



UNMIS Press Statement

23 June 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNMIS CONDEMNS THE ARREST BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OF SIX OF ITS NATIONAL STAFF

UNMIS strongly condemns the arrest yesterday by Military Intelligence of six of its national staff who were departing from Kadugli Airport to Wau as part of UNMIS relocation plan.

In accordance with the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA) signed by the Government of Sudan and the mission, the Government is obliged to present the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) with evidence prior to taking any legal action against any member, national or international, of UNMIS, including arresting them.

UNMIS is very concerned about the safety and security of its staff members and requests their immediate release until evidence of any illegal activities is presented by the local authorities to UNMIS.

The temporary detention and abuse of four peacekeepers last week and yesterday's arrest of national staff members constitute clear and disturbing violations of the SOFA.

UNMIS calls on the parties to respect the SOFA, and uphold their commitment to protect civilians and ensure the freedom of movement for all UN staff, regardless of their origin, or ethnic and political affiliations.

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For further information contact Kouider Zerrouk. Acting Spokesperson. Phone: + (249) 912 39 65 39. Email: Zerrouk@un.org