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The UN condemns the killing of de-miners in Southern Sudan

Khartoum, 31 October 2005: The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Jan Pronk, condemns the killing today of two de-miners from the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), a company contracted by the World Food Programme, in an ambush allegedly perpetrated by the Lord Resistance Army (LRA). According to preliminary reports, the de-miners were driving along the Juba-Nimule road in a three vehicle convoy from FSD. The victims of the attack were in the lead vehicle when they were stopped by armed men, taken out of the truck and killed. The two following vehicles turned about and took refuge in Sudanese Armed Forces camp to the South. Preliminary reports indicate that two soldiers from the Sudanese Armed forces were also wounded during the attack.

The Special Representative expresses his outrage at this cowardly attack that jeopardizes the UN and partners efforts in clearing vital roads to ensure the safety of returnees and pave the way for economic reconstruction of Southern Sudan.

The Special Representative urges a speedy investigation to establish the exact circumstances of the attack and identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. He also calls on the Sudanese Government and the Government of Southern Sudan to exert every effort in order to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian workers and to expedite their joint action to contain armed groups still active in Southern Sudan, including the LRA.

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