



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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**STATEMENT BY
MRS. BEGUM TAJ, ALTERNATE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE
SECURITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING
ON PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICTS**

NEW YORK, JUNE 28, 2006

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STATEMENT BY MINISTER BEGUM TAJ , ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING ON PROTECTON OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28,2006

Madame President,

This meeting provides another forum for us to assess the progress made by the United Nations and its organs in instilling within the international community a culture of protecting civilians in armed conflicts.

My delegation notes with great concern that today's armed conflicts are characterized by active and deliberate targeting of civilians. Widespread human rights abuses, the use of rape and other crimes of sexual violence as brutal weapons of war, particularly against women and children, are causing the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilian population.

We condemn in the strongest terms all acts of violence or abuses committed against civilians situations of armed conflicts, in particular torture and other prohibited treatment, gender-based and sexual violence, violence against children, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, trafficking in humans, forced displacement and the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance. We demand that all parties put an end to such practices.

It is gratifying to observe that the UN has persistently spared no effort to end the conflicts and build sustainable peace. My delegation supports the UN efforts in its endeavors to dedicate greater attention to protecting civilians in ongoing armed conflicts in Africa and in other parts of the world.

We commend the Security Council for adopting resolution 1674(2006) of April 28, 2006 in line with the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The resolution stresses the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian population and reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the Outcome Document regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Worth stressing is the fact that appropriate measures in protecting civilians threatened by armed conflicts should go beyond statements of intent or expressions of concern. Meaningful and practical protection

should be based on appropriate and effective actions. In this context, we urge Member States and international organizations, armed groups, the private sector and other non-state actors, to live up to their responsibilities and continue to display their necessary commitment to ensure decisive and rapid actions to move the war-torn societies from vulnerability to security and from war to peace.

We recognize that appropriate protection measures depend on the circumstances and stages of a particular conflict. At the same time, we must insist that regardless of diversities of circumstances, governments, armed groups and the humanitarian community should protect each and every civilian within their jurisdiction, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion or political conviction.

In conclusion, we welcome the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in document S/2006/109 of 17 February 2006 regarding the combat against Small Arms and those in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, on the combat against acts of sexual abuse and exploitation among peacekeepers in tandem with the zero-tolerance policy. We call on member states and troop contributing countries to cooperate with the DPKO in effectively implementing a zero-tolerance policy in all peacekeeping missions.

I thank you Madame President.