



# UNMISS Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UNMISS peacekeepers honoured in South Sudan

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) today commended the work of its peacekeepers deployed in the country during its first medal parade since the establishment of the mission on 9 July 2011.

The ceremony which was held in the Mission's headquarters in Juba, recognized 57 peacekeepers, including three commanding officers from Bangladesh and India, 23 members of the departing Bangladesh Battalion, 18 military liaison and staff officers from Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Fiji, Guinea, India, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Norway, Russia, Rwanda, Sweden, Yemen and Zambia, eight members of the Indian Force Signal Unit and five members of the Indian Battalion.

"The UNMISS medal awarded you today is an acknowledgement of your invaluable contributions to the United Nations Missions in the Republic of South Sudan," said the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan, Hilde F. Johnson. "Each and every one of you earned this medal by your hard work and dedication."

Noting that it would be some time before the mission attained its "full operating capacity," the SRSG highlighted the peacekeepers' work in promoting the enhanced protection of civilians role in its UN Security Council mandate.

"We saw this in Jonglei State at the very end of last year and the beginning of this year," recalled the SRSG. "Through significant operations, we have seen the courage that many of you have exhibited when faced with a major protection of civilians challenge."

The UNMISS Force Commander Major General Moses Obi said that the presentation of medals signified a public recognition of the efforts made by soldiers in the performance of their duties. "The UNMISS medal is presented to the Mission's military personnel on completion of 90 days of physical service with the mission," he explained.

Ms. Johnson also handed out citations to the Contingents from China, Bangladesh, and India that operate field hospitals as well as those contingents in construction engineer companies.

Present at the ceremony were also the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Political), Mr. Rai Zenenga, SPLA Head of Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, Brigadier General Majier Deng Kur and other senior officials from the Mission.

UNMISS was established on 9 July 2011 by Security Council Resolution 1996 and is mandated to provide support for peace consolidation. UNMISS is also mandated to support the Government of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution and to protect civilians, as well as in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.