

**Press Release****UNOWA/CNMC/2005/6****Statement by the Chairman of the Cameroon –Nigeria Mixed Commission on the incidents in Bakassi**

**UNOWA, Dakar – 24 June 2005.** I learned from the media that Nigeria has initiated an inquiry on the repeated incidents that have been reported in the Bakassi Peninsula. These incidents, reported to have caused the death of a Cameroonian soldier and wounded another, in addition to material damage, are condemnable.

I trust that the Government of Nigeria will conduct its investigation in a serious, transparent and speedy manner as this issue deserves it. Should the investigation confirm the reports of the repeated incidents, I would expect the Nigerian Government to take immediate and appropriate action towards all actors involved. Their backers should not be spared.

I urge an immediate return to calm. These incidents are taking place at a time when the two countries and the United Nations technical teams have successfully completed the first demarcation steps in the field. They also come in the wake of the tripartite Summit in Geneva last month where the two Presidents and the UN Secretary-General worked on a peaceful and amicable implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling in the Bakassi Peninsula and the Maritime Boundary as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Presidents Paul Biya and Olusegun Obasanjo for the wise and able fashion in which they have managed this incident so far.

I myself will visit the two capitals over this weekend in order to gather further information from the two Governments and representatives of the International Community on this issue.

For more information on the Cameroon/Nigeria Mixed Commission visit our website at:

[www.un.org/unowa](http://www.un.org/unowa)

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