



UNPOL

Flash

UNPOL TCHEDRE GBATI: A POLICE OFFICER, ARTIST AND PILOT AT THE SERVICE OF PEACE.

UNPOL TCHEDRE GBATI of Togolese nationality couldn't hide his talents as an artist. He has just produced several paintings highly appreciated by the top leadership. The Policeman and artist says it is his contribution for the exhibition project initiated by the United Nations Police in the Congo. He is also a Pilot, further proof of his multi-purpose nature.



I was born 45 years ago and I am a Togolese. I did my primary, secondary and University studies in Lomé the capital. I am a holder of the "Capacité en Droit", a UNESCO diploma in drawing and a brevet in piloting of single engine planes from the Aero club of the Gnassingbe Eyadema Airport.

I entered the Togolese Police in September 1992 as Police Constable and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Assistant Superintendent in 2007. Committed and always available, I have served in Public Order Management Units, Research and Intervention Units of Judicial Police before my selection for a Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

PIO/UNPOL: You are an artist and a pilot. Can you dwell more on this?

UNPOL TCHEDRE GBATI: Yes, as I said, I am an artist and pilot during my free time. I acquired these two skills naturally, because art is in-born in me and secondly through determination and strong will.

I have always loved drawing since childhood, primary and secondary school. My scores in drawing were always excellent and this led to obtaining a diploma in drawing after participating in a drawing contest organized by UNESCO in 1989 under the theme "Draw a Human Right". I want to say here that my country has also benefited from this talent through the production of geographic and thematic maps, drawings of giant monuments, courtyards, coat of arms and illuminated signs.

I have sharpened my skills in cartography, graphics and silk-screen printing at the "Image Transformée de Lomé" Institute.

I am also a pilot. As the adage goes, "nothing ventured, nothing gained". I dared and obtained my "Brevet" in piloting of single engine planes since May 2014. Piloting is a difficult and important activity which is not common in Police Units in our countries. Through my friendly relations with some Pilots, I enrolled into the Student Pilot Training center in Lomé where thanks to these relations I worked hard obtaining my license as pilot crew member going through a written and practical examination involving an international flight of 150 nautical without an instructor on board, (Lomé-Cotonou-Boyikon-Cotonou-Lomé).



PIO/UNPOL: You have just completed artistic works for the Police Component of MONUSCO. What motivated you to do this?

It is necessary to put one's knowhow into use. This is why as early as during the contingent meeting of my country, I have always volunteered to do paintings as gifts to the leadership of the Police component. This year I did a statuette representing General Pascal CHAMPION and portraits of other leadership members such as Colonel Tabasky DIOUF and others.

Coming back to your question on these paintings that I have done for the Police Component, I was inspired by the enormous work that our respective mandates have conferred on United Nations Peacekeeping Missions throughout the world. One image can speak more than a book, thus, these paintings are meant to convey



messages within the United Nations. Amongst them there are portraits of his Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations and his Special Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The portraits of these illustrious people are for us United Nations Police Officers of MONUSCO, a living testimony of our recognition for their efforts towards lasting peace in the DRC and even beyond. As for the other paintings, I have offered them to the Police component for the arts exhibition project.

You are in Bukavu Sector since you arrived the Mission, can you tell us something about this experience?

I was deployed to Bukavu Sector on 7th July 2014 as Trainer and Adviser. Within the scope of capacity building of the Congolese National Police (PNC), I have taken active part in the Sector missions in all PNC Police Units and detention facilities in Bukavu. Having drawn the attention of my supervisors quickly, they did not hesitate appointing me Focal Point in several domains such as: Protection of civilians, Sexual Violence and HIV/AIDS, atrocities against or by PNC and military officers of the DRC, Head of the Advising Unit of the Sector. I am also Deputy Team Leader of the Shabunda Island of Stability where I have participated in setting up the bases for defined objectives namely, stabilization and restoration of state authority through the drawing of maps of armed groups present in the area. Since June 2015, I have been in the training Unit as tandem of the Deputy Chief of Sector in charge of training. I am also a trainer at the Jules Moke Police School in Bukavu. I have participated in the training of 17 trainers on the theme: "organizing and conducting a training session" and also the refresher training of 230 PNC Officers in Public Order Management and Intervention gestures and technics.

Have you been able to put your knowledge as a pilot to use in the Mission?

I have never concealed my knowledge from the Leadership of the component since I came to the Mission. I have always talked about my professional aptitude with documented evidence. This is why General Pascal CHAMPION appointed me in January 2015 as UAS/UAV Chief Focal Point for Bukavu Sector. Despite the non-availability of the aircrafts that were taken to Bunia for other missions, I carried out two contact visits to exchange with the Office in charge of UAS/UAV at the Headquarters in Goma. I equally drafted a work plan for UAS in South Kivu, precisely in Bukavu and Islands of Stability Sites with the aim of perfecting our activities and having precise information on the thematic maps that I have drawn in Shabunda. I have also forwarded some recommendations to the hierarchy in respect of implanting a command and pilot unit of UAVs at Kavumu in order to cover the 200 Km range of these aircrafts in the respective missions of the Sector. I wish that United Nations Police Officers be part of the UAS-Cell-Staff-Officers Unit to valorize our capacities and project the image of the Police component.

What has stroke you most in this Mission?

Being my first ever United Nations Peacekeeping Mission, I have learned to share my experiences and points of view with colleagues, irrespective of their ranks and countries of origin. I will not forget the convivial relationship between us and the Police Component Leadership which pushed me to dedicate my free time to produce these paintings. It is my manner of thanking the Police Commissioner, his Deputy, other leadership members, my Chief of Sector and all my colleagues for the consideration that they have for me.

Any final word?

I will not end without giving glory to God who guides us daily in our duties. I consider this Mission as a big school where each Officer who fulfills the conditions brings his/her contribution and enriches his/her knowledge for peace which is also necessary for our respective countries. My only regret is the fact that we have ambitions that will never be fulfilled because our contract is for a fixed period, but we leave with the satisfaction of having contributed towards the restoration of peace and a State of Law in the DRC.

