

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)

PRESS RELEASE

14 June 2002

**ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DECORATES KENYAN
PEACEKEEPERS WITH MEDALS OF HONOR**

Freetown – The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Behrooz Sadry, today decorated more than 800 peacekeepers of Kenyan Battalion (KENBATT) 8 of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) with UN medals of honour at a colourful ceremony held in the western town of Masiaka, Port Loko District.

Forty-nine officers and 777 men and women from the contingent received the UN medal, awarded to peacekeepers who complete three months of service without committing an offense.

Addressing the gathering, the Acting Special Representative, who served as the chief guest for the occasion, noted with satisfaction that Kenya has participated actively in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world. Mr. Sadry told the audience that Kenya's participation in UNAMSIL had been "greatly appreciated," noting that it was one of the first contingents to arrive, upon the establishment of UNAMSIL in 1999. "We are aware of the casualties you suffered less than a year later," he said.

The Acting Special Representative commended the military performance of the Kenyan peacekeepers and stressed that apart from military professionalism, KENBATT 8 has also assisted the population in humanitarian and civic activities. "You have built churches, mosques, and schools; you have shared your food with the population; and helped with medical matters," he said.

After the medal parade, guests at the ceremony were entertained with traditional songs and dances and cultural performances. UNAMSIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande, the Chief Military Observer, Maj. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, the Guinean Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Mr. Mohammed Amin, the High Commissioner of Ghana to Sierra Leone, Mr. Kabral Blay-Amihere, and the Deputy British High Commissioner, Ms. Andrea Keidy, also attended the ceremony.

UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-273-183/4/5 Fax: 232-22-273-189