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***UNMIS Condemns Attack on Wad Banda and Calls on JEM and SLA-Unity to Commit to the Political Process***

***Khartoum 30 August 2007:*** The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) expresses its grave concern over the attack against the Wad Banda Sudanese army base in Kordofan for which the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Movement – Unity (SLA) have claimed responsibility.

This deliberate attack represents an escalation and an expansion of the Darfur conflict and threatens to destabilize other regions of the country.

In condemning this attack, UNMIS underscores the serious implications it could have to the safety and security of civilians, and to UN activities in the area. Moreover, the attack could undermine the efforts of the UN and AU Special Envoys at a time of serious and sensitive consultations to launch the renewed peace talks on Darfur.

UNMIS calls on JEM and SLA-Unity, as well as others involved in the conflict in Darfur to abide by their commitments to a cessation of hostilities, desist from further military action and commit to the political process offered by the Special Envoys as the only avenue to bring lasting and sustainable peace to Darfur and to Sudan as a whole.

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