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PRESS RELEASE



Alan Doss, OIC of UNAMSIL decorating Pakistani peacekeepers.



Mr. Doss handing over wheelchairs to handicapped young people.

Freetown – At a medal parade in Koidu, Kono district, eastern Sierra Leone, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, (UNAMSIL), Mr. Alan Doss, today decorated peacekeepers from the Pakistani Contingent (PAKCON III) who had accomplished 90 days of flawless service in the Mission area.

At the ceremony, which took place at the Community Centre Football field and was attended by the Egyptian and Lebanese Ambassadors and representatives from the British High Commissioner and the US Ambassador, Mr. Doss said that “the medals you are conferred today reflect your contribution to the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. The UN is rightfully proud of the contribution that you have made and are continuing to make to the cause of peace in this country”.

He indicated that “the officers and troops of the Pakistani contingent are entrusted with one of the most important tasks in UNAMSIL - to ensure security in Sector East” and that “peace and stability have returned to this part of the country in large parts thanks to the Pakistani contingent, their professionalism and integrity”. He cautioned that “much vigilance is still required in your sector until the situation in Liberia improves”. He also commended the contingent for their work achieved in support of the local community and stressed that

“as you are both Ambassadors of the UN and of peace, each and everyone must strive to uphold the highest standards of personal and professional conduct”.

He paid special tribute to Maj. Gen Sajjad Akram, UNAMSIL Force Commander, and Brig Gen Sajjad Bakshi, Sector East Contingent Commander, for their leadership, hard work and professionalism.

Mr. Doss also told the gathering that the peace and security of Kono would be in the hands of the Sierra Leone police, military and people next year, after UNAMSIL’s withdrawal. He called on all to make it their business to maintain peace and security in the district to ensure that the efforts by the UN and the Pakistani contingent would not be in vain. The ceremony ended with distribution of wheelchairs to handicapped and sewing machines to needy widows and families of Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) soldiers.

UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Tel: 232-22-295-000 Fax: 232-22-295-189

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Chief PIS and Spokesman, Kemal Saiki, Tel. 232-22-295-583 mobile 076-692801 email: saiki@un.org

Editor: Kingsley Lington Ighobor, Tel. 232-22-295294, mobile 076-601686 email: ighobor@un.org