



United Nations MINURSO

United Nations Mission for
the Referendum in
Western Sahara

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A reminder from SRS
G Hany Abdel-Aziz on Conduct and Discipline issues



SRS
G Hany Abdel-Aziz has issued on 06 October a reminder on Conduct and Discipline issues stressing particularly the following:

1. All United Nations national and international civilian staff, UN volunteers, UN police and military personnel must hold the highest standards of integrity and conduct, both in the performance of their official duties and their private lives. At all times, MINURSO personnel and contractual workers must treat the local population with dignity and respect. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) are acts of unacceptable behavior and prohibited conduct for all United Nations personnel. SEA damages the image and integrity and of the United Nations and negatively impacts on the confidence and trust in the organization.

2. Pursuant to United Nations regulations, MINURSO personnel should be reminded of the following:

Sexual activity with children (person under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of an underage is not a defense. Exchange of money, employment, good or services for sex is prohibited, including sexual favors other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior. Sexual relationship between United Nations personnel and beneficiaries of assistance are strongly discouraged.

3. United Nations personnel are obliged to report any assistance of sexual exploitation and abuse involving a UN fellow worker through the established reporting mechanisms as MINURSO Conduct and Discipline Unit. Managers and commanders have a particular duty to ensure compliance with the United Nations regulations and local laws.

4. United Nations has zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse; any involvement of the UN personnel and contractors in sexual exploitation and abuse activities will be considered as a serious misconduct that may lead to disciplinary measures, including repatriation and summary dismissal following the applicable administrative procedures of the United Nations.

5. I intend personally without hesitation to take all the necessary measures without any delay in case I am informed of any eventual such lack of conduct and discipline.

SRSB chairs the ceremony of the change of command between 1st and the 2nd BMU units



On Monday 28 November 2011, SRSB and Head of MINURSO Hany Abdel-Aziz chaired the ceremony of the BMU change of command between the first and second units in the presence of civilian and military staff. On the occasion, SRSB praised mainly the Bangladeshi contribution to MINURSO and thanked the first medical unit which had provided medical valuable services to MINURSO civilian and military staff as well as to persons who benefited from Confidence Building Measures (CBM) during the program of exchange of families visits . SRSB welcomed the new team that has recently joined the mission and reiterated his full support to it so as to carry its mission in good conditions.

MINURSO celebrates the International Day of Peace



The INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE ceremony was held on Wednesday 21 September 2011 and it was chaired by the acting head of mission Major Gen. Abdul Hafiz. The mission Senior management were also present as AU ambassador Yilma Tadesse, the SPA Alexander Ivanko, and all section chiefs. Major Gen. Abdul Hafiz read the message the UNSG Ban Ki-moon on the occasion then a minute of silence was observed to honor the UNSG request that there should be a cessation of all hostilities around the world .

SRSG meets United Nations Volunteers serving in MINURSO



On 14 October 2011, SRSG Hany Abdel-Aziz alongside with the mission Force Commander Abdul Hafiz held a meeting with UNVs serving in MINURSO during which he paid tribute to this category of civilian staff members and hailed particularly their contribution to peacekeeping missions worldwide. He stressed the need to assist UNVs in their daily activities and assured them of his support. On behalf of UNVs, Julie Okello, UNV Support Officer, thanked SRSG for his particular care and underlined that such meeting would encourage all UNVs members for further hard-work.

MINURSO celebrates World Aids Day



On 01 December 2010, like all UN missions worldwide, MINURSO commemorated World Aids Day to promote awareness about HIV/AIDS. The ceremony was held at MINURSO HQ where AIDS Logos were distributed to civilian and military staff members. SRSG and Head of the mission Hany Abdel-Aziz read the SG message on World AIDS Day and mainly praised MINURSO Staff members for their active participation in HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness and urged them to maintain the vigilance as responsible and active stakeholders while inside and outside MINURSO. Among the activities held on the occasion, a quiz on HIV/AIDS to "test the knowledge of the present staff members on HIV/AIDS" and a football match, on 30 November between a team representing civilians and another representing the military component. The winners were awarded symbolic prizes by SRSG himself.

Green in Tindouf Liaison Office

Consequent to the Missions' drive towards being greener, various team sites have taken it in their own individual stride to liven up their surroundings by putting in responsive efforts to make their team sites greener. We have been bringing in reports of few team sites earlier and this time it is our team site in the Algerian territory, Liaison Office Tindouf which has given us reasons to cheer. Under the aegis of the Head of Office Tindouf Mr.Omar Manis and the Liaison Office members have initiated planting of saplings and also in adorning the compound with ornamental plants and lush green lawn. They have achieved a great feat, despite tiring efforts and restricted resources and their drive continues to make the location even livelier by means of greening the way. The Green Committee endorses the commitment of the Liaison Office members and its leadership in helping the environment to strive in greener pastures.



MINURSO Recreation Committee organized an exchange of gifts party to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year

On 15 December 2011, MINURSO Recreation Committee organized an exchange of gifts party in HQ cafeteria to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year. The staff members who attended the party enjoyed very much those funny moments full of surprises. At the end, SRSg Hany Abdel-Aziz thanked the organizers of the party and wished Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2012 year full of success and prosperity to all the mission staff members.

