



UNMIS

**PRESS RELEASE NO : 00013**

## **The UN condemns the killing and the abduction of AMIS Personnel in Darfur**

**Khartoum, 10 October 2005:** The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Jan Pronk, condemns the killing of three AMIS personnel and two civilian drivers, employees of an AMIS contractor (PAE). Jan Pronk expresses his condolences to the African Union, to the respective governments and the families of the bereaved. The AMIS soldiers lost their lives in the Khor Abeche area on 8 October while discharging their duty to protect the PAE personnel that had been attacked. SRSG Pronk supports the statements made by Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe, the AU Special Representative in Sudan and Chairperson Konare of the AU Commission, holding the SLA responsible for this ambush.

The Special Representative also condemns the abduction yesterday of some dozens AMIS personnel in the Tine area, North Darfur. According to the AU, a faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is responsible for this abduction. The SRSG is satisfied that in the meantime most of the hostages have been released. However, some are still being held. SRSG Pronk urges for the immediate release of these as well.

This targeting of African Union personnel contravenes the status of the African mission as an independent third-party, strongly supported by the UN Security Council. The perpetrators of these attacks against the African Union, as well as those responsible for the deterioration of the situation in Darfur, will be held to account as per Security Council resolutions 1591 (2005) and 1593 (2005). The SRSG will bring the names of those who may be held responsible to the attention of the Committee of the Security Council, established by Resolution 1591 (2005), para 3a. He notes that JEM commander Mohammed Saleh has politically warned the AU to leave and not to travel in the area he controls. Such an attitude gravely impedes the peace process, constitutes a threat to stability in Darfur and also otherwise violates the requirements laid down by the Security Council in para 3b of this resolution.

SRSG Pronk notes that leaders of SLA and JEM deny that their movements have been involved. They put the blame on dissident factions or former commanders. SRSG Pronk rejects this denial of responsibility. All movements are responsible also for the actions of those who have been within their ranks. The movements have to show that, in the areas which they claim to control, they take all action necessary to stop so-called split factions or dissident commanders, rather than seemingly allowing them to continue acting in violation of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement and the Abuja Protocols.

The Special Representative reminds the parties that they are duty-bound to ensure the safety of AMIS personnel and to fully cooperate with AMIS in discharging the mandate they are entrusted with. He also reminds all countries that the Security Council has urged them repeatedly to support the African Union in its efforts including by providing all equipment and resources necessary. SRSG Pronk deplors that this support has not come adequately and timely, thereby jeopardizing an effective deployment by the AU of its protection capabilities. In particular, the delay in making the Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) available to the AU mission is a reason of concern.