



UNMIS Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNMIS CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

Khartoum, 29 May: United Nations Mission in Sudan today carried out various activities in Khartoum, Abyei and Malakal to make the UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers, a day dedicated to pay tribute to all the men and the women who have served, and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations.

In Khartoum, UNMIS held a medal award ceremony this morning whereby Deputy Special Representative (Political) of the Secretary General Jasbir Lidder read the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message underlining the role of peacekeepers in the world: *"As we remember the heavy sacrifices of our staff, we also hail their accomplishments. [...] United Nations blue helmets have represented the Organization at its best: restoring stability, fostering reconciliation and nurturing hope for a better future"*, he said.

Ambassador Nureldin Satti of Sudan, who was also the former Acting SRSG/ONUB in Burundi, attended the ceremony and addressed the peacekeepers: *"I have learned, from my personal experience, that peacekeeping is a thankless job. You should expect no reward other than your personal sense of achievement and peace of mind for having accomplished your duties towards the Human kind"*, he said.

The Peacekeepers Day was also celebrated in Malakal where UNMIS provided free medical examination to 92 orphans from SOS Village.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan was established in 2005 to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on 9 January 2005. Currently the Mission has about 10.000 peacekeepers, supported by 1.000 international civilian personnel, 2.790 local civilian staff and more than 327 United Nations Volunteers.

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