



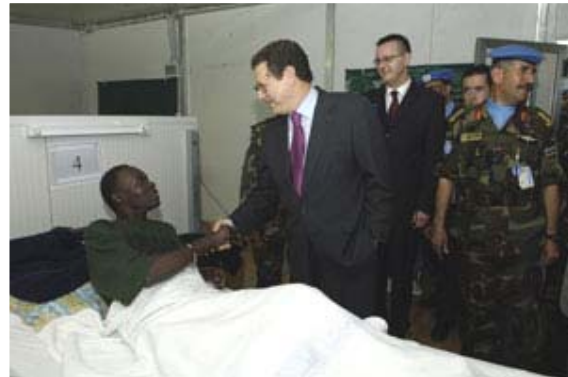
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Press release, 18 May 2006

Jordanian medical contingent awarded UN Peacekeeping medals;
UN Envoy inaugurates Level III hospital

Monrovia, Liberia -- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, yesterday decorated 115 officers of the Jordanian medical contingent with United Nations peacekeeping medals.

He noted that the current Jordanian medical contingent has treated 3,714 patients, including hundreds of Liberian civilian patients. “For this you have the gratitude of the United Nations and of those to whom your support means the most – the people of Liberia,” he stressed.



SRSG Doss greeting a patient currently receiving treatment at the new Level III hospital

The SRSG referred to recent allegations implicating UNMIL personnel in sexual abuse and exploitation: “While these allegations have not been backed up by any tangible evidence, I want to reassure the general public that UNMIL treats all claims of abuse and exploitation with great seriousness.” He added that: “Every specific allegation is investigated in an independent manner. All UNMIL personnel are on notice that they will be sanctioned if they engage in any form of abuse and exploitation. We will continue to strengthen our awareness and training efforts to prevent abuse and exploitation. All staff and the public are encouraged to report cases of abuse and exploitation so that we can take appropriate action.” He then reminded all UN personnel to scrupulously respect the Secretary-General’s policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation.

On the occasion of the parade, Special Representative Doss inaugurated the recently-constructed UNMIL Level III hospital established to provide health facilities for United Nations personnel in the country. The hospital has an accident and emergency department for minor surgery and treatment, two operating theatres for complex surgery, an intensive care unit, patient wards, a radiology section, as well as a blood bank and housing facilities for the medical staff.

The Jordanian contingent commander, Colonel Taba Al-Ghazo, expressed his gratitude to the UNMIL leadership for establishing the new Level III hospital. Jordan first began contributing peacekeepers to the United Nations in 1996. Today, it is the fourth largest contributor of UN peacekeepers.
