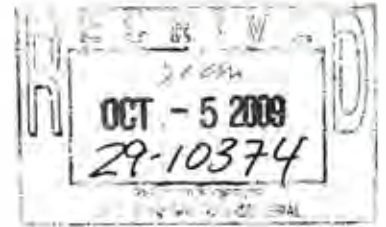


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Uganda

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Note to the Secretary-General



MISSION TO UGANDA, 20-24 OCTOBER 2009

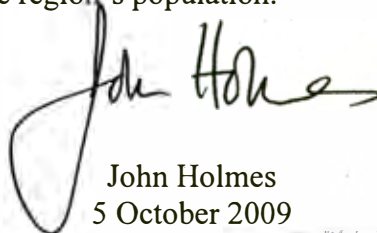
1. I plan to visit Uganda to attend the African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced persons in Africa, hosted by the Government of Uganda. I also intend to take the opportunity to assess the humanitarian response and transition to recovery in northern Uganda, as well as the food security situation in the Karamoja sub-region.

2. The Special Summit of Heads of States and Government is the first ever African summit to address the issue of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons. It will be an important step in addressing root causes of forced displacement and facilitating the evolvement of durable solutions in collaboration with the international community. The Special Summit is expected to adopt a Declaration on these issues, as well as the Draft African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

3. During the Summit, along with Antonio Guterres, who is formally representing you, I will highlight the challenges of forced displacement, encouraging political support for what will be the first legal instrument which specifically addresses the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

4. As for northern Uganda, since the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement with the LRA in Juba two years ago, nearly 80 percent of the former 1.8 million IDPs have returned. However, humanitarian and recovery needs remain for the 400,000 who are still in IDP camps and much of the returning population. Of equal concern will be reviewing the UN's role in the transition from humanitarian assistance through recovery to development. I am concerned that this transition has not yet been as coherent or as effective as it should be in, for example, restoring the livelihoods of the people of northern Uganda.

5. I will also visit the northeastern Karamoja sub-region for the first time. A third consecutive year of drought, below-normal harvests and animal disease, coupled with historic marginalization, has jeopardized the food, nutritional and livelihood security of up to 900,000 people – roughly 90 percent of the region's population.


John Holmes
5 October 2009

cc: Mr. Guterres
Mr. Le Roy
Mr. Pascoe
Miss Clark
Ms. Sheeran



Note to Mr. Nambiar



Mission of the Under-Secretary-General John Holmes to Uganda

I attach a note to the Secretary-General on a planned visit to Uganda to attend the African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced persons in Africa.

I would be grateful if you could submit this to the Secretary-General.

John Holmes
05 October 2009