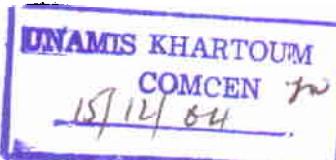


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Statement by SRSG Jan Pronk
13 December 2004

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SRSG Jan Pronk deeply deplores the death of two national staff of Save the Children (UK). Again, after the tragic death of two staff members of the same organization over a month ago, two humanitarian workers fell victim to aggressive violence by fighters in Darfur.

This brutal action should be condemned in the strongest terms. Humanitarian workers are fully neutral and have come to assist victims of violence in Darfur. The fact that the workers themselves seem to have become the target of fighting parties poses severe difficulties for humanitarian access, with grave consequences for assistance in the future.

SRSG Pronk calls upon all parties to respect the principles of international humanitarian law and action, most notably the fact that humanitarian workers are neutral and impartial. He further reminds the Government of Sudan of its responsibility to protect the safety and security of humanitarian workers in Sudan.