

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS**

Press Statement by SRSG PRONK on the clashes between SLA/JEM

Khartoum, 7 June 2005

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Jan Pronk, expresses his concern at the recent armed clashes between the two rebel groups in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). He condemns these actions, which constitute, as stated by the African Union, serious violations of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement. He deplores these irresponsible acts that led, according to the African Union, to loss of life amongst the civilian population. The Special Representative is disappointed that these violations are taking place at a time when the international community and the African Union are exerting every effort to assist the parties in achieving a breakthrough during the upcoming round of talks, scheduled to take place on June the 10th 2005.

The Special Representative calls upon the rebel groups to immediately cease hostilities and to head the request of the African Union to pull out their forces from Graidia and the locations vacated by the Government's troops and/or taken over by AMIS forces. He urges all parties, in particular the rebel groups, to fully comply with the letter and spirit of the agreements they signed and with the relevant provisions of the UN Security Council. The Special Representative expects the parties to live up to their commitment to engage in the forthcoming round of talks in good faith and to fully cooperate with the African Union mediation.