

***Press Release No. 012/07*****The UN Mission in Sudan Rejects Press Attacks Against its Spokesperson**

**Khartoum, 24 May 2007:** The United Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) unequivocally rejects personalized attacks in recent articles and editorials in the Sudanese press against its spokesperson, Ms. Radhia Achouri.

The attacks appear to be based on a misconception. Ms. Achouri does not make statements in her personal capacity, but speaks on behalf of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Her briefings to the press are based on contributions from the different components of the mission and are cleared beforehand by the leadership of the Mission. Consequently, if members of the media or authors of opinion pieces disagree with her statements, they should address their questions, concerns, and criticism to the United Nations itself rather than unfairly target and harass the messenger.

UNMIS strongly objects to the personalized and malicious nature of these attacks, which have included veiled threats against her. UNMIS has expressed grave concern about this to the Government of National Unity, which is responsible for the safety and security of UNMIS personnel. The Mission would like to appeal to the sense of fairness and justice of those who read these articles and opinion pieces, and calls on them to reject such unjustified attacks against Ms. Achouri.