

**Office of the Spokesperson****UNMIS BRIEFING TO THE PRESS***2 May 2007*

Below is a near verbatim transcript of the press conference held by United Nations Mission in Sudan Spokesperson, Ms. Radhia Achouri, on 2 May 2007 at the UNMIS Press Briefing Room.

UNSC EXTENDS UNMIS MANDATE

The Security Council adopted on 30 April, unanimously, resolution 1755 (2007), in which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) until 31 October 2007. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to urgently appoint a new Special Representative for Sudan. The English original version of the resolution is available for you in the room.

The Security Council Resolution focuses on the CPA, which reflects the Council's recognition that the CPA is the bedrock of sustainable peace in Sudan.

The resolution's provisions include a call on the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to accelerate progress on implementing all their commitments, in particular to carry out the establishment of Joint Integrated Units and other aspects of the security sector reforms, to re-energize the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants; to complete the full and verified redeployment of forces by 9 July 2007; to demarcate precisely the 1 January 1956 North/South borderline, consistent with the Machakos Protocol of 20 July 2002; to resolve the Abyei problem and urgently establish an administration there; and to take the necessary steps to hold national elections according to the agreed time frame.

On the redeployment issue, just to clarify, the 9 July 2007 deadline only applies to SAF. According to the CPA, SPLA was originally meant to have completed its redeployment by 9 April 2007, six months after the full establishment of Joint Integrated Units. The delay in establishing Joint Integrated Units has meant that SPLA redeployment from the Transitional Areas has not yet begun. It is in the interests of both parties for JIUs to be fully constituted and integrated as soon as possible, and for SPLA to get its redeployment underway rapidly, so as not to further delay the implementation of the CPA Security Arrangements.

UN RESIDENT AND HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR CONDEMNS ATTACK ON UNHCR STAFF IN WEST DARFUR

United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Manuel Aranda da Silva strongly condemned yesterday the temporary abduction of six (6) staff members of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the hijacking of the refugee agency's vehicles by unknown armed men in Um Shalaya, West Darfur. The incident occurred on 30 April.

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator expressed grave concern over the repeated attacks on humanitarian personnel and assets that put at risk the ongoing humanitarian

efforts to assist millions of people in Darfur. He urged all concerned to act swiftly to end such acts, which are in flagrant breach of International Humanitarian Law and principles, and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The full text of the press release which was sent out to you yesterday is available in the room.

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ANTONIO GUTERRES BRIEFS THE PRESS IN NEW YORK

Mr. Guterres held a press conference yesterday 1 May in New York, including on his recent visit to Sudan which had enabled him to evaluate UNHCR's operations there. He indicated that as a result of his visit to eastern Sudan, a decision had been taken to upgrade UNHCR's operation there in order to guarantee better conditions for over 100,000 Eritrean refugees hosted by Sudan. He also indicated that a decision had also been made to scale up the UNHCR presence in western Darfur, assuming the coordination of protection and camp management both within the United Nations system and the broader humanitarian community. The kidnapping yesterday of six humanitarian workers in western Darfur illustrated the difficulties faced in that region, he added.

It was crucial, he stressed, for the international community to be fully engaged, exerting pressure for an effective and comprehensive peace agreement to be established as soon as possible, involving all the parties, including those that had not signed the Abuja Agreement. Without such an agreement, it would be very difficult to ensure security in the region, he said. He added that it was also necessary to support the mediation efforts of the United Nations and the African Union, as well as ensure implementation of the agreement on the "heavy support package" and the establishment of a hybrid force in the Sudan. While the international community had been very successful thus far in improving the humanitarian situation in Darfur, there had been "a total failure" in relation to protection and security, he said.

We have a summary of the High Commissioner press conference in the room.

DARFUR

Revitalization of the political process

The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, attended a meeting hosted by Libya on the situation in Darfur over the weekend, which was attended by Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, the African Union (AU), the European Union and the League of Arab States. We sent you electronically the "Tripoli Consensus".

UNMIS ACTIVITIES

Civil Affairs

On 29 April, UNMIS Khartoum met with a group of SPLM parliamentarians from Western Equatoria State. The MPs highlighted the need for increased dissemination of the CPA to ensure that communities are better informed about their rights and the obligations of government towards them. The MPs expressed interest in collaborating with UNMIS and have identified the census and the ensuing elections as priority areas of collaboration.

Police

UN Police Advisors, which are co-located with the local police personnel in several areas , continue their capacity-building activities by following up on the daily performance of the local police in order to assess training needs through targeted monitoring by way of daily patrols, long-range patrols and co-location with local police personnel in the south and the Transitional Areas.

Several training activities were conducted. On April 27 2007, the UN Police concluded a training course on “Arrest and Search Techniques” at Abyei Police Station for 12 participants. Last week, a capacity building/on-the-job training was conducted at Ed Damazin Police Station in Criminal Investigation and Arrest Procedures. On 27 April 2007, the UN Police in Kauda conducted similar training at Rashad police for 35 police officers. On 27 April 2007, the UN Police in Ed Damazin completed a training programme on Police Station Records Maintenance, Police Professional Standards, Moral Ethics, Concept & Techniques of Patrolling and Public Relations, Use of force and Democratic Policing at Ar Rosaries locality. The programme benefited 31 junior police officers, including 8 female officers. On 27 April 2007, the UN Police started a training programme for 230 Police Recruits at Torit Training School. In Bor, the UN Police conducted on 27 April a Community Awareness Program on the CPA, role of the UN Police and Community Policing at Malual Agorbar. Around 100 people attended the program who expressed readiness to work with the local Police in community policing. A similar programme was conducted at Malek on 26 April.

On 26 April , the 5th and the last Community Policing Workshop for IDP camps, organized by the UN Police in collaboration with UNDP, the GoS Police and Popular Police, was concluded at the Al Baraka IDP Camp, Khartoum. A total of about 217 participants were trained since the program began in March 2007. Participants were drawn from the Community, GoS Police, and Popular Police, including women and the youths. During the closing ceremony, UNDP Rule of Law Officer donated over 20 bicycles, flashlights with batteries and Gum boots to the participants. UNDP have also agreed to provide funding to set up a Community Aid Post at the IDP camp.

As part of its Quick Impact Projects, UN Police will donate office furniture and stationeries to both GoS and GoSS Police Stations in Abyei. The donation includes 16 shelves, 16 cabinets, 16 tables, 48 chairs, 24 bicycles, 96 registers, and 96 index files.

UNMIS Geneina

As part of its community outreach efforts, UNMIS hosted its second bi-weekly Futoor on 30 April. The Futoor brought together a wide cross-section of civil society, including IDP representatives, teachers, NGOs, youth representatives, and Native administration. Through these gatherings, UNMIS is providing an opportunity for dialogue and is helping to build bridges within the community it serves as well as between the community and the UNMIS.

HUMANITARIAN

Destruction of the first batch of stockpiled antipersonnel mines

The first batch of 4,488 various types of antipersonnel mines of Sudan took place on 30 April at Al-sailt AREA, Khartoum North., in an official ceremony attended by around 150 participants from the Government of National Unity, the GoSS, the diplomatic community, the UN , civil society organizations and the press. According to article 4 of the Mine Treaty Ban dated 4 December 1997, ratified by Sudan on 23 October 2003, the Republic of the Sudan has to destroy stockpiled antipersonnel mines by 30 April 2008.

The United Nations Mine Action Office and the UNDP have been working with concerned national authorities by providing technical assistance and support to enable them to coordinate, plan,

implement, supervise, ensure quality-mine operations, and to meet their obligations under the Mine Ban Convention.

IDPs and Refugees' Return

Since the beginning of the year and until 29 April, a total of approximately 30,000 Sudanese IDPs have returned to their areas of origin in Southern Sudan and the Transitional Areas through the organised return. Around 15,000 of IDP returnees are from Khartoum. The South Darfur operation has been very successful. Overall returns to Northern Bahr El Ghazal have exceeded the UN target. Road convoys to Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Lakes will not take place after 3 May, however more convoys will be planned to South Kordofan, Unity and Upper Nile during May. We have the latest statistics for you in the room.

Regarding refugees, as of 21 April 2007, the total returnees through assisted and organized repatriation reached 55,417 individuals. The overall number of refugee returnees, including spontaneous return reached 137,579 individuals. We also have statistics available for you in the room.

Darfur

Numerous security incidents targeting humanitarians continue to be reported in Darfur. These incidents include carjacking and temporary abduction of humanitarian staff, the latest of which is the attack on UNHCR personnel in West Darfur on 30 April. In one of the attacks on humanitarian workers reported last week, two INGOs staff members were wounded by gunshot. In Nyala, an armed man unsuccessfully attempted to physically abuse a female NGO staff during a break-in into an NGO compound. In West Darfur, humanitarian activities were suspended in Ardamata camp after armed youth stopped a children's activity and beat up three NGO staff on 23 April. Aid agencies working in Um Dukhum, West Darfur, have temporarily suspended all but essential work following a sharp rise in violent attacks on aid workers in and around the town. Vital assistance to about 100,000 people - including conflict-affected Darfurians and refugees from Chad and the Central African Republic - has been disrupted as a result.

New displacements as a result of attacks and general insecurity are also ongoing. IDPs continue to trickle into the Zalingei camps (West Darfur), in particular from the Abaata and Nertiti areas. On 25 April, renewed militia attacks have been reported in the Abaata area, causing an unspecified number of people to flee towards Zalingei. In North Darfur, thousands of people have reportedly fled from Saraf Omra following recent inter-tribal fighting in the area. Thousands more have arrived over the past weeks in North Darfur from conflict-affected areas in South Darfur. Nearly 130,000 newly displaced people have been verified since the beginning of the year.

Despite these setbacks, the humanitarian community continues to explore ways to increase access and/or resume activities in areas difficult to access. In West Darfur, the road from Zalingei to Nertiti was re-opened for humanitarian traffic after it was declared UN 'no go' in October 2006. In eastern Jebel Marra, an NGO opened a new permanent clinic in Feina and Solidarités started drilling a new borehole in Feina and Dulda. Efforts are also underway to allow the resumption of humanitarian operations in the Abaata area (north of Zalingei), after a series of road incidents in the previous months had resulted in a significant reduction of humanitarian activities there. In South Darfur, NGOs are slowly returning to the Adilla area after they had suspended their operations in December 2006 in the face of widespread insecurity.

A preparatory meeting of the High Committee for the implementation of the 28 March Joint Communiqué was held on 28 April. The High Committee is composed of representatives from the

Government, UN and NGOs and will meet on a monthly basis. The first meeting is scheduled for 3 May.

Transitional Areas

On 19 April, the health and nutrition coordination meeting in Abyei discussed a contingency plan to respond to possible outbreaks of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) during the rainy season. These plans include provision of extra water tanks and bladders for use during emergencies, possible construction of shallow and temporal trench latrines, as communal latrines might not be feasible given the lack of resources, sensitization of the population on hygiene hazards, treatment of AWD in Abyei hospital and provision of treatment medicine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In association with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Information Center (UNIC), The Youth Forum celebrates **World Press Freedom Day** on Thursday 3 May 2007, through a round table debate entitled: “**The Present & Prospects of Young Journalists in Sudan**”.

There are also other activities scheduled in Khartoum and in Juba, which will include press conferences and reading of the UN Secretary-General message on World Press Freedom Day.

Questions and Answers

Q: Concerning IDPs, you dwelt much on their return home but I did not hear anything about the IDPs going to southern Sudan especially to the three states of Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria. We have not heard anything on their returns since the beginning of the repatriation process.

Secondly, yesterday [*indiscernible*] of 113 laborers terminated from United Nations Mission in Sudan. They were arguing that they wanted their after-service benefits and have filed a case at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told them that they [*the Ministry*] has forwarded their requests to United Nations Mission in Sudan. They say the response has not reached them. I would like to know where that letter is hanging.

Spokesperson: Thank you very much. On IDPs, just look at the statistics and you will find your information there. As for why is it that there is not much happening in the three Equatorias, I think that your question would be best addressed to our section that is competent in this issue. I will give you the phone number of my colleague and she will brief you in detail. What I know for a fact is that according to statistics I have in front of me, there have not been assisted returns to the Equatorias from other states. However, there are returnees from within the Equatorias – from an Equatoria state to another Equatoria state.

On the other question about the 133 people terminated, please do understand the following: You see the building where we are. We have hired many workers to help work on the building – builders, carpenters and so on. The process of finalizing the work on this building has progressed tremendously. And if you visited us right away when we moved in here and you compared the status of the building at that time and today, you will see lots of improvement. For instance, this room was not ready at the time when we came in here. Like any other enterprise, when your work progresses, you don't need as many workers as you did when you started working in the first place.

It is just a matter of logic. These people are not needed anymore because the work progressed and we need less workers to finish the job.

As for the letter, I am sure it is somewhere in the mission if it was sent– I will ask. But I want to reiterate that it is not an unlawful separation. The status of these workers is different from the one of the regular staff of the Mission. We are talking about workers hired for a specific project and, like any project when the project develops, automatically the need for labor force is reduced and people are let go. And all these issues are specified in the contracts given to these labors. So that is the situation and, I hope since *Juba Post* [local weekly paper] is the one following up on this -you asked me on this like two or three weeks ago- that this answer addresses your queries we have nothing to add to this. There are misperceptions from people who work with us; they have expectations that once they work with us they are hired in an open-ended basis or will be hired for other jobs. That is not the case and the contracts are very clear so people should read their contracts before they start having expectations of future employment with the United Nations.

Q: You said that returns to Bahr El Ghazal will stop on 3 May, what are the reasons for that?

The second question is that Suleiman Jamous still remains under United Nations detention in Kadugli. [Indiscernible]. And finally there are reports that Jamous can only come out of that place with the consent of the Government of Sudan. How true are these statements?

Spokesperson: On your first question on the IDPs and returns and why these operations will come to a halt after 3rd May in the states cited, I will contact the concerned colleagues and come back to you and will give you their contacts so that you could put the question to them directly.

On the issue of Suleiman Jamous, I would like to say the following: you have been following the story of Suleiman Jamous right from the beginning. I do remember that a number of newspapers printed stories that “the United Nations has unrightfully detained Engineer Mr. Jamous” and so on and that the United Nations has no right to do so. A number of newspapers strongly criticized us when we flew Suleiman Jamous from Darfur to Kadugli – this is just to jog up your memory and you can make the deductions you deem appropriate.

As to the current situation, and this is my last statement on Mr. Jamous, since I kept reiterating the same answer over and over and the same question keeps coming back: Mr. Jamous is not under United Nations arrest or detention.. Mr. Jamous is a free man and has all liberty to walk out of the United Nations hospital in Kadugli today and anytime. This is his decision to make. He could leave whenever he feels like it. But that the United Nations transfer him out of Kadugli and back to Darfur or anywhere else, we do not have the consent of the sovereign authorities of the land to do so. This is what I can say about Mr. Jamous. The United Nations cannot and does not have the ability to transfer him anywhere without the approval of the authorities to do so. So please let us close this issue of Mr. Jamous because this is our position today and so it was yesterday, last month and every time you have asked us about Mr. Jamous. The United Nations does not detain anybody especially in the framework of a peacekeeping operation under a Chapter VI mandate. We assisted Mr. Jamous at a critical time when he was in need of assistance and I hope this would also be mentioned in your stories on the Jamous issue.

Q: In the light of the attack on UNHCR staff, how can the UN protect its personnel?

Spokesperson: Thank you very much for your question because protection is the major problem humanitarian workers face in Darfur. First of all and for the sake of clarity, humanitarian workers are totally independent in their work. One of your colleagues, an I think it was the *AlSahafa* reporter, Ms. Zulaifa, had asked Mr. Holmes when he was here why the United Nations does not

turn to Sudanese security authorities for the protection of humanitarian workers, that is to say escorting them and so on. The answer was from Mr. Holmes that according to International Humanitarian Law and the Principles, one of the basis provisions and principles is absolute independence of humanitarian workers from any party to a conflict. So when they come in, they operate in an independent manner. Among results of this, of course, is that when they move to carry out their duties within a certain country, a military escort from the regular or rebel forces or any other side which is a direct party to the conflict discredits that principle of independence. This is only for the sake of clarity.

The wider general principle is however, that guaranteeing security in any part of the country remains the prerogative of the government. As for Darfur and given the special character of the situation in Darfur, guaranteeing security and safety and the appropriate security environment for humanitarian operations is the responsibility of the party that holds control in areas, Government, SLA/MM and the other rebel factions, in which humanitarian workers operate. You may argue that there is a contradiction between what I said about independence of humanitarian workers and the responsibility of the parties to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers. But there is none. The difference, let me explain, is that humanitarian workers can not be escorted by Government forces or any armed group, but the Government and the armed factions are responsible for guaranteeing security in the areas where humanitarians operate, roads included. They should ensure that there are no fighting, no banditry, and pursue highway robbers and have a clear presence in those areas to deter such acts of robbery and so on. Maybe some elements among those carrying out the robberies and so on are members of some of the armed factions. In this case, the responsibility becomes greater because these factions should have more control in order to impose discipline within their ranks and ensure that humanitarians are not attacked. Protection of humanitarian workers is a challenge in Darfur as the UN can not provide direct protection because its presence is only civilian. The situation is difficult in southern Sudan. In southern Sudan and other areas of deployment of UNMIS under resolution 1590, the United Nations has the mandate to provide protection to humanitarian organizations and their staff, and to United Nations personnel and assets. We have the ability to protect ourselves by ourselves.

But in Darfur, since we do not have a military presence, our protection lies first in the hands of the Sudan government, secondly in the hands of those rebel groups that control some areas of the country and, thirdly, we are being assisted by the African Union Mission in Sudan that has been helpful to us in that regard on a number of occasions when the need arose. However, you are also aware in light of the ongoing discussions about peacekeeping in Darfur, that the African Union, among the problems it has been facing, is that it does not have the resources at the moment to carry out such tasks in many areas of Darfur. This is in response to your question on protection.

My apologies if I took much time but I only wanted to clarify issues because this is also a recurring important question.

Q: [*Indiscernible: on the follow up of the Humanitarian Joint Communiqué, the High Level Committee meeting, and the UN assessment so far of the Joint Communiqué implementation*]

Spokesperson: I appreciate your questions, however the meeting will however be taking place tomorrow and I understand that the participants to the meeting – that is the government, the United Nations and NGOs – are planning to issue a joint press release in which, they will hopefully enlighten all of us on their assessment so far about the status of implementation of that particular Communiqué. I would not go further on this because so far I haven't seen an actual account of the status of implementation of that Communiqué. So I would beg your indulgence, be a little bit patient and put your question tomorrow for that particular meeting when it happens. I will confirm the exact time of the meeting, which was scheduled for the third but I will confirm to you the details

later. And I will ask also if the press will be attending. I don't have that information so far but they will be issuing a press release.

Q: About the Heavy and Light Support Packages, the government now says that the ball is in the courts of the United Nations. How far are you in the implementation process?

Spokesperson: Well, actually the ball is in the court of everybody and not only the United Nations as I said during my last briefing. Basically, on the HSP and the LSP we are talking about a tripartite agreement so the three parties have their respective responsibilities. That is the assumption. Obviously, the nature of responsibility, commitments and who is to do what is where we have differentiations of course. But, all of us have to do what we have to do.

Now on the current status of what is taking place, we are still at the preparatory phases to launch the implementation and I will explain to you why: first of all, we are in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union so then both the United Nations and the African Union will have a legal basis for operation. Here, the ball is in both the courts of the African Union and the United Nations. On logistics and so on, you were not here the other week but I told your colleagues who were here that there was a team from the United Nations Mission in Sudan who went to visit all the areas where the African Union Mission in Sudan is located in Darfur in order to assess the actual tangible needs for the United Nations personnel to come and be settled and also to expand and to help the African Union improve its capacity in terms of buildings, logistics and so on. That has been done. Now they are following up on this. I understand that there was a communication sent following that visit by the United Nations experts and their discussions with African Union Mission in Sudan on the ground. Following that visit, there was a joint communication by the United Nations and the African Union to the Government of Sudan specifying the requirements in terms of land. And that, if we talk about balls, that ball then is in the courts of the Government of Sudan – at least on that issue of land for the 3,000 people or so from the United Nations to come and to settle and also for putting the logistics and so on.

In terms of Troop Contributing Countries, there have been so far a couple of meetings in New York to try to identify Troop Contributing Countries. I do not have an update if they have tangible offers. You read in the media for instance that Egypt is one of the countries that offered contributions. I don't have updates but what I can guarantee you for sure is that the DPKO is very keen on expediting identification of Troop Contributing Countries and actually engaging them in expediting the actual process of providing the troops when there is a firm commitment and an agreement with the United Nations. The same goes for civilian police.

On civilian staff, we are in the process of identifying candidates for the civilian staff posts foreseen under the HSP.

That is my update for you and this is where we are for the time being. If I have anything, of course I will keep you updated.

Q: For months now, everybody is making a tremendous effort to convince the Government of Sudan to accept the HSP and when the government agreed on that, you are now telling us that you have to sit down with the African Union and reach a Memorandum of Understanding. But before that was there no understanding between the African Union and the United Nations?

Spokesperson: There was a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union on the Light Support Package – that does exist. However, the HSP is different from the LSP and needs another legal instrument. You cannot work in any country without a legal instrument. After that, we need

also to have an agreement with the Government of Sudan on the mechanism that will be following up on the implementation of the HSP.

It is good that the government accepted the HSP but I hope that you are aware of the fact that we could not do anything in Darfur on the ground without the green light from the government to accept the HSP. That means that we could not send people to Darfur to do this kind of work without the HSP being officially agreed upon by the Government of Sudan. Because - maybe you know, maybe you don't know - but we notify to the government the purpose of the visit of all our staff that goes to Darfur. If they are going on regular work of United Nations Mission in Sudan, we notify them that this is part of our 1590 mandate; if it is for the LSP, we specify that they are going for the LSP. Which means that any other visit to be undertaken to prepare the work for something that has not been agreed upon by the Government of Sudan could not be possible. And, mind you, it is good and well to say that the ball is in the court of the United Nations but last week I reminded everybody here that if we had kept with the initial schedule agreed upon, this HSP should have started on January. And you know that the Government of Sudan took its time to study and respond on the HSP. The result is that we have now to make up for a series of delays that were not of the UN making. We could not approach Troop Contributing Countries to supply troops when we did not have an agreement. Troop Contributing Countries, by the way, are not and will not make promises to contribute if they don't know what is it that they are contributing to. So there are so many considerations to bear in mind and we explained many times that this HSP, even if it is agreed upon, is not going to happen in a month or two. Please bear in mind that deploying 3,000 plus people in Darfur is basically like deploying a full-fledged peacekeeping operation from scratch. And it is more than scratch because one of the major problems we will be facing, for instance, will be the issue of availability of water in Darfur. You are very well versed in economics Allulla; I'm sure you realize how difficult it would be for us to provide water to more than 3,000 people. And again, for a starter, we don't have the land required. And the land has to be provided by the Government of Sudan.

Q: If I got you correct, you talked about opening up of the United Nations no-go areas in Darfur. Does this mean that the security situation is improving?

Spokesperson: That is not at all what I said. Today we open a no-go area and at the same day we close another area. We are not saying that the security situation in Darfur is deteriorating or improving generally. In many areas in Darfur, there are improvements; in many other areas too, there are deteriorations. I could not tell you that for instance that the whole of West Darfur is bad or the situation is deteriorating. There are areas in West Darfur where the situation has been deteriorating including by the reining of banditry and so on; some other areas are fine and stable. The situation and the landscape in terms of security in Darfur generally keeps changing almost everyday. So it is very difficult to make an assessment saying that the overall security situation in Darfur improved or deteriorated. It is very difficult because, as I said, the situation keeps changing in the areas and today it may be fine in, say point A in North Darfur, a month later it goes bad and so on. Secondly; one could say that security situation in terms, for instance, the significant decrease of direct clashes between the traditional parties to the conflict but it definitely deteriorated in terms of widespread banditry and in terms of the nature of attacks of bandits in Darfur. Before they used just to stop or snatch the car or so on; now they come in armed, shoot and detain staff. We are lucky that so far we did not have casualties but some staff have been shot at and were injured. I told you that a lady sleeping in her room in an NGO compound was subjected to an attempt of physical and sexual assault by an armed man. So please bear in mind that there is no clear-cut picture as far as Darfur is concerned and there is not one generic statement one can come up with about the security situation. One thing for sure is that the overall security situation has not been addressed since the beginning of the crisis and there, there was no improvement.

Thank you very much and see you next Wednesday. We will inform you the exact time because the tripartite mechanism that was supposed to meet today has been postponed to the next week and normally it takes place on Wednesdays. So I will see about the exact timing of the press briefing and keep you informed.

Thank you very much.