Press Release

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SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS ON PARTIES TO CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN TO CRASE HOSTILITIES IMMEDIATELY

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

The Secretary-General expresses his deep concern over the renewed fighting in southern Sudan. The military actions, combined with severe drought conditions, are exacerbating the suffering of tens of thousands of innocent victims in this conflict. It is estimated that at least 150,000 people have been displaced in the Nemule, Mundri and Maridi areas. The escalating conflict may result into widespread flows of refugees into the neighbouring countries.

On 8 February, the United Nations launched a humanitarian assistance appeal for the Sudan, which identified priority requirements totalling \$279 million. While the appeal is addressed to the donor community, the success of United Nations humanitarian effort will depend, in the first instance, on the parties to the conflict who must help create conditions which will permit the humanitarian operations to continue.

The Secretary-General calls on all parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities immediately to help put an end to the suffering of the innocent civilian population.

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