

## The Power of Sport for Peace Brought Home to Sudanese and Somali Refugees

### **UN in Kenya Marks International Day of Peace at the Kakuma Camp**

**21 September 2004** - Some of Kenya's top runners today brought messages of peace to the people of the Kakuma refugee camp in north western Kenya as part of the global celebrations for this year's United Nations International Day of Peace.

The athletes, all Olympic medal winners and World Champions, echoed this year's theme of "Peace Through Sport" through a series of special competitions with the mainly Sudanese and Somali refugees who live at the camp.

Events at Kakuma, which was established in 1992 after the arrival of 12,000 "Lost Boys of Sudan", included various runs with youth, children, women and men and a wheelchair basketball match. A football match between the local Kenyan community and the refugees was also held.

The athletes who attended included current World Champion Marathon runner Paul Tergat, 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist Marathon runner Catherine Ndereba, who are also United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors –respectively for the UN World Food Programme and for the UN Children's Fund. William Tanui, who was the 800 meter Gold medal winner at the 1992 Olympic Games and marathon specialist Joshua Chelanga also participated.

Speaking to refugees at the camp, Paul Tergat said: "I can say without doubt that I was able to realize my full potential as a an athlete as a result of an enabling environment of peace". He added: ""We should teach others about peace but also put pressure on governments and political candidates that continue to advocate war as the main solution to civil and international conflicts."

The event, whose organization was led by the UN Information Centre in Nairobi, brought together many of the key UN agencies in Kenya including the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The UN agencies, in addition to providing funding, transport and assistance in-kind, also provided T-shirts, basketballs, footballs and trophies to ensure a fun time was had by all.

Tesema Negash, the Country Director of the World Food Programme, delivered the Secretary-General's message. He was joined by the athletes and other specially invited guests including the Hon. Linah Kilimo, Minister of State in the Office of the President and Kenyan Home Affairs Minister.