



United Nations MINURSO

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the Referendum in
Western Sahara

Dynamism

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MINURSO celebrates International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

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This year's International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed on 26 May and was dedicated to the theme of Rule of Law. In MINURSO, UNPOL contingent was honored at a parade led by OIC MINURSO, Mr. Nader Darwich in presence of African Union Senior Representative Ambassador Yilma Tadesse. The military, police and civilian staff from MINURSO, UNHCR-CBM and AU Office observed a minute of silence in honor of all those who have paid the ultimate price in the search for peace. The Secretary-General's speech marking the occasion was read out followed by a medal ceremony to award 27 MINURSO Peacekeepers. The OIC MINURSO praised the role of the small, but highly qualified and motivated UNPOL contingent, mentioning them a key component of the support provided by MINURSO to the UNCHR/CBM operation that focused on facilitating contacts between Saharan families divided since 1991.

MINURSO assists UNHCR in conducting a road reconnaissance to expand their CBM program

SRS&G and Head of MINURSO Hany Abdel-Aziz tasked the Senior Technical Adviser of Mine Action Coordination Center (MACC) to assist as the MINURSO Team Leader in a UNHCR-led road reconnaissance mission between 18 April and 2 May towards expanding the CBM program of family visit that is currently limited to air transportation. Led by UNHCR HQ and UNHCR CBM, the MINURSO Team was represented by members from Mine Action, GIS, Engineering, UN Police, Military, Medical, Security and the Legal Officer as its CBM focal point. It should be recalled that the Security Council called for inauguration of family visits by land and the continuation of the existing program by air. Expanding the current UN-sponsored family visit program to include land travel aims to cover a larger number of beneficiaries.

Donor representatives from the City of Barcelona visits MACC

From 26th–29th April, representatives from the City of Barcelona conducted a donor's visit to the MACC. On 27 April, the representatives visited the MINURSO HQ and receive briefings from the Public Information Officer and the STA, MACC. On 28 April, the visitors attended the destruction of UXOs by the EOD team in Tifariti, which is funded by the City of Barcelona's contribution to the MINURSO MACC providing US\$137,000 for EOD activities, east of the berm.



Team Site Commander's Conference



On 18 May 2011, the Team Site Commanders' quarterly conference was held in MHQ. The aim of this conference was to enhance the efficiency of the management in the TSs. All TS CDRs had effective interaction with the MHQ staffs and received briefings on different issues given by all military sections and mission support, including GIS, Conduct and discipline, MACC, Air Ops (for Search & Rescue procedures), Security Unit, Aviation Safety, JLOC etc.

UNVs maintain high standard of discipline



UNV Satish Basavaraju (right) assisting in the distribution of World Aids day materials to MINURSO personnel.

According to the 2010 Annual report of the UNV Advisory Panel on Disciplinary Measure (APDM), 14 disciplinary cases for UN volunteers serving globally were reported. Infractions included fraud, sexual exploitation and abuse, insubordination, abandonment of post and assault. Of these, four cases were exonerated while 10 were sanctioned by either being given letters of censure, contracts being terminated early, and others were summarily dismissed. "there are a total of 7557 UNVs serving with different partners within the UN agencies, governments and with DPKO which has at least 3,100 volunteers. Such a small percentage (0.13%) of cases of misconduct is a true reflection of the volunteers dedication to their assignments and their professionalism.

Commenting on the report Ms. Perez-Salas, Conduct and Discipline Officer for MINURSO mentioned that " *This report reflects the highest standards with which the UNVs conduct themselves. I have not received any allegation involving volunteers since my arrival in MINURSO.*"

Welfare and Recreation Committee organized trips to Agadir and Tarouma



During May, Welfare and Recreation Committee organized a trip to Agadir city over the Labor Day and a picnic to Tarouma (60kms south of Laayoune). It was an opportunity for staff to integrate and collectively enjoy their time outside the office.

