



PRESS RELEASE

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FORCE COMMANDER, OTHERS PAY LAST RESPECTS TO DECEASED PEACEKEEPERS

Freetown, Sierra Leone - UNAMSIL Force Commander Major General Sajjad Akram and his deputy Brigadier General Paul Opoku paid last respects to the late Warrant Officer Ahmed Iftikhar in a solemn wreath laying ceremony held on Monday August 9 at the UNAMSIL helipad at the mission's Mammy Yoko headquarters. WO Ahmed lost his life on Thursday 5 August 2004 after a brief illness at the Pakistan Field Level 2 hospital in Koidu.

The Late Warrant Officer Ahmed, who hailed from Bamlot village in Rawalpindi District of Pakistan reported to the mission as a member of the Pakistani military contingent on 1 August 2003. Until his demise, he served actively with the Quick Reaction Unit (QRU) deployed in Yengema in the Eastern Province.

UNAMSIL Director of Administration, Mr. Ronnie Stokes, and Commanders Northern and Southern Commands Brigadier Generals Nuhu Bamalli and Ahmed Sajjad Bakshi were also present at the occasion. A minute of silence was later observed by Staff Officers of the Force Headquarters, representatives of various contingents and civilian staff of UNAMSIL who witnessed the occasion. The remains of the deceased have been taken home.
