

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)

PRESS RELEASE

30 July 2002

PEACEKEEPERS HAND OVER RENOVATED CHURCH IN KOIDU

Freetown – In a ceremony held yesterday, peacekeepers of Pakistan Battalion (PAKBATT) 1 handed over the recently renovated main Roman Catholic Church in Koidu to the community. The church was completely renovated by PAKBATT with its own resources, and can now accommodate over 500 people.

Unveiling a plaque marking the church's hand-over, Dr. Aiah Sama Mondeh, Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, expressed his sincere gratitude on behalf of the Christian community of Koidu and said that words were insufficient to thank the peacekeepers for their humanitarian contributions during their stay in Sierra Leone. He noted that the Pakistan contingent had renovated places of worship irrespective of religion, for which they would always be remembered.

Speaking at the occasion, Mrs. S.E. Ngongou, Deputy Minister of Works and Maintenance, said that along with peacekeeping duties, the troops had carried out a lot of rehabilitation work in Kono district, making them very popular with the local population. The chairpersons of the Kono Town Committee and the Kono District Council also thanked PAKBATT and the Contingent Commander, Brig. Ahmed Shuja Pasha, for the troops' outstanding work.

Lt. Col. Tariq Javed, Commanding Officer of PAKBATT 1, said that his troops and others who will soon replace them, would continue their humanitarian support to the people of Kono.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including members of Parliament, representatives of the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section, Military Observers, church authorities, and others from the community.