

[From the UN News Service, July 25, 2007]  
**VIOLENCE IMPEDES RELIEF EFFORT IN  
 DARFUR, UN FOOD AGENCY WARNS**

Condemning a sharp escalation in attacks on humanitarian staff and relief convoys in Sudan's Darfur region, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warned today that violence is hampering its ability to deliver assistance to millions of hungry people there.

"In the last two weeks, nine food convoys have been attacked by gunmen across Darfur," said Kenro Oshidari, WFP Sudan Representative. "WFP staff and contractors are being stopped at gunpoint, dragged out of their vehicles and robbed with alarming frequency."

Mr. Oshidari called on all parties to the conflict in Darfur to guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers so that the UN food agency and other aid organizations can continue helping Sudanese who rely on outside assistance for survival.

"These abhorrent attacks, which target the very people who are trying to help the most vulnerable in Darfur, must be brought under control," he added.

So far this year, 18 WFP food convoys have been attacked by gunmen and four of WFP's light vehicles carjacked. Six WFP vehicles, including trucks and light vehicles, have been stolen and 10 staff, including contractors, have been either detained or abducted.

The Darfur operation is the agency's biggest, employing some 790 staff who feed more than two million people every month. WFP, which also contracts commercial truck companies to haul food into the region, plans to distribute up to 450,000 metric tons of food in Darfur this year at a cost of about half a billion dollars.

A lack of security has prevented WFP from reaching 170,000 people in June in what the agency termed in a news release a "sizeable increase from the lowest point last March when 60,000 could not be reached."

As a result of convoy attacks in recent weeks, the road between Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state, and the town of Kass, has been declared a "no-go" area for UN staff, while in North Darfur, food dispatches to the town of Kabkabiya have been affected.

UN security personnel say attacks on vehicles are now the number one security concern for the aid community in Darfur, according to WFP, which cited a "recent and deeply troubling trend is that staff are being abducted when their vehicles are stolen, giving robbers time to get away before the alarm is raised."

To date, all WFP staff have been released, although some were injured and hospitalized.

[From the UN News Service, July 23, 2007]  
**SUDAN: UN REPORTS NEW DISPLACEMENT IN  
 WEST DARFUR**

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) today reported new population displacements in West Darfur, where it says an estimated 12,000 households were on the move.

The newly displaced people said that they were fleeing prevailing insecurity in their areas and in anticipation of a rumored attack by Government forces, UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters in New York.

The Mission also reported that over the weekend, a non-governmental organization (NGO) vehicle was carjacked in South Darfur, the latest attack on humanitarian workers in the country's strife-torn region.

Last week, an unknown armed man shot at a vehicle in South Darfur hired by an international NGO, while in West Darfur, two men stopped an international NGO convoy comprising two vehicles carrying five staff members and robbed them of personal effects and communication equipment.

In addition, harassment of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was reported during a UN assessment visit to an IDP camp near Nyala, the provincial capital of South Darfur.

Last month, the Sudanese Government announced its acceptance of a proposal for a hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping operation to be deployed in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2 million others displaced since clashes erupted in 2003 between Government forces, allied Janjaweed militias and rebel groups.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### ARMY PFC ZACHARY ENDSLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "On fame's eternal camping ground, their silent tents are spread, and glory guards with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead."

These words are etched in Arlington National Cemetery, not far from this Capitol, the eternal resting place for those soldiers who gave all they had in pursuit of American freedom. The rows and rows of pristine white headstones silently speak of what it means to be an American warrior: bravery, courage, honor, duty. These are the individuals who knew it was their calling to be a part of the greatest military force in the United States history, and they did not run from that calling. They accepted it willingly and helped headed off into the dawn of battle.

Army Private First Class Zachary Endsley was an individual who understood that being a military soldier was his calling. A native of Spring, Texas, PFC Endsley was a young man with a quiet personality and loved to play practical jokes on family and friends.

An appreciator of the arts, Endsley enjoyed drawing and playing his guitar. It was his drawing ability that stood out. In high school, he entered and won a poster contest with his design.

PFC Endsley had been hearing the calling to become an American warrior for many years in his young life. He joined the Civil Air Patrol, a volunteer organization with the United States Air Force when he was just a teenager. He was also involved in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Oak Ridge High School.

After graduating from high school in 2004, just 3 years ago, he attended local community college but realized that college wasn't really for him. But he was enthralled with the military, and after putting off the calling to be a sol-

dier for long enough, he knew it was time to pursue a career in the United States Army.

His family was proud of his decision to serve in the Army, and he enlisted in the Army in 2005. Endsley excelled in his military placement test for the Army and had the distinct honor of being able to choose the job he wanted to hold. He chose the infantry.

Infantrymen are on the front line, he said. They are the first through the door and the first into danger. They are courageously fierce and commandingly fearless patriots. It is no wonder PFC Endsley wanted to be a part of this band of brothers.

PFC Endsley understood the Nation was at war, yet he chose to charge headlong into battle. There are not many of us who would be willing to volunteer to leap into the lion's den of Iraq or Afghanistan where the cowardly enemy hides in caves. It says something special about the quality of this American fighting man that he would boldly face those who would kill in the name of religion.

This is a recent photograph of PFC Endsley. He was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment in Hohnfels, Germany. From Germany, this soldier was dispatched to Afghanistan. He never really told his family where he was going because he didn't want them to worry about him.

But on Monday, 4 days ago, July 23, 2007, PFC Zachary Endsley's unit came under fire by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. In the midst of this battle, his vehicle was assaulted with rocket-propelled grenade fire. PFC Endsley was killed in action. He was 21 years of age. He was supposed to come back to Texas in just 3 weeks.

Madam Speaker, PFC Zachary Endsley was a true soldier. According to a family friend, he joined the Army to provide others with the freedoms that we as Americans have. What a noble thought.

As an infantryman in Afghanistan fighting the forces of the Taliban, Endsley defended that freedom. He defended it for his mother, Melinda; his stepfather, David; his father, Terry; his brother, Aaron; his stepsisters, Katie and Kimberly; and all of their families.

He went to Afghanistan and defended freedom in a land he had never seen for a people he did not know. This son of Texas and American patriot will return home to his birthplace and receive a victor's homecoming. Those who he protected will line the streets, as the small towns in southeast Texas always do when their fallen come home. And they will bid a silent and proud farewell to a soldier they might not have had the privilege to know, but they will always be grateful to.

Amazing people these young volunteers of the United States Army.

So, Madam Speaker, tonight the bugles of taps are silent in the cemetery of the fallen. "In simple obedience to duty, they suffered all, sacrificed all, and dared all."