



United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

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UNAMA CALLS FOR AN END TO ATTACKS AGAINST AID CONVOYS

Kabul, 29 October 2007 - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) today called on Afghanistan's warring factions to allow safe passage and access for humanitarian workers delivering vital aid to Afghanistan's most vulnerable families before the winter cuts off remote regions of the country.

The **Special Representative of the Secretary General, Tom Koenigs** said: "The next six weeks will be crucial for our humanitarian efforts. Work is already underway by UN agencies to reach those families who need our help the most but the security situation continues to complicate our efforts.

"Insurgents and criminal gangs have killed or abducted 110 aid workers, and fifty-five humanitarian convoys have been looted this year. Those responsible for these attacks are pushing the most vulnerable people outside of our reach. Such attacks are a clear violation of international humanitarian law and they must stop. We need all parties to recognise that the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people must come first, above fighting and above politics."

The UN World Food Programme estimates that over four million Afghans need food assistance each year, while 400,000 people are seriously affected by natural disasters.

UN agencies and the Government of Afghanistan are currently pre-positioning essential food and medicine around the country before the winter weather conditions prevent access to remote regions of the country.

Notes to editors

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