



# UNMIS Photo Release

RELEASE NO. 23

10 February 2009

## DDR launch in Ed Damazin

Demobilization of adult combatants under the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme in Sudan kicked off today, 10 February in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State.

Fifteen combatants from the north-south war ended with the 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) were demobilized during an official ceremony attended by senior governmental officials, donor countries and UN representatives. The DDR programme in Blue Nile State alone aims at demobilizing about 5,000 combatants out of an overall figure of 180,000 combatants.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG), Humanitarian and Regional Coordinator for Sudan, Ameerah Haq congratulated the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan on the occasion. "This event marks the start of the largest DDR programme worldwide as well as a key milestone in the implementation of the CPA", she noted.

DSRSG Haq expressed confidence that the North and South DDR Commissions have the will to make the DDR programme work despite the challenges that lie ahead. These challenges, she noted, include strengthening national ownership of the DDR process, ensuring donor funding and addressing the needs of the ex-combatants in the south.

DSRSG Haq reiterated the UN's commitment to the DDR programme and paid tribute to the governments of Italy and Japan for their support of the DDR programme. She also called on other donors to follow their example. "Preparations are underway to start demobilization in Southern Kordofan and we hope that we can build and sustain momentum in the programme", she added.

[Note: The UN supports the DDR programme through the combined resources of UNMIS, UN Development Programme, UN Children's Fund, World Health Organisation and World Food Programme, known as the UN Integrated DDR unit. UNMIS provided logistical and administrative support on the ground and in Khartoum. UNMIS Pakistani contingent in Ed Damazin constructed and furnished the demobilization site.]



UNMIS Photo Releases are posted on [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)

For further information, contact Brian Kelly, phone +249 (0) 912392270, e-mail: [kellyb@un.org](mailto:kellyb@un.org) and Kouider Zerrouk, phone: +249 (0) 912396539, e-mail: [zerrouk@un.org](mailto:zerrouk@un.org)



During the demobilization process in Ed Damazin, ex-combatants from north and south symbolically handed over their weapons and then registered and received a DDR ID card, cash, non-food items and a coupon for WFP food rations.

Photos: Johann Hattingh/UNMIS