

Situation in Africa
United Nations Security Council Briefing by Mr. Jan Egeland,
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
22 November 2006

On 22 November, the Peru Presidency of the Security Council convened a briefing on situation in Africa with Mr. Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Mr. Egeland discussed his recent visits to Darfur and northern Uganda.

Representatives of the United Kingdom, Greece and Ghana referenced the ICC. Mr. Egeland also mentioned the Court in his statement. In addition, representatives from Argentina, France, and the United Republic of Tanzania mentioned the need for accountability for serious crimes committed and the links between peace and justice. The following excerpts were taken directly from the UN meeting record and are listed in the order they were presented (S/PV.5571).

| Speaker / Country | Statement |
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| Mr. Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator | “With regard to the peace process, both Otti and Kony complained about continued attacks and movements in Southern Sudan by the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF), which was preventing LRA forces from moving into the agreed assembly areas, in particular in the east. I raised that issue with both the mediation team and President Museveni in Kampala. They only marginally raised the issue of the International Criminal Court. I emphasized the independence of the International Criminal Court and stated that peace could not take place without justice. This morning, Vincent Otti told me by satellite phone that they are in the process of reassembling and that they will respect the cessation of hostilities. He also agreed again to revert to the issue of releasing noncombatants into our care.” |
| H.E. Ambassador Karen Pierce, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the UN | “The presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/45) that we issued last week in support of the cessation of hostilities between the two parties needs to be followed up. We encourage all parties to work for a negotiated and peaceful outcome that is compatible with the wishes and needs of the local communities, but also compatible with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We welcome the support that the Secretariat and other parts of the United Nations family have been able to provide to the process. We would also like to note the work done by the Government of Uganda recently to seek to address the humanitarian situation in the north of the country, such as the development of the emergency humanitarian action plan and the draft peace, recovery and development plan now under discussion.” |
| H.E. Ambassador Cesar Mayoral, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the UN | “I would like to conclude, highlighting once again that one of the fundamental elements of the process of reconciliation is accountability for those primarily responsible for massive violations of human rights. We cannot achieve peace at the expense of justice. Novel solutions will have to be found to bring together the typical structures of reconciliation of the local population with international criteria.” |
| H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the UN | “Finally, I wish to emphasize, as several delegations did earlier, that the most serious crimes must not go unpunished. As Mr. Egeland stated, there can be no peace without justice.” |

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| <p>H.E. Mrs. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN</p> | <p>“In our view, the most crucial issue in the months to come for northern Uganda will be to find a way to reconcile the need for peace with combating impunity and respecting the International Criminal Court process. In the short term, regional actors and the international community should spare no effort to ensure that resources are adequately allocated to northern Uganda, including for humanitarian efforts and for the sustainable reintegration of the population affected by conflict. In that respect, we commend the Government of Uganda for its recovery and development plan for the area.”</p> |
| <p>H.E. Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the UN</p> | <p>“We have come a long way. This opportunity should not slip away from us again. These talks are qualitatively different from previous ones. Having the Government of Southern Sudan as a facilitator makes a big difference. The involvement of the United Nations and the international community assures that these talks receive attention and the necessary support. There has to be peace and justice. The two should not be mutually exclusive. Impunity should not be allowed, but the issues have to be handled tactfully, without compromising the strategic objectives of peace and justice.”</p> |
| <p>Mr. Albert Francis Yankey, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the UN</p> | <p>“I thank Under-Secretary-General Egeland for his update. I wish to commend him on his tireless efforts to ensure that the plight of the millions of displaced people in Darfur continues to receive the attention it deserves. We further welcome his positive assessment of the negotiations between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda and his recommendations in that regard. We share the view that without justice there can be no lasting peace and stress the need to uphold the independence of the International Criminal Court.”</p> |