

Press Release

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The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Victor Angelo, Meets with President François Bozizé of the Central African Republic and his Prime Minister

N'Djamena, Chad – The Special Representative of Secretary-General in Chad, Mr. Victor Angelo, traveled to Bangui on 27 March 2008 to meet with President François Bozizé and his Prime Minister, Mr. Faustin-Archange Touadéra.

Mr. Angelo told the Central African authorities that the purpose of his visit was to pay them his respects, and to explain the mandate of United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). To this effect, he said MINURCAT and EUFOR are “twin sisters that are intimately linked by the nature of their work and are, in fact, complementary.” While EUFOR provides a security umbrella in the areas of intervention, MINURCAT is training and mentoring those responsible for the protection of refugees inside the camps and internally displaced persons in the vicinity of the camps.

For his part, the Prime Minister said he was honored by the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Prime Minister recognized the importance of security for the country, and added that “we cannot talk about development without peace, or peace without security.” He also stated that the wish for Central African authorities at the moment is to bring all Central Africans to the same table. “We count on the UN to help us in this endeavor,” he said.

The President reaffirmed his personal interest in MINURCAT’s mandate. He also said that he hoped the multidimensional presence (MINURCAT and EUFOR) would help the country to solve some of its current difficulties. “Our most urgent needs are security-related and they include constant threats from highway banditry in some of the remote areas of the country,” the President explained. He then added that the real cause of this type of banditry is poverty. “Therefore, by fighting poverty, we will help eradicate this type of banditry,” he concluded.

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