



S-0048-0001-012-00076

Expanded Number **S-0048-0001-012-00076**

External ID

Title

Item in KAA: RELIEF OPS/OCHA - 2006 - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator

Date Created

Date Registered

Date Closed

06/02/2007 at 12:48 PM

06/02/2007 at 12:48 PM

Primary Contact

Home Location **S-0048-0001-012 (In Container)**Assignee **Marvin Cordova since 07/02/2007 at 2:37 PM**

Priority

Owner Location **Archives and Records Management Section**Container **S-0048-0001: OCHA - General**Record Type **Archival Item**

Local-container

Document Details **Record has no document attached.**

Notes

Date Published

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit



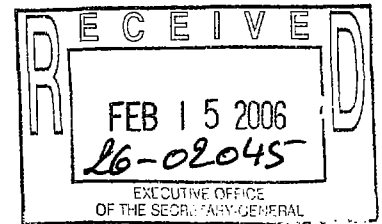
MMB
fyi
15/2

OCHA
ECOWAS

CL

Note to the Secretary-General

MEETINGS IN ABUJA



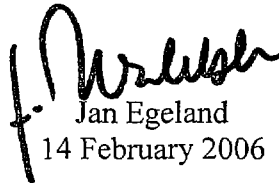
1. In my meeting with President Obasanjo, I had the opportunity to convey the messages that I had received from you. The President confirmed that he wants to continue playing an active role to find peaceful solutions to the crisis in Côte d' Ivoire and mentioned that he is now waiting for confirmation from Brazzaville that the new African Union Presidency would welcome his continued role. In our conversation, President Obasanjo shared our deep sense of urgency regarding the crisis and the need to hold perpetrators, including President Gbabgo and his wife, accountable for their actions. He also agreed to support advocacy efforts for humanitarian space and protection of civilians and humanitarian workers.
2. In an otherwise positive overall assessment of crisis management in Africa, President Obasanjo singled out Côte d' Ivoire and Darfur as the most worrisome conflict areas. He agreed that maximum pressure had to be exerted on all parties in the Darfur peace talks and that Dr. Salim Salim is doing exceptionally well in bringing the conflicting parties to reach agreements. He envisages a UN force in Darfur coming in to do peacekeeping on the basis of a negotiated agreement as was the case in Sierra Leone. President Obasanjo seemed surprised when I described our massive problems in undertaking humanitarian operations in an environment of shrinking humanitarian space. He promised to share the UN report on this matter with the AMIS Force Commander.
3. President Obasanjo thanked WHO, FAO and the rest of the UN Country Team for their efforts in containing the rapidly expanding influenza epidemic. He appealed to the United Nations to provide disinfectant and equipment, including protective clothing to facilitate the extermination of hundreds of thousands of birds. I conveyed this request to the UNCT and to Dr. Nabarro. However, it becomes increasingly clear that our avian influenza response has to move from advocacy and planning and coordination to a much faster reaction pace throughout the emergency relief procedures.
4. I reminded President Obasanjo of his pledges towards the Central Emergency Response Fund. He confirmed that he would follow up with the Finance Minister accordingly. Hopefully, Nigeria will have confirmed its pledge before the 9 March launch of the CERF in New York.
5. I also met with Dr. Salim Salim and discussed his plans to advance the Abuja talks. He confirmed his intention of tabling a proposal this month with a deadline for agreement next month. Regardless of whether or not this proposal is being accepted, he plans to dispatch mediators to deliver the proposal to local leaders in Darfur for the following reasons: first, the representatives in Abuja do not always have command and control over armed groups in the field, and secondly, it is important to bring traditional leaders with influence over the many smaller-scale conflicts within Darfur into the solution.
6. Dr. Salim noted that history had shown that whenever peace talks had been successful, it was due to concerted international pressure. I conveyed your offer of possible additional mediation support. Dr. Salim expressed appreciation for the military and security experts who had come from

FEB 16 2006

the UN but lamented that they had generally stayed for too short a time. He urged in particular that military and security experts come and stay for the remaining month of the talks to contribute to a security agreement. Skilled political mediators who could stay for extended periods would also be welcome. Dr. Salim noted that the UK Foreign Secretary had also addressed the parties today and delivered a stern message indicating that the international community would not tolerate further stalling in the peace process while conditions deteriorated in Darfur. Dr. Salim urged all international partners to convey similar messages to all parties to the conflict. He also stated that the proposed Group of Friends for Darfur needed to be carefully coordinated, both at capital level and in Abuja, where the international community is now well represented.

7. In a separate meeting, I spoke with ECOWAS Secretary-General Dr. Mohammed Chambas. Dr. Chambas noted how important the 17 February International Working Group in Abidjan would be for the stabilization of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, it was the first meeting of this kind since the attacks on humanitarian offices at Guiglo. He himself would participate in the meeting which would be co-chaired by the Chair of the African Union (Republic of Congo) and SRSG Schori. I emphasized that much is at stake in Côte d'Ivoire as violence against aid workers could force their withdrawal, this would have a negative effect on the region as a whole. The tide needed to be turned against those who were attacking humanitarians.

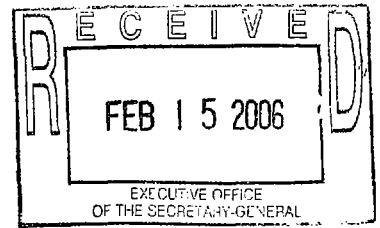
8. Dr. Chambas stated that the imposition of sanctions seemed to give the international community some credibility as their threats would no longer be seen as idle. He also mentioned the possibility of a Head of State being named as an ECOWAS Humanitarian Envoy for Côte d'Ivoire.


Jan Egeland
14 February 2006

cc Mr. Guehenno
Mr. Gambari

Note to Mr. Malloch Brown

MEETINGS IN ABUJA



Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General on Mr. Egeland's visit to Abuja today and his meeting with President Obasanjo and ECOWAS.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margareta Wahlstrom".

Margareta Wahlstrom
Officer-in-Charge
14 February 2006