

**The United Nations Mission In Sudan****Date: 3 August 2005****Office of the Spokesperson****Spokesperson**

Good afternoon to you all and welcome to this press conference hosting Mr. Jan Pronk. You are all aware of the tragic developments that happened of late in the country. Mr. Jan Pronk will be giving you a complete briefing on this issue.

Without much ado, I leave the floor to Mr. Jan Pronk. I only wish to inform you that this press conference will come to an end one and a half hours from now.

Mr. Pronk.

**Pronk**

Thank you very much.

Let me repeat what I said to you after the demise of Dr. Garang. What I did say to the Sudanese press on the day that I did bring my condolences to President Bashir and also to Vice-president Taha is that the United Nations is mourning together with the Sudanese authorities, the Sudanese people and, in particular of course, the family of Dr. Garang. This is a great loss for Sudan, for the people of Sudan, and not only for the southern part of the country including the SPLM, but for Sudan as a whole.

I knew Dr. Garang since 1990. Personally I met him many times. I witnessed, in all my discussions which I had since then, how much he had become a national leader – starting as a leader of a rebel movement, he became a political leader with a vision with regard to the future of the whole of the Sudanese society; he became a person who was able, though he started to divide, he was able to mend and to bring people together.

As I said, it is very sad that this all happened six months after the signing of the peace agreement. I was a witness in the signing ceremony and was about to sign on behalf of the United Nations. It is very sad that this all happened three weeks after the royal entrée in Khartoum where so many inhabitants of Khartoum – northerners as well as southerners – welcomed him wholeheartedly because he was then seen as a guarantee by many people that the future will be bright, much better than the past. And many people now are mourning also the death of Dr. Garang because they feel that one person guaranteeing coexistence, reconciliation and peace has passed away and they are uncertain about the future.

Sudan and Africa have lost a great son and a great leader and that is a reason indeed for all of us to be sad.

I am going to the funeral on Saturday in Juba and will be accompanied by a delegation. We are assisting the SPLM to bring the remains of Dr. Garang from New Site to Rumbek and from Rumbek, I understand, to Bor which is a place where the struggle for liberation started, then to Juba. So it will be quite a day where many people in the south will have the opportunity to say farewell to Dr. Garang. He is going to be buried to the second capital of Sudan. In the midst of that part of the country which is considered to be his roots – and that is important to go back to your roots.

The United Nations has offered all types of assistance to the Government of Sudan and also to the SPLM. All assistance as required. We will give assistance in logistical throughout the funeral which, of course, will be in the hands of the authorities but we can assist and we have received requests for assistance- logistical assistance, transportation assistance, communications assistance, and also some humanitarian assistance which is in particular also necessary because of two reasons: many people will come to Juba and there are not too many services and part of the infrastructure of Juba has cracked down because of some unrest which took place not only in Khartoum but also in Juba. Within our capabilities, we will assist.

We also have offered assistance in investigations which we understand will take place.

As I did say in my public statement a couple of days ago, there is no reason whatsoever to suggest or believe that it was something else than an accident – a very sad accident. My own experts, for instance, pilots of the United Nations helicopter fleet – we have a United Nations helicopter fleet – who have been there have told me that the clouds have been hanging very low. And I know the area and have been there many times in Rumbek. Then you have a range of about 500 meters high on rocks. Then if the clouds are hanging very low and if you as a pilot are not familiar with the situation on the ground and then you can easily, in such a situation, hit the rocks and that is what has happened. The helicopter came with full speed trying to fly very low and below the clouds and had to go through the clouds and then there was all of a sudden the mountain and they, at full speed, bumped into the mountain. That is an accident. Maybe no good equipment; may have been a pilot error – it has to be investigated. There is no reason whatsoever to believe that something else has been in place, for instance sabotage; for instance shooting. But of course it has to be investigated.

And again – I am not an expert; I am just communicating to you an analysis on the basis of facts and expertise which has been available to me. Investigation is necessary. I hope it can be an investigation whereby the Government of Uganda (owner of the plane), GoS (on whose soil it happened) and the SPLM (the acting government of South Sudan in the making) can work together so that there are not three investigations but one. We can assist in any way if it is being required. It can be done also through United Nations expertise for instance the ICAO or otherwise. I offer that assistance to all authorities including to the GoS. We stand ready to assist now in the short run and also in the long run.

I am very pleased with the reactions by the GoS and also by the SPLM. They have said “we want to continue with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We want to continue the work which was started by Dr. Garang and his colleagues including Dr. Taha for whom it must be

extremely sad to have lost a person who has become a good friend through all the difficult negotiations. We want to continue.”

I didn't hear any back-fighting. I did also witness the sorrow which was expressed very clearly amongst the leaders of the Sudan as a whole and also the northerners. The leaders in the north are as sad as the leaders in the south. And it is important also to understand that the sorrow and the sadness is being shared by everybody because also the future of the north and of the people of the north is dependant on good corporation and coexistence with the people in the south as was shown so eloquently images when we saw the three hands in the air, remember, of President Bashir, Vice-president Garang and Vice-president Taha. That image of the three people joining hands for the future should be kept in the minds of everybody.

Working backwards to the last six months, backwards to the events of the last Sunday and the week thereafter, that still can be the image for the future. One hand will have to be replaced by another hand. The three hands together are an institution.

We understand that the SPLM very fast took a decision that Mr. Kiir, Salva Kiir, will be nominated to be appointed within the period set of two weeks as both the leader of SPLM, the President of the Government of South Sudan and then, automatically as was enshrined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as the First Vice-president of the Sudan as a whole. The fact that this had been foreseen as a possibility in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement shows again the wisdom of the negotiators. The fact that the SPLM decided, within a day or two, to nominate Salva Kiir, shows the wisdom of SPLM. The fact that they have chosen Dr. Kiir is extremely important. He was the number two which means he is now the number one after the number one is no longer there. No jockeying for power; no division within – which was a very good sign - SPLM is becoming a very mature organization to be commended for this.

Salva Kiir is a person in whom we can have full confidence. He was with Dr. Garang from the beginning. I may have my numbers wrong but I think he already was appointed as military Chief of Staff and field commander in 1985 or 1986. He has gained much respect. He was a true commander for such a long period. You hardly see that in any country that there is a military chief commander for above twenty years one and the same person. This means that he has respect in the south among all the military commanders who continue to respect him as their leader. It means that he is also carrying the respect of all the commanders in the north who are to deal with him and to know that he was the boss. The military bosses understand that fact each other. He is the natural choice and the military respect which he carried in the south as well as here in the north will be translated into the political respect which he undoubtedly will gain.

Let us not forget that Salva Kiir was always with Garang. We know that in the SPLM in the past there were divisions. We know that people sometimes were persuaded to leave Dr. Garang and then shifted sides for a while and then came back. He did not – he always was with Dr. Garang. They had their discussions. It is normal in any organization which has also the objective to become a political and not only a military organization. Those discussions were always within the movement, within the party, you can say. And that is the reason of Salva Kiir being the right choice, the right person in the right place after that place had been evacuated by Dr. Garang.

Now about the future; there are two important things: in the long run – and we have to start with the long run today – implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Nothing should distract us from the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Of course some delay of a week or two is totally understandable because everybody is now thinking about other issues and a couple of meetings can not take place. And of course that may also result in some later appointments of people. Dr. Garang had some people in mind to be appointed as members of the government. Of course there will be some delay but that is only logical and is not structural. And we did hear from all parties “we want to continue” and that is very important. It is important for Sudan – for the south – but also for Darfur and the east. Because the road to peace in east as well as in Darfur did go through Naivasha, Nairobi, does go through the signing ceremony of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; does go through the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

It is important to keep that in mind that if one person, even if he is the highest person in one part of the country, is no longer there, his creation, his legacy is still there. It has institutional importance. Dr. Garang himself was able to live up above all the divisions and became an institution himself and his creation has become an institution that is more important than its creators – Dr. Garang and all the others. The institution is there. It is law; it is a constitution in itself. It has got importance over and above the people who did sign it. People have to understand that.

We will continue to argue for this; for the sake of Sudanese society, and we will also offer our assistance to all parties to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in full detail. That is Number One. Number two: the short-term. It is not only in Khartoum but also in other cities in the world that if something tragic is happening which is shaking the foundations of the society that people become frustrated, that they become angry. And that has happened. People should understand that the dead is not at all necessary. Their leader in whom they did have hope is no longer there but there is an institution in which they can have hope and that is the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, that is the SPLM and those are the new people. And there are also the bonds between the leaders in the north and the leaders in the south. That all is still there. People don't have to be frustrated. Because they participated in the day of joy. It was not only welcoming Dr. Garang to Khartoum, it was welcoming the SPLM to Khartoum, it was welcoming peace to Khartoum, it was welcoming coexistence to Khartoum. That all is still there – the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is there, peace is there, SPLM is there, and the bond is there. Peace is still there and people should no longer be frustrated or angry. There is no reason to be suspicious. That suspicion can feed anger. No reason to do so because, as I did say, of course an investigation will have to prove it – but only to prove it. There is no reason to think there was foul play. And everybody was in agreement in the peace agreement, which is natural. There were no people or movement shooting at Dr. Garang's plane at the time. There was no indication; it was an accident. There is no foul play and there is no reason to be suspicious; no reason to be angry. After the funeral of Saturday, people can resume their joy and their hope which they expressed so clearly on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. That was not a one day occasion. It was the beginning of a new era and that era is not fading away with the death of one person.

Of course in many cities, and now also in Khartoum - Khartoum is now joining the ranks of world cities - you have riots and those riots start with young people who are making abuse of a situation. And what has happened in the last couple of days is extremely sad. Dr. Garang would not have wished it to take place. He brought peace to Khartoum. He did not bring riots to Khartoum. He brought security to Khartoum; he did not bring insecurity to Khartoum and

everybody who was living with hope and joy in the 9<sup>th</sup> of July has the responsibility to spread that joy and hope also in the days ahead - not only in his or her personal behavior but also by talking in the neighborhood and to all other relatives. Keep calm; keep the hope; keep the joy. That is what Garang would have wished. Riots by young people have to be stopped. Killings and lootings have to be condemned from the beginning and the police have to stop that as a true police has to do all this with security measures and acting very effectively against rioters. But only against rioters and not against other people. People should not, on the basis of what has happened – understandably but totally to be condemned of course - should not then start to take the whole law in their own hands and all of a sudden see behind everybody belonging to another group an enemy. Definitely not. Khartoum was a city where people from different creeds, different origins, different tribes and from different parts of the country where they came from were living together in peace, in coexistence.

Of course many people were in extremely difficult situations and I spoke many words about exclusion and poverty of, for instance, all the IDPs around the center of the capital. It was a bad situation but for them, there was hope and there was peace. Khartoum was the most peaceful city of Africa. That is what I always said to any foreigner coming here. Khartoum was a city where Arabs and Africans were living together and they all were Sudanese; they were living together in one big city. That has to be resumed. It is the responsibility of everybody: the president, and also an individual father in a home who has to take care of his own sons and a mother who has to take care of her sons. You should not translate your sadness into anger and violence. There is no reason whatsoever for anger. There is reason for sadness but nothing else. Not frustration, no anger, no suspicion, no violence. And the riots should not turn into groups ganging up against each other – religious groups, Christians and Muslim, ethnic groups – Arabs and Africans, rich groups belonging to the elite defending themselves against the poor people. All types of divisions. We have seen that in other cities in the world. We have seen that in Nairobi, we have seen that in Los Angeles we have seen it in Birmingham in the past. But Khartoum was not part of that. Khartoum should step out of that rank of cities where violence has become sometimes customary and should get back in the leading place of the cities of Africa and the world where people can live together in peace.

So I call on everybody, on the opinion leaders and on the leaders, on the police, the leaders of the communities, on fathers and mothers at home, also on young people who are leaders amongst themselves to come to senses and to go again for exactly what they were enjoying on the ninth of July, that is indeed characterized Khartoum on the ninth of July and that shall characterize Khartoum again on the day of the funeral, this Saturday, and in all the weeks thereafter.

Thank you very much.

**Q** (*in Arabic*) Has the government informed you of any move to postpone the formation of the Government of National Unity following the death of Dr. Garang?

Were there any pledges made between you and Garang which you fear will be jeopardized in future?

**Pronk:** There is no reason to assume that there is a structural delay in the formation of the government. I do not know of all the appointments. I was not consulted, of course, by Dr.

Garang and his successor. The day was the ninth of August and I understand that people really want to stick to that day. The new governors are going to their places in the south on the ninth of August.

In my last discussions with Dr. Garang, we promised him all the cooperation in the speedy implementation of the CPA. He asked me several questions with regard the deployment of the troops, for instance. You remember that early this year he said, “Go slow; go slow, I need more time, please wait a little bit – I have some concerns”. That is all over and he answers, “go fast; go fast”, and I say well it is difficult. You first say go slow and now go fast. To bridge that gap we do our very best. So all our requests now was please come very soon. You now have to help with the implementation of our agreement after I solved all political which were still on the agenda.

That is my answer to your question and we will continue to do that in that spirit. I hope to have a meeting soon with Salva Kiir. We have our contacts at the moment in particular in New Site where the leadership of SPLM is gathered together.

We have high officials over there. They requested us a couple of things and we responded positively to all their requests.

**Q:** Two questions about the investigations into the crash: has the UN been approached to carry out investigations or are you just offering?

The second question is on the violence in Khartoum. If that continues – particularly I am talking about the Arab and the southern Sudanese communities - does that threaten the entire peace process?

**Pronk:** We have been approached and we also have offered. It took place more or less at the same day. I offered – to be specific - our assistance to Minister of Foreign Affairs Mustafa who is my direct contact and he reacted positively. We have offered two of our liaisons people at the moment in New Site with the SPLM. They reacted positively. I understand that the Ugandan government wanted to contact me and then I contacted them because the phone connections were not so easy during the last couple of days, and the Ugandan ambassador came back to us. So it is a kind of a common approach.

The modalities of the investigations have to be decided because the parties – I mentioned the three involved – they have not yet decided. Moreover the technicalities have to be decided and when we come in then we will have to decide in the UN who is going to do it. New York or ICAO people who are in Nairobi at the moment. That has to be decided.

But we have approached each other mutually during the first day on Monday.

**BBC:** Do you think that the fact that an investigation is being announced after everyone has pretty much come up with the conclusion in terms of bad weather or perhaps some form of tragic accident, perhaps a potential feeding of the conspiracy rumors?

**Pronk:** Conspiracy rumors are there always in any situation where important leaders die. And that is why you have to offer an open, transparent, full expert investigation in order to take away suspicions which there are. Suspicions are not resolved on the offer of an expertise. It already ... I called, I was up late in the night on Sunday night and I called, and I am not going to mention names, people here belonging to the government if they knew earlier what happened and the first reaction was, “was he shot down”. Which is a logical question? So you have to give a final answer, no he was not shot down. But you can only finally say that, on the basis of expertise coming by experts who have been trained and educated for that job and that is not me or anybody here.

I only hope that such an investigation – and that is always my worry - will not take a lot of time because the time included in an investigation sometimes is feeding suspicion. And parties should decide very soon on the modalities of the investigation and the investigators should do their work with decent speed.

The second question; yes, if peace is being jeopardized in the short-run – and that has been done in the city and in some other cities, that is not peace. And then of course there is always a danger that politicians are going to react before politicians do not only lead people – they also follow people. That is what politicians always do; both ways. Of course it is risky. That is also what people should understand. Those people who were pleased with the peace by not behaving endangering the very thing they were pleasing. It is so unwise to kill your frustration on a building; to burn down a church; to burn down a mosque which is a symbol of another culture, another religion. It is unwise, it is not responsible, it is immature, it is mob action and of course that will result in retaliation. We have seen that in other countries, we have seen that in other cities. That should not happen in Khartoum. That is why the leaders have to speed up and to keep their people under control. That is what I am saying.

**Q:** (*in Arabic*) Will these incidents affect the peace process in the east and in Darfur especially in light of doubts expressed by some leaders of the rebel groups of Darfur that government has a hand in the crash?

**Pronk:** I have not read those statements coming from rebel movements; I have not read statements coming from, for instance, the leaders of SLM or JEM. I didn’t have any time to read those statements – were they official statements by leaders of those units?

**Spokesperson:** I saw it in the press but I didn’t see it formal.

**Pronk:** No quotes, so they didn’t say it. If there are no quotes then they didn’t say it. And if they would have said so, then I would have told them that there is no reason whatsoever. Government will not be involved. Garang was the government. He was sworn in as the Vice-president. I have seen tears in the eyes of Dr. Taha. I saw personally how much the president was shaken.

I was myself in Sunday night in Nyala. In the morning, on my way to the airport in order to get here as soon as possible, I went to bring my condolences to the highest representative of the Government of Sudan and that is the *wali* in Nyala. He was shaken. He is not belonging to the same tribe or group or whatever but he was shaken. He understood how difficult it was.

The government is not behind it. Other leaders are not behind. Definitely not. And if there are people – press people, opinion leaders or whatever – who say something different, it is irresponsible. I didn't read it but if it would have been there it would have been irresponsible.

And, of course, as I said, positive relations – north-south – radiates positively into Darfur. And now if the country is shaken, of course it will also shake the east and shake Darfur.

We have to bring back everything as soon as possible to calm and peace.

And I call also on the leaders in the east and the leaders in Darfur to be wise leaders that lead their own part of the country to peace following the example of Dr. Garang. If you want to honor him because you love him as a leader, then you have to follow him on the road to peace.

Read his speech when he was taking office after he was sworn-in in Khartoum on the ninth of July. If you want to follow him you have to do what he said in that day. That was the last speech that he gave out to the society as a whole.

**Q:** With regards to the death toll, how many people have died? How many people died?

Two; have you talked to the widow of Dr. Garang or to Salva Kiir?

**Pronk:** Thank you. I am not an expert in those figures because I am not an authority in Sudan so I am taking the figures to me. And in a rather chaotic situation in the city you will always here different stories so I am not going to quote it. I am listening to the police figures. I hope there are no more people being killed during last night. I understand also from my sources that there were groups of young people roving around the city also during the night which is totally irresponsible. There is no reason whatsoever – it is criminal, it is just criminal. If you want to defend your family, stay home. Stay home but don't go outside the area to try to find somebody who might perhaps belong to a different group, who is Sudanese and coming from Khartoum but looks a little bit different. Don't make mistakes here in this country which had been made in Europe and the US – definitely not. That is indeed stupid. Such mistakes of racial discrimination were made in the north, in Europe, in the US, in the past.

Don't follow those mistakes here in Khartoum.

Did I speak to Dr. Kiir? No, not yet. Salva Kiir came a bit later because he went to Nairobi and came a bit later to the south and I have not been to the south and as a matter of fact it is not possible to have full connections at the moment.

Did I speak to Rebecca Garang? Not personally. I sent her a Letter of Condolences and my representative in the south spoke to her on my behalf personally when he brought over the condolences.

Rebecca Garang was very strongly composed and asked all the assistance and said that, "now we have to continue in his spirit" and she was speaking about peace, she was speaking about unity and she was not meaning only unity of the SPLM. She spoke about the unity of the



country. She was a true wife of a great leader and that is a good message to spread in the country as a whole and this also makes some good public statement.

**Q:** I am trying to find out whether the UN is aware of arbitrary arrests of people since these riots started, mostly in the displaced camps. And I don't know whether these people will get a fair judgment or these arrests are done... are these people really following the right or are they criminal gangs? Are they going to get a fair trial? Does the United Nations know the areas where these people are put in detention? So we really I don't know what is happening. Is this going to solve the situation of the death of Dr. Garang or is it going to cause more problems? People are arrested who have not participated in riots and destruction. This is going to cause a lot of problems.

There is also the problem of lack of communications. Since the death of Dr. Garang, the media has not communicated the message rightly to the people.

The local communities in the displaced camps don't have televisions, they don't have radios. Nothing was communicated to them as to the cause of the death of Garang. There must be a way to reach these people so that they can understand what caused the death of Garang. The absence of the media and radio and televisions is the problem that created these riots in the capital.

**Pronk:** As far as your first question is concerned, I am aware of arrests. The police have the duty to arrest the criminals, the perpetrators. In certain situations we have seen also before arrests which you can call arbitrary and I have always denounced arbitrary arrests. I understand that some arrests have been made which we may consider as arbitrary.

We are aware of that phenomenon. We are also aware of places and my human rights representatives and my police representatives have contacts with the authorities in Khartoum in order to raise that issue. The line between arbitrary and not arbitrary is always very thin in such a situation of insecurity but you did hear me saying very explicitly that all authorities should carry out a proper policy. By a 'proper policy' I mean a policy which is dampening and not feeding insecurity. It is dampening violence and not feeding violence and I mentioned different groups and I mentioned myself, also, the police included.

As far as the press is concerned you can better judge to which standard is the press present or absent. I have the impression that the newspapers are free to write what they are writing. I can't follow myself the radio and I can not judge.

For me, lifting of censorship on the tenth of July was a very positive step and of course the press and the authorities have to learn to live with that situation. It was positive and I hope it is being used in full also in the present situation.

But I agree with you, positive use of communications is extremely important. Positive messages and the truth should also not be manipulated in a more positive manner than there is. The truth is important, has to be communicated to all people.

**Q:** (*in Arabic*) Will the recent events with all its implication hamper your deployments?

**Pronk:** Of course we are as much the victims of a curfew as everybody else. In one year, for the first time, I came home when it was still light - completely different. And that is of course true for all my staff – I have to give a good example. I didn't ask for an exception.

That is hampering our activities, definitely and I hope it will remain for a very short period. I have told all my national staff you can stay home until Saturday. Thereof, if you want to come you can come. If you think it is difficult to come here stay home. Some people stay home with their family for any reason – it is possible to do so.

And I said also to my international staff, only those international staff which are considered to be essential will have to be here. Now I have noticed everybody considers himself very essential so everybody is here - which is good. Some people come a bit later.

So it is having difficulties. We are using of course also our planes in order to help people to get to the south at the request of the government and SPLM.

So it is a reallocation of capacity – what you will do with the one thing you can do for something else.

Some meetings can not take place. I was supposed tomorrow to chair a meeting with the Misseiriya and the Dinka in Abyei – you know, you have been told. And the president had asked me to have this meeting. It is not possible to have that meeting tomorrow in the present situation but I hope that I can chair that meeting next week. And I call on the people of Abyei to keep their calm and to be wise.

I was supposed last Monday and Tuesday to have a meeting with the commanders on the ground of SLA in the Jebel Marra. I couldn't have that meeting which means again that the preparation for the 24th of August, the Abuja talks, to start is having a difficulty.

I can continue with such examples so, of course, there is a repercussion. I only hope that the repercussion will no longer last a day or ten and that we can resume what I say is, politically, 'business as usual'.

**Q:** In your briefing to the Security Council you said that you are giving the highest priority to facilitate the voluntary returns of IDPs and refugees numbering about 600,000. How is this program going on?

**Pronk:** The return of IDPs is going slow and that is the wish of the IDPs who were of course caught in the rainy season and are looking at the situation in the south.

We were not trying to give them an incentive to go fast. At the same time, in a number of cities and regions, there are more IDPs than you may have expected already returning and we give them a lot of assistance. Until the end of September, we are working on the building of way-stations on their routes and this will take place in a period of about three weeks. Food assistance is being given to IDPs in very difficult situations. There is no reason to speed up

the IDP return because of the death of Dr. Garang. We follow the same policy which we had decided upon in the beginning of this year.

**Q:** The death of Dr. Garang has created riots, demonstrations and looting around the capital. Since the investigation is going to take place, is the media going to be involved? Because he died on Saturday and the message reached people on Monday then people were taken suddenly and that was why it caused chaos in the area. Is the media going to be involved so that they can tell people exactly what really has taken place?

**Pronk:** No where in the world are the media involved in investigations itself. The investigation itself is an expertise of independent experts. But I said it should start soon, it should not take a long period and it should be a public report, fully transparent, and then the media will have to play a role.

And I could imagine and I will advise so, that at the start of the work of such expertise committee there would be a press conference of the expert committee to explain to the public through the press the procedures to be followed. Such an expert committee could do a good job by explaining to the people at the beginning and at the end its findings and by not taking much time.

And the government should do a good job by appointing a joint, unified, integrated expertise committee as soon as possible. We will argue for that.

**Spokesperson:** Other questions? We still have only five minutes. So I think only two questions from *AlRai AlAam* and the gentleman at the back.

**Q:** (*in Arabic*) Mr. Pronk said that the government has formed a committee of experts to investigate the helicopter crash.

The second point is: doesn't Mr. Pronk see that the law is above all and that all who have committed crimes against the law must be brought to trial?

**Pronk:** Maybe you can repeat the interpretation for me.

**Spokesperson:** The first thing it was just an information piece. He said the Government of Sudan has already established an investigation committee.

**Pronk:** The Government of Uganda also did so. They have to be brought together into one overall committee. So you may say perhaps that the government has appointed committee members of an overall committee that remains to be seen.

**Spokesperson:** The second point, he said don't you think that all the culprits of this rioting and those who looted and all that should be brought to justice and punished accordingly?

**Pronk:** When that is possible, the answer is yes, of course. That is what I said. The police and the authorities have to condemn and to take steps against the criminal. But you have to be very clear who is the criminal and who is not. A person belonging to a group which also brought about criminals, him or herself is not a criminal. People have to leave that to the authorities and not to take the law in their own hands.

**Q:** Is there any move to hold an emergency meeting to confirm the peace agreement, to renew pledges and to consolidate the wishes of the parties to proceed ahead?

**Pronk:** Sir, that meeting took place yesterday in New York in the Security Council. The Security Council devoted a special session only to the death of Dr. Garang.

There, Mr. Guehenno, you know him – he is the Undersecretary-general of the United Nations dealing with peacekeeping, he was here as our guest – made a statement and the Security Council discussed it and then there was a statement by the president of the Security Council. That included indeed a pledge and an appeal.

That meeting has taken place already at the highest level possible in New York itself.

Thank you.

**Spokesperson:** Thank you very much. You have the statement of the Security Council distributed to you.

Thank you.