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(UNAMSIL)

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PRESS RELEASE

**VICTIMS OF UNAMSIL HELICOPTER CRASH INCLUDE
SIERRA LEONE NATIONALS**

Freetown – United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) authorities announced today (Sunday 4 July) that the 24 victims of Tuesday’s tragic helicopter accident include one Bangladeshi and 14 Pakistani peacekeepers, one UN contractor from Sierra Leone, a United Nations Volunteer from Ghana, four aid workers with international non-governmental organizations from Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda and three Russian crew members*.

Earlier today those peacekeepers who lost their lives were honoured in a wreath laying ceremony at the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) Headquarters at Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown.

Among those participating in the ceremony were the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago; UNAMSIL Acting Force Commander and Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General Paul K. Opoku; Pakistani Contingent Commander, Brigadier General Sajjad Ahmed Bakshi; Bangladeshi Contingent Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kazi Masud-Ul-Mahmud and UNAMSIL Director of Administration, Mr. Steinar B. Bjornsson. The Military Advisor in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Major-General Patrick Cammaert, represented UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Vice-President of Sierra Leone, Solomon Berewa, also laid a wreath on his country’s behalf. A cross-section of UNAMSIL staff members turned out to pay respects to their colleagues.

In his message, which was delivered by Major-General Cammaert, the Secretary-General mourned the loss of “our fallen comrades [who] represented the whole spectrum of peacekeeping and peace-building – representatives of the military, UNVs, NGOs, support personnel”. He paid tribute to their service pointing out that “the mission they served has already made great strides in setting Sierra Leone on the path of peace and respect for human rights. Each one of them made a vital contribution to that progress”.

A formal memorial ceremony will be held at UNAMSIL headquarters later in the week on a date to be announced.

*UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-273-183/4/5 Fax: 232-22-273-189*

* *List of names attached*



The UNAMSIL helicopter crashed into a hillside just five minutes from its destination in Yengema, Kono in the eastern part of Sierra Leone while on a scheduled flight. All 21 passengers and 3 crew members who were on board perished. The aircraft, an MI8-MTV – UNO 091 was on contract to the UN from UT Air.

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United Nations Peacekeepers

Title	Name	Country
Lt Col	Riaz Ahmed Khokar	Pakistan
Lt Col	Zia Ud Din	Pakistan
Lt Col	Faiz Ullah Khan	Pakistan
Maj	Anwar Husnain	Pakistan
Capt	Khalil Murtaza	Pakistan
Capt	Waqas Ahmed Mirza	Pakistan
Sgt	Muhammad Iqbal	Pakistan
L/Sgt	Muhammad Jahangir	Pakistan
Cpl	Muhammad Amir	Pakistan
L/Cpl	Muhammad Jamil	Pakistan
Pvt	Muhammad Zulfiqar	Pakistan
Pvt	Iftikhar Ahmed	Pakistan
Pvt	Ahmed Khan	Pakistan
Pvt	Muhammad Nazir	Pakistan
Maj	M Shanjehan	Bangladesh

United Nations Contractor

Mr	Mohammed Turay	Sierra Leone
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United Nations Volunteer

Mr	Renatus Adzanku	Ghana
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Humanitarian Workers and Crew

Name	Country	Organisation
Kumba Amara Satta	Sierra Leone	50/50
Bahati Barongo	Tanzania	IRC
Allan Mukuru	Uganda	IRC
Victoria Roberts	Sierra Leone	COOPI
Andrey Sokov	Russia	A/c Capt
Vladimir Mikhailitsyn	Russia	Co-pilot
Alexander Novoselov	Russia	Flight Engr