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Office of the Spokesperson

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UN calls for Darfur Tranquility in Ramadan

Khartoum, 24 August 2006 – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Sudan, Jan Pronk, today sent a letter to the leaders of the Government of Sudan and all movements involved in military action in Sudan's western region of Darfur urging them to refrain from hostilities and resume dialogue.

Following is the text of the letter sent by the United Nations Mission in Sudan:

Excellency,

The United Nations/SRSG would like to take this opportunity to send warm wishes to all Muslims in Sudan as the holy month of Ramadan has begun and hope that during this period of prayer, fasting and charity, we will see a resumption of dialogue among all parties and an end to the violence and fighting that have inflicted much suffering on the people of Darfur.

An end to fighting in Darfur and a sincere effort to peacefully resolve the crisis there will serve to restore the long lost confidence of millions of displaced and vulnerable people and will give them an opportunity to recover their livelihood and the normalcy that war has deprived them of since 2003.

The United Nations has been assisting the affected populations of Darfur in carrying out life-saving activities generously supported by donors for the past three years. Resources are limited though and aid workers struggle to meet the basic needs of the current vulnerable population. Thus, we appeal to all parties involved in military action in Darfur to respect a period of tranquility during this period of Ramadan.

All parties to the conflict could take the opportunity of this coming Islamic month to embrace peaceful dialogue as a gesture of sincerity and goodwill to the innocent civilians who have silently borne the brunt of the violence and insecurity.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Pronk
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan

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