



UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, TEHRAN

Newspaper: KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
Date: 30 May 2005

115 UN Peacekeepers Killed in Service of Peace in 2004 - Annan

TEHRAN, May 29 (UNIC) - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his message on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May 2005, said that in order "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," some 115 U.N. peacekeepers were killed in the service of peace during 2004.

Below is the full text of his message.

"On this International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, we honor the sacrifice of UN peacekeepers from many lands who have laid down their lives in the service of peace, and we re-dedicate ourselves to the noble calling of peacekeeping.

"One hundred and fifteen colleagues were killed in the service of peace during 2004. Already in 2005, another 39 have made the ultimate sacrifice, including nine Bangladeshi soldiers who were brutally murdered in February in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the worst single attack on peacekeepers in over a decade. With sadness and pride, we pay tribute to each and every one of our fallen colleagues.

"Today, more than 66,000 uniformed personnel and almost 15,000 civilians are serving the

cause of peace in 17 peacekeeping operations around the globe. They are maintaining ceasefire and monitoring borders, disarming former combatants, fostering reconciliation, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping refugees and displaced persons to return home, and ensuring conditions for democratic elections, the rule of law, reconstruction and economic recovery.

"The demand for U.N. peacekeeping is as high as it has ever been, indeed we have more missions deployed than ever before. As we mark this day, a large operation is being deployed in Sudan, where a 21-year war was costing millions of lives came to an end with a peace agreement in January. At the same time, peacekeeping operations in Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone are ending with new democratic governments in place and the understanding among the people that peace is a reality, not just a hope or a dream.

"While such successes in U.N. peacekeeping often do not receive the attention they deserve, failings are widely, and justifiably, publicized. Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by individuals serving in several

missions have damaged lives, threatened security and tarnished the reputation of U.N. peacekeeping. I have proposed sweeping changes to prevent misconduct and enforce U.N. standards of conduct. Some important reforms have already been implemented, but more must follow, as we work to stamp out such abuse.

"This is also a day to thank the 103 Member States who contribute uniformed personnel to U.N. peacekeepers. I particularly acknowledged the contributions of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, which together provide more than one third of all U.N. peacekeepers. I am glad that countries such as China and Brazil are taking on new responsibilities. I hope that other countries - particularly developed countries, which have unique capacities to meet some of the specific needs of peacekeeping - will follow suit.

"U.N. peacekeepers work every day to give practical meaning to the words of the United Nations Charter "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." On this day, we honor all who have served, and serve today, in the front lines of peace.



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