



UCAH

Humanitarian News

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INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

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At the end of his visit, UN USG calls out:

Enough! Angolans at the limit of suffering!



After assessing the situation on the ground, Mr. Vieira de Mello confirmed that Angolans have suffered too much.

"This visit gave me the opportunity to prove that after 30 years of war this country and the civilian population have suffered too much... Unfortunately, the humanitarian situation is more than disappointing. I saw yesterday in Benguela displaced people who are tired, depressed, humiliated, entirely dependents on humanitarian assistance. There is a limit for the human patience, for the capacity of suffering of any human being and I believe that the Angolan population has already reached this limit. Unfortunately, recent events indicate that humanitarian workers who are trying to assist the war affected people, became, they too, the target of military attacks. This must not continue. To attack civilian population, to attack humanitarian workers, is a war crime which, one day, has to be judged as such".

(UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Sérgio Vieira de Mello, addressing the press conference on 21 May in Luanda, at the end of his four days visit).

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PEACE PROCESS

WHAT WILL BE NEXT?

Maire Beye's plan to overcome the deadlock should be accomplished by the end of May but the same remaining tasks are still on the agenda. Maire Beye traveled to Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe and finally went to Andulo on 30 May. He's back in Luanda where new arrangements are expected. Now, what will be the next step?

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

NEW PLAN TO OVERCOME DEADLOCK IN PEACE PROCESS

Since 19 May there is a new plan presented by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Angola, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, to overcome the deadlock which has characterized the Peace Process since 6 March 1998.

The SRSG's plan, supported by the Government, UNITA and the Troika, calls on the Angolan parties to show their commitment to the peace process by completing in the very near future their remaining tasks outlined in the 6 March calendar. These tasks include the conclusion of the extension of State Administration to Andulo, Nharea, Bailundo and Mungo, in particular, the effective demilitarization of UNITA, the cessation of hostile propaganda by the State media and the end of abuses committed by some elements of the Angolan National Police (ANP) against civilians in areas recently handed-over to the Government. The document also envisages a more speedy procedure for MONUA to investigate allegations of armed attacks.

Maître Beye who met with UNITA's leader in Andulo on 15 May and with the President of Angola on 19 May in Luanda, argued that his commitment to the peace process was made possible until now thanks to the goodwill of the Angolan parties. However, failure by any of the parties to implement the new plan or by the international community to take appropriate measures, would leave him with no choice but to reconsider his position as UN mediator. Within the context of Maître Beye's initiative, since 25 May the Joint Commission has been meeting on a daily basis to assess promptly any event related to the peace process.

MONUA CONFIRMS ATTACK AGAINST ITS PERSONNEL

The UN confirmed the attack perpetrated against a MONUA vehicle on 19 May on the road north of Calandula, in Malange Province, causing one death and three seriously wounded staff.

According to MONUA's press release, the incident took place at about 12h30 when the vehicle was ambushed by armed men. As a result, an Angolan translator was killed while a Military Observer from Kenya, a Police Observer from Mali and the commander of the Angolan National Police in Calandula were seriously injured. It appears that this attack was part of the violence experienced in Malange Province after the killing of a UNITA secretary mid May. Since then armed groups have pushed governmental administrators out of some communes and municipalities, sparking a new wave of IDPs in Lombe. Following this attack, MONUA patrols and escorts were suspended in Malange, Huambo, Benguela and Huila Provinces. Speaking with the listeners of the Angolan National Radio on 27 May in Luanda, the SRSG considered that the situation is still precarious in eight of the country's 18 provinces.

MAÎTRE BEYE DISCUSSES ANP BEHAVIOR

In accordance with his plan to overcome the deadlock in the peace process, the SRSG met on 26 May in Luanda with the General Commander of the Angolan National Police, Fernando da Piedade dos Santos "Nandó", to discuss the behavior of policemen in the areas where State administration is being extended.

During the meeting, the matter of harassment of civilians by some ANP members particularly in areas handed over to the Government was raised. Maître Beye also raised the issue of harassment of relief workers by some ANP elements which is seriously hindering humanitarian activities in some locations. Maître Beye's plan asks the Government to end these abuses.

GENERAL SITUATION

UN UNDER SG SPENDS FOUR DAYS IN ANGOLA

The Under Secretary General of the United Nations for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, visited Angola from 18 to 21 May.

During his four day visit, Mr. Vieira de Mello assessed the humanitarian situation, the coordination mechanisms and the impact of the current security climate on the humanitarian activities in Angola. For this purpose, he had meetings with different national and international entities related to the humanitarian situation and the peace process in the country and undertook a field trip to Benguela Province.

MEETINGS

Upon his arrival in Luanda, the USG was welcomed at the airport by the Vice-Minister for Social Assistance, Mrs. Eufrazina Maiato. On the same day, Mr. Vieira de Mello, met with the SRSG, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, and attended at the National Assembly building a meeting of the NGO community to learn about their concerns in relation to their activities. The participants expressed their concern regarding the lack of timely information on the security situation on the ground.

Later on the USG accompanied by the Minister of Social Assistance, Mr. Albino Malungo, and the Director of UCAH, Mr., Francesco Strippoli, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Venâncio de Moura.

The second day of the visit started with a meeting with UCAH staff where Mr. Vieira de Mello learned how this OCHA field unit has successfully completed the demobilization of UNITA troops and coordinates humanitarian assistance in Angola. The USG also met with UN Heads of Agencies, Representatives of donor countries, the Government and UNITA delegations to the Joint Commission as well as the Troika and the SRSG.

In order to have a first hand view of this target group, Mr. Vieira de Mello visited a building where many military war disabled (MWD) are accommodated in precarious conditions in Luanda. The MWD told the USG that they want to be demobilized so as to receive the appropriate benefits such as training and social reintegration opportunities. There are 89 military war disabled eligible for the demobilization at this location.



USG with Minister Malungo during the registration of new IDPs by CRS in Cubal

FIELD TRIP

On 20 May, the USG traveled to Benguela Province where he visited humanitarian projects in Cubal and Chongoroi municipalities, and the Damba Maria IDP camp on the Benguela-Lobito road. Throughout 1997 and during this year, new IDPs were registered particularly in Chongoroi, Ganda and Cubal municipalities.

Benguela is one of the most affected provinces within the present tense security situation on the ground with many attacks against civilians and, sometimes, humanitarian workers. The humanitarian actors in Benguela Province include the UCAH Field Adviser and representatives of UNICEF, UNDP-SeCoR, international and national NGOs. Mr. Vieira de Mello visited the NGOs CRS, MSF and ADRA-A in Cubal, and ACF and OXFAM and the UN agencies WFP and UNICEF and the national NGO Okutiuka in Chongoroi.

OVERVIEW BY SECTOR

As the security situation remains tense on the ground

UCAH FIELD ADVISERS ASSESS HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

As part of efforts to assess the impact of the present security situation on humanitarian activities, the seven UCAH Field Advisers had a working session in Luanda from 26 to 28 May.

During this period, working sessions were held with the various humanitarian partners including the SRSR in Angola, Maître Beye, the Minister of Social Assistance, Mr. Albino Malungo and Country Representatives of UN agencies and NGOs. It is hoped that linkages between humanitarian partners and senior decision makers will be further strengthened in the weeks to come.

UCAH needs to improve the analysis and timely

dissemination of information to all partners on humanitarian operations and issues. The information provided by the Field Advisers confirmed the presence of 23,000 new IDPs registered between January and May this year. However, unconfirmed reports estimate that there are between 60,000 and 70,000 new displaced.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE STILL ON THE AGENDA

Following the UCAH Field Advisers meeting, Mr. Francesco Strippoli, Director of UCAH, addressed a press conference where he explained that the donors are becoming tired with the humanitarian situation in Angola. "I would like to share with you my

determination to ensure that the donor community will continue to give the required support while there are still people in need of humanitarian assistance", Mr. Strippoli told the press.

Regarding a trend of attacks against UN and humanitarian relief personnel, the UCAH Director pointed out the last incidents involving World Vision and CREA property. He called on the press to publish and condemn these acts in order to let the world understand that it is inadmissible that people who provide humanitarian assistance to needy populations on the frontline are becoming target of attacks.

MORE INCIDENTS

During the last week of May, humanitarian relief reported the following incidents some of which occurred at the closure of this edition:

• Uige/Bengo/Kwanza Norte Provinces:

On 27 May at Vila Belo Horizonte, 8 km south of Macocola municipality on the Quimbele-Sanza Pombo road, a civilian vehicle was attacked. As a result, 2 persons killed, 5 injured and 20 kidnapped.

On 29 May at Alcade Farm, 15 km from Quibaxe, during an attack, the soba, his assistant and an infant were killed.

On 30 May UNITA residual troops attacked Samba Lucala

and Lucala. Four World Vision local staff were kidnapped, two of them are still missing as of 2 June.

On 2 June a tractor working for the NGO INTERSOS hit an anti-tank mine on the Uige-Quibaxe road.

• Kwanza Sul/ Huambo/Bié Provinces:

On 26 May a vehicle was attacked at 7 km from Vila Nova on the direction to Huambo city resulting in 4 persons killed and others injured.

On 26 May a civilian bus outside Waku Kungo was attacked. One person was killed and another injured. On the

Vila Nova and Bailundo, a teacher was killed along with his family.

On 29 May at the Curi village on the road between Chitembo and Kuito, a civilian vehicle was attacked.

On 30 May on the Menongue-Kuito road, a civilian vehicle was attacked.

• Benguela Province:

On 1 June, on the main Sumbe-Lobito road, a civilian vehicle was attacked with 2 persons killed and 5 seriously injured.

On 2 June, an armed group attacked two separate ANP trucks on the same road. Nobody was wounded.

REINTEGRATION OF DEMOBILIZED

WAR DISABLED WANT TO BE DEMOBILIZED

On the occasion of the USG's visit to their site in Luanda, on 19 May, 89 governmental military war disabled requested for their demobilization.

In their message to the USG, Mr. Sérgio Vieira de Mello, this vulnerable group pointed out the fact that "an environment of peace and security over the country would allow them to carry out their social reintegration without fearing for their lives".

UCAH is still waiting for the Government and particularly FAA to provide information on the number and location of FAA military war disabled as well as a date for their demobilization. During preliminary discussions, the relevant entities concurred

MINE ACTION

MORE LOCATIONS FREE OF UXO's

During the month of April, The HALO Trust/Africare funded team rendered safe 16 locations by the removal of UXO's.

A total of 65 items of UXO's and four mines were destroyed in an area of 125,756 square meters in Kuito and Chitembo municipalities. (Bié

on the urgency of demobilizing this vulnerable group. However, following the incident between FAA disabled and FAA officers at the Funda center in August last year no further measures have been taken.

INCORPORATION OF UNITA HEALTH PERSONNEL

According to COSV/INTERSOS, the UNITA personnel have left their post in Quibaxe and Piri (Bengo Province) and fled to the bush two weeks after their incorporation into the national public health system.

Under UCAH's leadership, health technical committees including MINSA and UNITA representatives have

already been established in seven provinces, namely, Bengo, Zaire, Uige, Bié, Huambo, Malange and Benguela. At the central level, the committee is composed of UCAH, MINSA and UNITA representatives.

The first phase of this exercise was concluded in August 1997 with the incorporation of UNITA military health demobilized personnel while the ongoing second phase includes the incorporation of UNITA civilian health personnel in the areas where State Administration is being extended. To date 1,860 UNITA health personnel, including 1,500 from the quartered areas, have been registered within this exercise.

Note: All locations that have been attacked have shown evidence of being mined. Prior to humanitarian assessments, verification of the mine situation should be done.

Kungo municipality (Kwanza Sul Province). At the request of Africare, the team cleared the following locations: Caluapanda, Cunje, Cambulucuto, Cuquema, Cantiflas and Chitumba (Kuito), Embala, Nhando, Pango and Boa Vida (Cachingues - Chitembo) and Caninda, Namba, Lucingamo, Chingulo, Cachongolo and Mbanza Massende (Waco Kungo).

MINE INCIDENTS

On 12 May, at Lucala village, along the Songo-Bembe road, 22 km from Songo town, in Uige Province, a civilian truck hit an AT mine which seems to have been planted recently. As a result, the driver was killed and one passenger was seriously injured. Two days before in Bembe town, a civilian hit an AP mine which also seems to be a new one.



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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO 16 - 31 MAY EDITION AS OF 3 JUNE 1998

CRISIS RESOLUTION PLAN - MAIN TASKS

UNITA is requested to:

- Take all actions required to ensure that the normalization process in the four sensitive localities (Andulo, N'harea, Bailundo and Mungo) is completed by 31 May 1998.
- Work unequivocally to further the important exercise of systematic verification of effective demilitarization of all UNITA forces, an exercise conducted by the MONUA Force Commander.

The Government is requested to:

- Put an end to abuses committed by Angolan National Police (ANP) elements, particularly in normalized localities.
- Put an end to hostile propaganda on state media by halting the broadcast of any allegations not verified by MONUA.

MONUA is requested to:

- Adjust its verification methods and procedures to the particular concerns of the moment. The Joint Commission itself will henceforth give direct impetus to the verification missions by supporting the Force Commander and the MONUA Police Commissioner who are to act with or without the presence of one or another of the parties, while ensuring the safety of MONUA personnel.

TROIKA REACTION

On 2 June, the Troika of Observer States to the Angolan Peace Process deplored UNITA's continuous delays in the conclusion of the extension of State Administration, in particular, to Andulo, N'harea, Bailundo and Mungo. The Ambassadors of Portugal, USA and the Russian Federation, took part in a follow-up meeting of the Joint Commission to discuss UNITA's new proposal to conclude such exercise by the end of June. The UNITA leadership argues that the current security situation in the country is not conducive to the return of the so called four particular areas but it would nevertheless continue to honor its commitment to the Peace Process by agreeing to start the second stage of the three stage normalization process between 17-21 June. On the other hand, as part of its verification exercise on UNITA's effective demilitarization, MONUA confirms the existence of non-demobilized UNITA forces.

NGO MEETING WITH THE SRSG

On 3 June, the SRSG, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, before his departure to New York, met with NGOs and informed that:

- He had requested the ANP Commander to facilitate the work of Humanitarian organizations;
- NGOs should carry out social basic assistance (health, education, etc.) to make difference between war and peace environment in the country;
- NGOs should also support the MONUA's Human Rights activities.

End