



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Office of the Spokesperson**UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN****3 October 2007****Security Council Presidential Statement Condemns Attack on AU Peacekeepers in Darfur, Says Any Attempt to Undermine Peace Process is Unacceptable***

The following is the full text of presidential statement S/PRST/2007/35 adopted on 2 October 2007 by the UN Security Council:

"The Security Council was briefed on 1 October on the recent attack on African Union peacekeepers in Haskanita, South Darfur, Sudan, reportedly committed by a rebel group. The Council condemns this murderous attack and demands that no effort be spared so that the perpetrators be identified and brought to justice.

The Security Council deplores the loss of life and injuries that resulted from this attack, and conveys its sympathy to the Governments, families and colleagues of those killed and injured.

The Security Council reiterates its support for the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and commends the dedication of its personnel and expresses its appreciation for those countries which contribute troops to AMIS.

The Security Council recalls the demand in resolution 1769 (2007) on all parties for an immediate cessation of hostilities and attacks on AMIS, civilians and humanitarian agencies. The Council insists that all parties in the Sudan comply with this demand and cooperate fully with the deployment of the United Nations light and heavy support packages to AMIS, and with UNAMID.

The Security Council deplores the fact that this attack took place on the eve of the peace talks starting on 27 October in Tripoli, under the chairmanship of the United Nations and the African Union. The Council underlines that any attempt to undermine the peace process is unacceptable."

Peace and Security Council of the African Union Condemns Attack on AMIS, Stresses Urgent Need to Bring the Culprits to International Justice

The following is the full text of the press statement issued on 2 October by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the attack on the AMIS camp in Haskanita:

"The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 94th meeting, held today, 2 October 2007, was briefed by the Commission on the unprovoked attack on the AMIS camp in Haskanita, South Darfur, which resulted in the death of 10, the wounding of another 10 and 3 other AMIS personnel missing.

Council expressed its outrage and condemned, in the strongest terms, this heinous and cowardly act perpetrated by unidentified elements who are bent on undermining the peace process and further complicate the situation in Darfur

Council expressed its condolences to the families of the brave men who lost their lives and paid tribute to their Member States whose troops and other personnel continue to carry out their mission notwithstanding the difficult circumstances.

Council encouraged the Commission to undertake, jointly with the United Nations, a thorough investigation of these incidents, with a view to identifying the culprits. Such an investigation should also cover earlier incidents of attacks against AMIS. Council requested that the result of such an investigation be brought to its attention to enable it take all necessary measures, including sanctions against the leaders of the groups that perpetrated the attack. In the meantime, Council further took note of indications provided by AMIS regarding the group which carried out the attacks.

Council stressed the urgent need to bring the culprits to international justice. Council also stressed the need for necessary lessons to be drawn from these incidents, including the strengthening of the peace keeping operation in Darfur, with a robust posture.

Council reiterated its support to the efforts being made under the auspices of the African Union and the United Nations to convene peace talks in Libya in order to broaden the support base of the DPA and bring about lasting peace and reconciliation in Darfur. In this regard, Council stressed that no group should expect that, by violating the ceasefire and committing other military acts that may compound the situation on the ground, would have an advantage at the renegotiating table.

Council encouraged the Troop Contributing Countries to meet at the appropriate level to review the situation before the end of October 2007.

Council also urged the Commission, working closely with the United Nations, to expedite the deployment of the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), with enhanced capacity and strength in order to stabilize the security situation on the ground in Darfur. “

UNMIS Pakistani Demining Company Organizes Mine Awareness Campaign in Kurmuk

As part of its activities to assist demining efforts, UNMIS Pakistani Demining Company carried out a mine awareness campaign in Kurmuk on 25 September, to the benefit of the local military and civil authorities, as well as the local community, who attended the event. The campaign included a thorough briefing on mine risks and demonstration of demolition of anti-personal mines (APMs).

According to the UN Mine Action Office that attended the event, the area near the Ethiopian border is challenging in terms of de-mining due to topographical configuration and thick vegetation, local unawareness, and irregular pattern of mines in the area.

Till today, the Pakistani Demining Company has cleared 25,508 square meters in the area and removed 88 anti-personal mines and 22 unexploded ordinances (UXOs). Local community members who attended the event commended the progress made to clear the area of mines and the prospects it offers for the local economy. They expressed hope the demined fields could be used for cattle grazing in the foreseeable future.

Security Developments

Darfur

In North Darfur, an INGO vehicle truck was hijacked on 1 October in the area of Kassab IDP camp in Kutum by armed bandits. The driver of the vehicle who was taken by the hijackers together with the truck has been located but the vehicle is still missing.

On 1 October, three armed men hijacked at gunpoint a UN vehicle in El Fasher. GoS police, who were notified of the incident, pursued the hijackers but their attempt to stop the vehicle was unsuccessful and efforts to recover the vehicle are still ongoing.

In South Darfur, three armed men hijacked an INGO vehicle in Nyala on 30 September, 20 meters from the INGO warehouse. Two staff members on board of the vehicle were forcibly taken and detained for 3 days by the hijackers. They were subsequently released and contacted the INGO on 2 October from Umsalaya police station (approx. 30 Km North of Nyala). Upon arrival to Nyala, one of the staff members was admitted to Nyala hospital for a serious injury in the head.

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