

10 Jan 2007

JANUARY 10, 2007 - UNOGBIS PRESS STATEMENT ON GUINEA-BISSAU

Bissau - UNOGBIS was informed this morning of the attempted arrest of Mr. Carlos Gomes Junior, Member of Parliament and President of PAIGC by elements of the Ministry of Interior.

Later, Mr. Gomes Jr. walked into the UN Building in Bissau, where he sought protection.

UNOGBIS is making all the necessary efforts in consultation with the local authorities to find an amicable resolution to the problem.

As indicated in the statement issued by the Secretary General on 8 January we are very concerned about the recent developments in Guinea Bissau, particularly the disturbances which occurred a few days ago. Any loss of life is a deep concern to the UN. It is hoped that all concerned would avoid allowing Impunity to prevail.

January 8, 2007 - Statement attributable to the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General

New York - The Secretary-General is very concerned at the heightened tensions in Guinea-Bissau following the killing of the country former Navy Chief, Commodore Lamine Sanha, on 4 January 2007. He is particularly distressed by the loss of life that occurred following the intervention of the security forces during protests against the killing.

The Secretary-General urges the government and political leaders to exercise utmost restraint, and to focus on development and reconciliation. He urges the people of Guinea-Bissau not to take the law into their own hands. And he strongly encourages all national stakeholders to find negotiated solutions to their differences, and to avoid allowing impunity to prevail.