



PRESS RELEASE

ONUB/PIO/PR/50/2005

22 February 2005

ONUB Takes Action in Connection with the Situation in the Buramata Cantonment Site


Bujumbura, Burundi- Three CNDD-FDD ex-combatants died of malaria in the night of last Sunday to Monday at the Buramata cantonment site in Bubanza province.

It should be noted that these deaths occurred following an uncoordinated transfer of ex-combatants on Sunday, February 21. About 3,000 CNDD-FDD ex-combatants and some 800 other elements of various former armed movements coming from three Assembly Zones arrived at the Buramata demobilization camp without any prior knowledge of ONUB and the other partners supporting the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Reinsertion (DDRR) process. The transfer of this large number of persons and the lack of preparation to welcome them led to health problems and difficulties relating to the provision of supplies. ONUB deplores the lack of coordination which led to this regrettable situation.

ONUB stresses the delicate nature of the DDRR process and reaffirms its support to this process, which it should be restated, remains mainly the responsibility of Burundian authorities, and requires elaborate coordination.

In this regard, ONUB organised an emergency meeting today with Burundian military authorities, members of the Joint Ceasefire Commission (JCC) and the Executive Secretariat of the DDR National Commission as well as other actors (such as GTZ-IS) to adopt urgent measures towards resolving this situation and to prevent a similar tragedy to occur in the future in the cantonment centres. The mission also dispatched a team of doctors and engineers to assess the situation and to contribute appropriate solutions to this emergency situation.

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