

## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE (UNAMSIL)

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## PRESS RELEASE

## **UNAMSIL INVESTIGATING MINING ALLEGATION**

Freetown – On 20 March 2004, UNAMSIL has ordered an immediate investigation into an allegation that one of its peacekeepers with some equipment has been operating unauthorized in a known mining area in the Kenema District, Eastern Province. Early indications are that a Ukrainian soldier has been assisting the licensed Sierra Rus mining company to remove spoil material from a mining site. If confirmed, this would be in direct contravention of UNAMSIL standing orders governing the use of UN equipment, and would invite severe disciplinary sanction against the offender. Detailed investigations are now underway.

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