



PRESS RELEASE

With reference to the press remarks of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos, today after the adjournment of the Security Council Consultations on Sudan and South Sudan, we would like to state the following facts:

- The military activities carried by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan States was basically in response to the escalation of attacks by the rebel armed groups under the umbrella of the so-called Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) against many places in the two abovementioned States, hence the Government of Sudan was duty bound to uphold its responsibilities to protect civilians in those areas.*
- With regard to the issue of humanitarian access in the two States, it is well known that the Government of the Sudan was the party who welcomed the Tripartite Initiative to deliver the humanitarian needs in those areas, however the Sudanese Liberation Movement – North (SPLMN) was the party who rejected repeatedly that initiative, and impeded deliberately the access to the affected people in areas under their control, furthermore the SPLMN was the party who obstructed the polio vaccine campaign in the two areas as well as putting hurdles before all efforts exerted under the auspices of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan in order to conclude a permanent cease fire and cessation of hostilities that can pave the way for the unhindered access and delivery of humanitarian assistance in the two States.*
- Finally, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan reiterates its unwavering commitment to achieve lasting peace and stability in the two areas through a comprehensive political settlement in the context of the Inclusive National Dialogue initiative declared by His Excellency President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir. In this regard we call on the international community to impress on the armed groups to join the National Dialogue, and we stress the fact that all the necessary guarantees would be granted to the armed groups to participate in this dialogue.*

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