the resources and infrastructure that are being progressively developed. But, one has to be patient.

Q: Do you have a special message for your co-workers?

A: I want to ask them to engage themselves wholeheartedly in a mission

that was given to us to train and supervise members of DIS. That said it's obvious that UNPol has quite a dominant role in this Mission.

Q: What are your personal strengths?

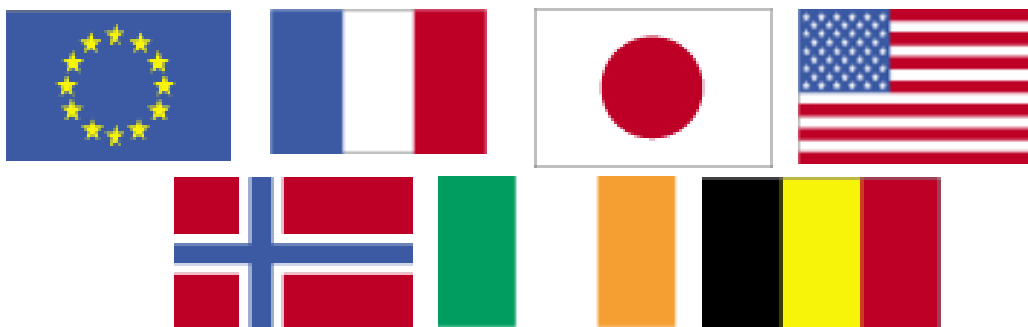
A: I leave that to others to say. I can say that I always strive to engage completely in my job, to keep certain level, to listen and to respect everybody. On the other hand, I ask for respect.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: I like football and to walk.

Donor countries

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Your articles, comments, suggestions and additional information could be send to MINURCAT Police, Avenue General Brahim, N'Djamena, Chad

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Training

Watch out where you are stepping!

With the aim to prevent serious injuries of the MINURCAT staff in the mission area on Thursday 25 February 2009 in Farcha a training workshop was organized on the topic of explosive relicts of war (REG) or non-exploded devices.

Be careful as you drive to the East or to the North of Chad. The death could be under your foot. A single wrong step could be sufficient for a mine to explode and for you to lose life.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Abdul Baki IMAD from the Mine Action Section based in Abeche. In order to comply with the motto "it's better to prevent than to cure" the National Administration for the Action against mines in collaboration with the High National Committee for de-mining of Chad (HCNDT) joined forces in this information action towards the personnel of MINURCAT. There were two main subjects one, how to recognize a mined areas and the other - what to do if you find yourself in the proximity of an explosive relict of war (REG)?



In general there are signs called markings, regular or improvised, which can warn a traveler and make him pay attention.

Regular markings are:

- Red triangle with a skull,
- Triangle with barbed wire,
- Stumps painted in white and red.



Improvised markings are:

- signs of the presence of REG,
- former military positions,
- abandoned houses.

How to behave if you find yourself in such a zone?

- Avoid to drive or walk on the road edges,
- Avoid to cross the front line,
- Avoid to cross roadblocks,
- Avoid touching dead people or animals.

Before traveling to such area a minimum preparation at the base is necessary and the traveler should bring along: food and water, his identity document and other travel documents, radio, GPS and call codes, Contact details in case of emergency, Medical kit, etc.





















On top of all these precautions, he asked travelers to observe the rules regarding staff and vehicle movement such as:

- Do not drive during the night,
- Avoid the marked areas,
- Stay on the road if you have to stop or you have a breakdown,
- Resist temptation to take souvenirs,
- If a fellow traveler is wounded in a mine zone never rush to raise him or her,
- Try to avoid being unfortunate hero!

The lecture of Mr. Abdul Baki Imad was followed by a slide presentation. Images of the victims of REG gave an opportunity to the audience to see all the horrors to which people are exposed every day in a close contact with REG. Damages are showing that the risk zones are getting closer to the grand cities in which there had been fights between the rebels and government forces. Everywhere in the world, a mine is ready to explode and it is important to know appropriate measures to reduce the risk that they incur.

Facts and Figures

Contributing countries and number of UNPols (as per March 31st, 2009)

 Benin	27	 Madagascar	18
 Burkina Faso	17	 Mali	5
 Burundi	10	 Niger	12
 Cameroon	10	 Portugal	4
 Cote d'Ivoire	38	 Rwanda	10
 Egypt	13	 Senegal	18
 France	18	 Sweden	2
 Guinea	3	 Togo	8
 Jordan	8	 Yemen	17
 Libya	3	 Total UN	241 (25 female)